

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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### CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

## **Range hospitals reeling from COVID 'marathon'**

Staff shortages, long shifts tax medical providers

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL-The rising tide of new COVID-19 cases across the Iron Range and throughout Minnesota is putting increased strain on a health care system already stretched thin by the prolonged pandemic, according to three regional providers.

"Hospitals are again close to capacity," said Dr. Andrea Boehland, an emergency room physician at Essentia Health-St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. "We have between 15 and 20 hospitalized patients with severe COVID. More concerning: This number has doubled over the past



Boehland was part of a panel of regional experts convened by Essentia on Tuesday via Zoom to put a local face on the looming challenges.

"When hospital capacity becomes tight like this, our ability to care for patients with any kind of health problem is put at risk. We've experienced here that younger, healthier people

are more likely to get very sick. My team and I have cared for many people younger than me, including children who have had serious COVID cases. This is really unsettling to me."

County public health director Amy Westbrook, also on the panel, confirmed that 17 percent of recent cases involve children

See...COVID pg. 9

### EMBARRASS



# FUN AT THE FAIR **Embarrass Region Fair celebrates 81 years**

## CITY OF TOWER

## **Clerk-treasurer** search goes on

Previous runner-up candidate will be interviewed Sept. 9

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER- One of two finalists for the city clerk-treasurer position here the last time around is, once again, seeking the position, and this time he has more experience in city of Tower governance. The city's hiring committee is set to interview Michael Schultz, a Tower resident, on Sept. 9.

Current clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua narrowly edged Schultz for the job back in 2019, but Ranua announced her intention on June 1 to leave the clerk-treasurer job as soon as a replacement could be found. The city has made little progress in the search for a new clerk-treasurer since then.

While the city received a handful of applications, only four were deemed qualified and only one candidate has come for an interview to date. One of the candidates withdrew from consideration the day of her interview. Schultz would seem to be an even stronger candidate for the position this time than he was two years ago. Since interviewing for the job in 2019, Schultz has taken on two volunteer, yet high profile, city positions. He has served for almost two years as treasurer of the Tower Economic Development Authority and has served for the past year on the Planning and Zoning Commission, which he now chairs. Schultz continues to be employed by the Department of Revenue in Ely, where he has handled tax collections since 2018. He was previously employed as a devel-

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

EMBARRASS-The81stEmbarrass Region Fair was full of people and there was good attendance at all of its events this past weekend as the event rebooted after taking a year off for the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were some changes, like the first ever cornhole tournament and lawnmower races, which both proved to be popular. The horseshoe tournament was discontinued due to low attendance. Team penning and ranch sorting were held the weekend before the fair to allow use of the horse arena for the entire weekend. The Embarrass Fair Horse Show has use of the horse arena



on the Sunday during the fair.

This year, there was no Embarrass Region Fair Queen.

"We didn't know if we'd be able to have the fair at the time we would have been recruiting queen candidates," said fair vice-chair Sue Beaton.

Jayce Walli, top left, enjoys a corn dog at the Embarrass Region Fair last weekend. Hayden Rasmussen, top left, and Bella, took home top honors for shortest dog and shortest ears. An exhibitor showed off heirloom tomatoes. photos by S. Ukkola

The fair withstood some rain Sunday afternoon, but considering the on-going drought few complaints were heard and it didn't stop the fun. Kids continued to play outside and took pony rides through the rain.

St. Louis County's COVID-19

See...FAIR pg. 9

See...SEARCH pg. 9

### **WILDFIRES** Fire crews work to get the upper hand Officials: Greenwood Fire could be contained by next week

### by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

REGIONAL -More than 500 U.S. Forest Service crew members battling the Greenwood Fire

are finally gaining on the 40-square-mile blaze this week. This past weekend the area reportedly received the most rain in a 24-hour period the area around the fire has received all year. More rain was anticipated for later this week.

The fire, first spotted on Aug. 15, destroyed 14 primary structures, mostly lake homes and cabins, and nearly 60 outbuildings in See...FIRE pg. 10

a major run last week, but has slowed down considerably since last weekend's rain and stood at almost 40-percent contained by



Firefighters at the Greenwood Fire worked on defensive burn operations this week. USFS photo



**New Fall Fashions** *plus* William Kent Krueger's new book: Lightning Strike Retail: Mon - Thur 8 am - 8 pm Friday - Sunday 8 am - 9 pm Outlet: 10 - 6 Sun - Fri & Sat 9 - 7 Outfitting 8 am - 5 pm 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com piragis.com



## <u>Community notices</u>

### Ruby's Pantry food distribution

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry will be a drivethrough food distribution at the old Cook School parking lot on Thursday, Sept. 9 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Please give a \$20 cash donation at the door. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango.

### Renegade Trail Run at Redhead

CHISHOLM- Renegade Trail Run 5K and 25K races will take place on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds will benefit United for Veterans program. During this time Redhead Mountain Bike Park will be closed to the public. ATV and vehicle access into Redhead will also be limited during the event.

### 5K Glow Run supports mental health programming, Sept. 24

ELY- Run and have some fun at the Northern Lights Clubhouse's 5K Glow Run on Friday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. beginning at Ely's Whiteside Park. The run takes you through glow zones as the sun sets. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to participate. Costs are \$30 for adults, \$20 for students and \$5 for kids. Proceeds support the Northern Lights Clubhouse, a place where adults with mental health challenges have the opportunity to make and reach personal goals. For more information and to register, visit www.elymarathon.com/5k.

### NAMI Minnesota offers free online mental health classes

**REGIONAL- NAMI Minnesota (National** Alliance on Mental Illness) has set up a wide variety of free online mental health classes for September and October. They include classes such as Hope for Recovery, Family to Family, In Our Own Voice, Creating Caring Communities, Ending the Silence, Positive Psychology, Understanding Early Episode Psychosis for Families, Minding Your Mental Health: COVID-19 and Beyond, a suicide prevention class called QPR - Question, Persuade and Refer, a special QPR class for Agricultural Communities, and more.

The classes are designed for family members and caregivers, persons living with a mental illness, service providers, and also the general public. Find a complete listing of these classes and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "Classes" or go straight to https://namimn.org/education-public-awareness/classes/scheduled/.

### Essentia Health holds virtual advance care planning class

REGIONAL- Essentia Health is hosting an advance care planning (ACP) class from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9.

Advance care planning is a process that helps you think and talk about your choices for health care in the future. It's important for every adult to have an advance directive, also known as a living will or health care directive.

Everyone is invited to join in thought-provoking conversation to discover the value of ACP, reflect on your values, choose a health care agent, explore goals for treatment, and take steps toward completing a health care directive for yourself. By having these conversations proactively, you can ensure that your preferences are understood if you become unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to an accident, injury or sudden illness.

For the safety of our communities, all classes are currently being offered virtually. Register online at https://www.essentiahealth.org/classes-events/. For more information on advance care planning, visit www.essentiahealth.org/patients-visitors/ advance-care-planning/.

## EMBARRASS GET-TOGETHER **Community Night Out set for Sept. 12**



Community Night Out is held at the Seitaniemi Housebarn. file photos

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage of Embarrass is celebrating their annual Community Night Out on Sunday, Sept. 12 from 4-6:30 p.m. at the historic Seitaniemi Homestead.

Bill Maxwell and Cowboy Angel Blue will provide a free outdoor concert at this family-friendly event. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and relax to the music, or tour the restored

housebarn. Chili, cornbread muffins, pie and coffee will be available.

Freewill donations are gladly accepted to support Sisu's restoration projects in Embarrass and the surrounding area.

The Seitaniemi Homestead is located on Comet Road in Waasa Township, between Embarrass and Babbitt.

## Veterans On The Lake receives \$5,000 grant

ELY- Veterans On The Lake Resort in Ely has been honored as a source of pride by Range Cooperatives, Inc. and Cenex®, the energy brand of CHS. As part of this award, the cooperative will donate \$5,000 to the Disabled Veterans Recreation, Inc.

Ely has more veterans who served in World War II per capita than any other city in America. Veterans On The Lake Resort created a recreational facility for disabled and able-bodied veterans, disabled people, active-duty military and their families and friends to vacation and enjoy the outdoors.

As part of the honor, Veterans On The Lake received a \$5,000 grant from Range Cooperatives, Inc. The organization will use the money to maintain the special accommodations required for disabled people and to help make housing and amenities



affordable for the veterans, disabled people and families they serve.

"Veterans O n The Lake was founded to provide Boundary Waters experiences to disabled and able-bodied veterans," said Zach Blomberg, fuels division manager at Range Cooperatives, Inc. "We're proud to support an attraction that is part of Ely's history, and we're excited that our donation will further fuel this resort's vision."

The grant was provided through an initiative that encourages Cenex dealers, retailers and distributors to share stories about what makes their local communities special. Now in its third year, the initiative has granted more than \$300,000 to Cenex communities.

submitted photo

"The Cenex brand is committed to supporting and celebrating what makes hometowns across America special," said Mark Vanderlinde, communications manager at CHS. "We are proud of our Cenex dealers, like Range Cooperatives, Inc., who play an active role in supporting their local organizations and the people in their community."

### ATVMN Fall Ride and Rally

REGIONAL- The ATVMN Fall Ride and Rally will be held Sept. 17-19. The event kicks off on Friday, Sept. 17 in Embarrass with a pancake breakfast at Timber Hall. There is a morning guided ride on new sections of the Prospector Trail, and a bus tour to the site of the planned ATV Campground at the Lake Vermilion State Park. At 4 p.m. there is a free ATV Big Air Tour show in Babbitt which features jumps, backflips, incredible balancing acts, launching a Polaris RZR, crowd games, good music and more. The crew are role models with positive messages for kids and adults.

Saturday, Sept. 18, starts out with a pancake breakfast at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely from 7 – 11 a.m. The pancake breakfast is open to the public. Then registered riders can choose from a series of over a dozen guided rides. Rides leave from Embarrass, Babbitt, Ely and Tower and range from 40 to over 100 miles. Saturday evening features a silent auction, live auction and banquet at the Historic Pioneer Mine in Ely. The event wraps up on Sunday with the ATVMN board meeting at Grand Ely Lodge in Ely.

For more information, go to www.atvam.org.

## Lawns to Legumes grant applications now accepted

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residential

**REGIONAL-**The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is now accepting applications for the Lawns to Legumes program, which aims to increase residential habitat for at-risk pollinators across the state. All Minnesota residents are eligible to apply for individual support grants, which reimburse gardeners for up to \$300 in costs associated with establishing pollinator habitat in their yards.

Lawns to Legumes offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding for installing polli-



program launched in 2019 with a \$900,000 appropriation from the Environment and Natural **Resources** Trust Fund (ENRTF). BWSR received more than 7,500 applications for individual support grants during the program's first year, demonstrating a significant demand for funding. This year, the program received two additional ENRTF appropri-

ations totaling nearly \$2 million to extend program opportunities to more Minnesota residents.

"The high demand for individual support grants shows that Lawns to Legumes resonates deeply with Minnesota residents by providing them with concrete action steps they can take to benefit pollinators," said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. "We're excited to build off this momentum and offer opportunities to even more Minnesotans who want to play a role in combatting pollinator population decline."

Apply online at Blue Thumb's website, https://bluethumb.org. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 15, 2022. Funding decisions and all notifications will be emailed in March 2022. Grant recipients have until Dec. 15, 2022, to install their projects.

BWSR partners with Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb-Planting for Clean Water to administer the program. For more information on Lawns to Legumes, see BWSR's website at https://bluethumb.org.







OPEN: Monday- Saturday 8:30-5:30; Sunday 9-4 (218) 753-4190 • 6143 Pike Bay Dr, Tower • E-mail: aronsonboatworks@frontiernet.net

## ELY ARTS Ely celebrates the Harvest Moon Annual fall festival runs Sept. 10-12 at Whiteside Park

ELY – The 2021 Harvest Moon Festival is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10-12, in Whiteside Park. This year's festival will feature about 100 booths filled with arts, crafts, and food.

"While things are looking different these days, the Ely Chamber of Commerce is working hard to create a safe and enjoyable art and craft festival." said Executive Director Eva Sebesta.

This year marks the 27th running of the Harvest Moon Festival. Each year between each vendor. the three-day event draws 10,000 to 15,000 attendees.

"We are very excited about the fall festival. We have a number of returning art and craft vendors, plus some really unique new ones, too," said Chamber events director Ellen Cashman. "With all the planning and modifications, we are excited to see the festival come to fruition."

The festival layout will be similar to the Blueberry/ Art Festival with six feet

"The extra space is recommended by Stay Safe Minnesota and part of our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan," Cashman added.

"We have five food vendors that are familiars to the festival: Becky's Oriental Foods, Schweiby's Concessions, SB Concessions, Best Way, and of course the Kiwanis Club with their delicious blueberry pies and sandwiches," she said. "The Ely Hoop Club will also have a booth with refreshing icecold beverages."

Festival hours are: Friday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Running in conjunction with the Harvest Moon Festival is Harvest Days, featuring area businesses offering specials, end-ofseason sales, and autumn product lines. Harvest Days start on Thursday, Sept. 9 and run through Sunday, Sept. 12. Amap for Harvest Days will be available starting on Wednesday, Sept. 8.



A shopper browses some of the artwork available for sale at the Harvest Moon Festival in 2019. file photo

## **EDUCATION** Volunteers in Education looking for new director School volunteer program ready to resume without leader

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- It's not only teachers, children and parents who are looking forward to the start of a new school year next

Tuesday. Volunteer tutors and school coordinators with the multi-district Volunteers in Education (VinE) program are also anticipating getting back to work doing what they love, helping children learn.

But for the first time in about six years, they'll be getting started without the familiar face of Executive Director Cassandra Hainev at the helm. Hainey is leaving the part-time position at the end of the month

in order to pursue a full-time opportunity, board chairperson Bailey Conger said. "I think she felt it was time to move on," Conger said. "She's just been the rock of the group because she's such a self-starter and has

such a passion for tutoring in the public schools. We love her and her work, but we know new blood is good. We're willing to take the time to find a really good fit."

However, Hainey's

absence won't hamper things in the short run. VinE has coordinators at each of the schools where it places tutors, so matching with students and getting tutor-

See VINE...pg. 5





### 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 Audit questions

Tower's auditors should explain their accounting of city funds

The release last week of the EMSRB's rural ambulance assessment for the Tower Area Ambulance Service, raises some interesting questions- some of which we'd like to see the city's long-time auditor, Walker, Giroux & Hahne, provide answers to.

For the past several years, the city's auditor has maintained a kind of running tally of what one city fund owes to another. Since, for years, the actual cash for these funds was all run through the same general fund checking account, it really wasn't possible to show where any dollar that paid a city bill actually came from.

So, at the end of the year, (as we understand it), the auditors would take a look at the apparent bottom line for each city fund, including the ambulance fund, and make some kind of adjustment accordingly. If the ambulance fund showed it made a profit, the auditors concluded that the excess revenues must have gone somewhere, so they would debit some other fund that had spent more than it took in as owing the ambulance fund. The most recent audit concluded that the ambulance fund was owed \$737,648 from other city funds, an amount that has accumulated over a number of years. A few folks have tried to make a political issue out of it, claiming that the city is "robbing" from the ambulance service. It might be a salient issue if it were possible to argue that the ambulance service was lacking basic necessities, but that really isn't the case. The city council has generally been very willing to make investments in the ambulance service whenever it's been asked. In fact, as the EMSRB pointed out, the city is spending far more on its ambulance

Ambulance Service's finances for the EMSRB, notes that the service has not accounted for expenses in a typical business-like fashion in the past. Indeed, major expenses tracked by most businesses, such as depreciation, were never even accounted for by the TAAS.

The depreciation expense alone, as calculated by the EMSRB's financial consultant, comes to over \$72,000 a year. That's just slightly less than the average annual Tower ambulance service profit from about 2010-2017. In other words, had the ambulance service simply accounted for depreciation, most of the presumed "profit" from the ambulance service over the past decade goes poof. There are other overhead expenses, as well, such as the services provided to the ambulance service by the clerk-treasurer's office, that are substantial and not well documented. The bottom line: if the ambulance service's expense tracking was incomplete, the accountants may well have been crediting largely imaginary profits to the service when it made its year-end adjustments between funds. Which could help to explain the so-called missing profits - as in much of it never existed at all.

Again, we don't claim to be accountants, which is why we outlined this same line of reasoning in a detailed email to the city's auditors last month, along with a number of related questions, hoping they could better explain it to us. It's possible there's a legitimate explanation but, so far, we've yet to get even an acknowledgement, much less a response to our inquiry.

We're not the only ones with concerns. Members of the city council have had similar questions about how the auditors went about



## Letters from Readers

### Thank you to Bakk for supporting public safety

On behalf of our state's police officers, corrections officers, and dispatchers, we're writing to publicly say 'thank you' to Sen. Tom Bakk for his steadfast support of increased public safety efforts during the past legislative session in St. Paul.

With increasing crime, it's especially important to stop all efforts to defund, demoralize, or demonize public safety officials who keep communities safe by deterring lawbreaking and aiding victims of crime.

Sen. Bakk is a tremendous advocate for our first responders and public safety officials and stood against attempts to defund and dismantle the police. He voted to promote public safety legislation such as pay raises for law enforcement officers and investments in training programs.

Thank you for supporting public safety and law enforcement.

**Brian Peters Executive Director Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association** 

### Time to enforce the 14th Amendment

POLITICO brings attention to the U.S. Constitution's 14th amendment (Sec. 2) "reduction clause." "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their representative numbers .... right to vote .... is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State .... the basis of representation shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens 21 years of age in such state."

Voter infringement in 18 states bring these words to life for the sake of democracy. Radical Republicans in 1868 wanted to secure Black voting rights. Where has Congress been for the past century and a half? Now, in role reversal, Radical Republicans work to subvert their vote. Under the "reduction clause," infringement of voting rights is punishable with loss of representation.

The 110 lost words of Sec. 2 protect citizens of states that deny the right to vote with a penalty of reducing representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The

"reduction clause" eliminated the three-fifths clause to count each a full person to improve representation for the South. What was right for all male inhabitants in 1868 must now be extended to women, those 18 years of age and for voting rights of felons in Florida by referendum in 2018.

Moreover, the 15th Amendment (1870) stated, "The right of a citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude." How did the poll tax, literacy tests, grandfather clause, fraud, intimidation and violence to keep Blacks from voting escape notice?

How does a constitutional provision get lost and remain lost? How did this potential threat of penalty conveniently disappear? Due process and equal protection of the law was applied to corporations, but protecting voting rights of Blacks was not !

Harold Honkola Roseville

service than it should.

The bigger question, however, is whether or not the \$737,648 figure is a real number. Keep in mind, to our knowledge, the auditors can't identify any actual flow of dollars from one fund to another since all the money flowed through one bank account up until recently. Again, as we understand it, they relied on end-of-theyear "profits" or "deficits" to assign a presumed flow of money from one fund to another. Yet, what if the "profit" that shows up in one of the funds at the end of the year is the result of incomplete tracking or accounting of expenses? That may not be just hypothetical. Indeed, the financial consultant, who reviewed the Tower Area

making their calculations on this and other subjects and they've yet to get satisfactory answers. The problem is that auditors show their results, but they don't often show their work, so when questions arise, the auditors have an obligation to provide an explanation. That's especially so when the auditors' conclusions have raised concerns with some in the community and stirred resentment among some in the ambulance service.

Government auditing is supposed to help provide some level of accountability and transparency in government. That's a good thing. And the same principles of transparency should apply to the auditors themselves.

## COMMENTARY Lessons from 9/11 for Congress

Most Americans who were alive 20 years ago remember where they were on Sept 11, 2001.They remember the airplane hijackings, the attacks, and the collapse of the Twin Towers. They remember the nearly 3,000 who perished.

As our nation refocuses on that searing event, it will be tempting to pay attention to the lessons we've learned in

the decades since when it comes to dealing with foreign threats and to homeland security. These are, of course, crucial. But in the wake



of the 9/11 attacks, we also learned some important lessons about Congress and how it works, and about the benefits to the country of a truly bipartisan approach to difficult issues.

I say this because Ι was honored to serve as the vice

chair of the 9/11 Commission, along with former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean. Over 18 months, we reviewed more than 2.5 million pages of documents and conducted 1,200 interviews. We sought to be independent, impartial, thorough, and non-partisan, and joined our Commission colleagues, equal in number from both sides of the aisle, in issuing a bipartisan, unanimous report.

During that inquiry we learned many lessons that are still valid today. We learned, for instance, that there's a thirst for accountability in this country. Americans expect their country to work and they're disappointed when it does not. They react negatively when bureaucrats say, "Trust us." This

### See HAMILTON...pg. 5

# Freedom to do what is right

This week I was in a discussion where the concept of freedom came up, and I've been tossing it around in my mind ever since. What does freedom mean to you? Looking beyond the flag-waving cliches, it seems

to me that our different perspectives on freedom may be at the heart of most of the



rights that one feels are essential for their sense of freedom.

"freedom"

Take a simple example of a couple that has only one car, when the occasion arises that both need to use it. If the couple can't figure out a co-operative arrangement, they may feel that only one of them can do as s/he wished, which is an example of zero sum thinking: if someone gains something, someone else must lose. In reality, there are many options: one person dropping off the other; calling a friend for a ride; arranging for a taxi or Uber; or, if within a reasonable distance, someone getting a bit of exercise.

In her book, The Sum of Us, Heather McGhee addresses how zero sum thinking has run rampant throughout our nation's history in the embedded inequality and racism underlying our country's development, structure, and economy. Today it also plays a significant role in people's sense of who is an American and whether granting more rights to

other people will come at their own expense.

She reminds us that the idea of being a free person was "a radical and aspirational concept with no contemporary parallel" at the time of this country's formation, an abstract, undefined concept, which could be made concrete by contrasting it with what it meant to be unfree. Historian Greg Grandin makes the point that "when most men and almost all women lived in some form of unfreedom due to indenture, land rent, a workhouse, prison, or the authority of husband or father, identifying what freedom was could be difficult. However, saying what it wasn't was easy: "a very Guinea slave."

European immigrants were usually at the bottom of the social hierarchy in their native countries, often coming from orphanages, debtors' prisons or

See FREEDOM...pg. 5

### Ely woman faces sex trafficking charges Daughter claims she was exploited between ages 11-13 by KEITH VANDERVORT Elv Editor

ELY - An Ely woman was charged last week with first degree criminal sexual conduct and first degree aggravated sex trafficking, both felonies, in connection with accusations that she allowed her daughter to be exploited.

Daisy Joy Buley, 36, is accused of trafficking her daughter and allowing her to be sexually assaulted in exchange for money and drugs during a three-year period from 2014-2016, when her daughter was 11 to 13 years old.

The criminal sexual conduct charge carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in jail and/or a \$40,000 fine. The aggravated sex trafficking charge carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison and/or a \$60,000 fine.

According to St. Louis County Jail records, Buley is being held in lieu of \$102,000 bail.

According to the criminal complaint released to the Timberjay by the Ely Police Department, an Aug. 2 interview with

Buley's daughter, who is now 18 years old, alleged that Buley, 45 East James St., trafficked her for sex to several different men in exchange for drugs and money from the time she was 11 years old until she was 13 years old.

The victim told police that the first time she was forcefully assaulted was when she was 11 years old at her mother's residence in Biwabik, by a man she estimated to be between 50 and 70 years old, who lived with them "for a time." The

alleged victim said she told her mother what happened and Buley replied she knew about it, and that "it was fine."

The alleged victim told police she recalled six additional times that she was sex trafficked after she moved with her mother to Ely. The victim said that Buley told her the day before each assault that she could not eat, and to take a shower, shave and "get pretty" for the man. The day of each assault, Buley would put her in the back

seat of the car and drive to the residences of the men, which were in small towns. The victim said Buley allegedly "talked about drugs with the men, with whom she was familiar and friendly." After each alleged assault, the victim said, Buley would return to the residence to pick her up and get paid with "wads of cash or drugs."

The alleged victim said that Buley threatened to kill her if she tried to fight back or tell anyone what was happening.



**Daisy Buley** submitted photo

### HAMILTON...Continued from page 3

is why we pursued our inquiry in an open manner, not behind closed doorstransparency helped the public gain confidence in our work.

We also learned the necessity of pursuing consensus. Without a unanimous report, our effort would have failed. Bipartisanship in national security, we found, is essential.

There's no question that the specifics the Commission recommended-a Director of National Intelligence, to pull together the work of the country's 16 intelligence agencies, and a National Counter Terrorism Center whose analysts work together to connect the dots and prevent future attackshave made a difference. Though there have been lapses, intelligence and law enforcement have disrupted scores of plots. Our aircraft and borders are more secure. Our military eliminated the leadership of Al Qaeda and ISIS and decimated their capabilities. The institutions created after 9/11 have made us safer.

Yet the challenges ahead are many-and, notably, many of them involve Congress. A major unfinished recommendation from the 9/11 Commission is changing how Capitol Hill works. Because the Commission recommended the creation of powerful executive-branch institutions, it also recommended powerful congressional committees to serve as watchdogs. Instead, DHS still reports to dozens of oversight committees. Agency leaders spend precious time before them and receive muddled guidance. When everybody is in charge, nobody is in charge.

The challenge of domestic terrorism also requires strong government powers checked by rigorous oversight. The Justice Department and the FBI must lead the effort against domestic terrorism, carefully monitored by watchdogs, above all Congress and the courts.

The United States has also fallen short in addressing the upstream causes of terrorism. Our military and intelligence services are superb at finding, tracking, and eliminating terrorists. Yet it is easier to destroy threats than to rebuild societies. Prevention is less costly than military intervention, but it requires time and patient effort.

Looking beyond the report, the threat to our information networks demands focused congressional action. Ransomware and cyberattacks are with us daily. These threats to our security and prosperity are urgent. No one wants to read some future commission report about our collective "failure of imagination" to address the cyber threat when its dangers

have been in plain sight for years.

Perhaps most notably, the most important lesson of the 9/11 Commission involved the absolute and central importance of bipartisanship. None of what followed its report would have been possible without it. We cannot address our country's problems unless we work together.

The experience of the 9/11 Commission and the nation's experience rallying together after the attacks shows that this is not a pipe dream-though it will be up to Americans and their leaders to determine whether it becomes reality. I'm optimistic that our system of self-government can rise to meet the challenges before usbut it will take the kind of bipartisan determination that the 9/11 attacks awakened.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government;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 vears.

### VINE .... Continued from page 3-

ing underway can proceed, although there's still some uncertainty about what that will look like, due to the ongoing pandemic.

"We don't know their comfort level of going back into the school," Conger said about VinE's volunteer tutors. "There's a certain comfort level and safety level we want for everybody involved. I believe in all the districts, masks are recommended but not

required, and so what does that really mean?"

Conger said that their experience using technology last year for tutoring services may be of benefit in certain situations.

The role of a new executive director will become more important moving into the fall, Conger said, as they not only need to provide ongoing support to coordinators but also must process their paychecks. It's also a time when applications for external funding begin coming due. "The executive director did a lot of work with nonprofits, with grant writing and things like that," board member Tim Johnson said.

"We cannot afford to lose those opportunities," Conger said. "I think we're pretty good to start the year. My concern is as the year goes on."

The executive director

position averages about 20 hours a week, but there's flexibility built in to accommodate the varying responsibilities as the year goes on, Conger said. Much of the work could be accomplished working from a home office, she said, while other responsibilities require the executive director to be out in the schools and the public promoting

up at a Lions Club meeting and talk about our program, or a group at a local church may call on you," Conger said. "But once things are in place, you have free time and the day is yours. And oftentimes, like in July, that is a time where we all take a break."

A full position description is available on the VinE website at vine-mn. org. Cover letters and resumes, as well as questions, should be directed to bailey.conger@gmail.com.



**FREEDOM**...Continued from page 4 –

poorhouses, and at best, child rearing, nursing, and abuses in the Minneapolis success and status.

the program. "You may have to show

without status or wealth. The colonial laws of the 1680s and early 1700s show the deliberate attempt to establish an underclass based on color with a zero sum relationship established between non-whites and poor whites. Property of enslaved people was confiscated by the church in each parish and given to the white poor, whose title to any property they had was protected by law. The poor whites didn't have much, but they were better off than slaves.

The lack of freedom for the African slaves was complete, affecting every aspect of their beings, up to and including legally sanctioned physical and sexual abuse and even murder by their masters. In a land promoting religious freedom, they could not worship as they pleased. They could not even keep their family together.

Thus, the poorest white-skinned person could define himself as "better than" with the accompanying sense of freedom gained at the expense of the subordination of others. White women were allowed to own their own slaves when they were not allowed to own other property, which gave them some financial independence, but they often abused their power. Owning slaves also gave them freedom from farming, household work, even the sexual demands of their husbands.

The War o f Independence was failing for lack of financing until the French lent money in exchange for tobacco grown by enslaved people. so actually America was founded on debt and bought its independence with slave labor.

As we know, the citizenship that promised freedom of religion, assembly, movement, speech, and property was not available for most persons of color and all enslaved persons, who could not vote, own property, or get an education, which profoundly affected the generations to follow. White citizens were able to get an education and better jobs, save money, buy property which they could leave to their children, and enjoy the benefits of citizenship such as voting, running for office, and having a voice in the structure and governance of the country.

As we now take a long overdue look at the true history of our country's economic dependency on slavery and indentured labor and the ongoing unwillingness to address the imbalance in our nation, there is resistance to that truth-telling. The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis lit a conflagration that rivaled our current forest fires, illuminating the police department and across the country, unleashing the pent-up frustration about the lies and inaction concerning the poverty, inequality, and injustice that has been allowed to exist in our nation and the fears of those who don't want to look at the truth.

Currently, half of Americans are near poverty, defined by the World Bank as "a pronounced deprivation in well-being," with people struggling to get living wage jobs, pay rent or mortgage payments, and get medical care. The poverty line is set at \$26,500 for a family of four, a standard that has been described as inadequate to meet basic needs. Twenty-one percent of all children live in poverty today and 70 percent of them are children of color. How can anyone hear that fact and not be appalled in this country rich in resources?

Given those statistics, it's easy to understand the despair of those with limited opportunities as well as the fear of those who want to hang on to what they have. McGhee would say that the social implications of zero sum thinking mean that people will consciously or unconsciously push back against anything that threatens their own status, believing that if others succeed more, it will affect their own

The disparity of income and wealth distribution is not accidental. Changes in the tax structure since the 1950s, promoted primarily by Republicans, have consistently skewed benefits to the wealthy and corporations and starved the economy of taxes essential for infrastructure, innovation, and social services. Ten percent of Americans own 70 percent of the nation's net wealth, not including their primary residence. Over ten percent of Americans are millionaires while half of us live near poverty!

As we celebrate Labor Day, can we acknowledge that change needs to happen to provide living wage jobs and other services so people can rise above a subsistence level? What does freedom mean to you and me? Can we recognize that we will be freer if others in our communities are freer also? If everyone has an opportunity to thrive and contribute in positive creative ways to build stronger, healthier relationships and communities, we will all benefit. Consider how we can actively promote this shift.

"May freedom be seen, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." Peter Marshall

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

### **TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS**

### Week of Sept. 6

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf-Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Sept. 21

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

### Wednesday

Tower AA- Open Basics-7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.

### Thursday

AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open). 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, use the rear side door entrance.

Vermilion Country School **Board- Meetings** posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

### **Eagles Nest Fire Department fund**raiser 5K/3K walk on Sept. 11

EAGLES NEST TWP- The Eagles Nest Fire Flies and the Eagles Nest Fire Department will be hosting their First Annual 3K/5K Walk on Saturday, Sept.11. The event will begin at 9 a.m. at the Eagles Nest firehall. The entry fee is \$20 per person for early registration and \$22 per person the day of the event. The fee includes a t-shirt, water, and snacks. To register in advance mail a check made out to Eagles Nest Fire Flies to Eagles Nest Fire Flies, 1552 Bear Head State Park Rd., Elv. MN 55731 and include your name, address, and t-shirt size. Or email Fire Chief Larry McCray at eaglesnestfirechief@citlink.

net for more information. All proceeds will go



## 60-year reunion

The Embarrass High School Class of 1961 held a reunion lunch on Aug. 28, 2021. Pictured (from left): Sharon Vandervort, Lorraine Hill, Fred Kallio, Peter Esala, Val Ferrian, Roger Palmi, Ray Johnson, Ed Soronen, and Dennis Niemi. submitted photo

## **Community donates to help Greenwood fire personnel**

TOWER- The Tower Fire Department filled two large trailers with donated water, beverages, and snack foods for the firefighters working on the Greenwood Fire. They delivered them to a supply area on Highway 1 where the Minnesota Conservation Corps collected them on Sunday, Aug. 29.

"They are helping supply meals for the firefighters," said Paige Olson, Tower Fire Chief, "and whoever else needs them."

The Superior National Forest and Eastern Area Incident Management Team said donations have now "far outstripped their needs and ability to store what has been received.'

"We have no remaining storage space and donations now must be stored in the open on pallets, making them an attractant to bears," they said. "We

### Little Church to host worship service on Sept. 12

VERMILION LAKE TWP-The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township will hold a worship service on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. Jon Salo will officiate the service and there will be a potluck meal after the service. The Little Church is located on County Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. by the Pike River. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

have had two instances of bear damage already. We understand the genuine concern, and undeniable generosity of community members, but we need to be able to return the focus of our logistics staff to supporting the Greenwood Fire and our firefighters, and we can no longer accept any donations."



### **Tower Loan Closet now located at Frandsen Bank, side entrance**

TOWER- The Tower Loan Closet has been moved to the side office at Frandsen Bank, Spruce St. entrance (the former law office location). The closet has medical equipment like crutches, walkers, canes, and toilet seats that can be lent out. The closet does not currently have a wheelchair to lend out, and if anyone has one to donate, please let them know. The loan closet is

open by appointment by calling Joe Morin at 218-780-7306.

### **Charlemagne's Attic** Sale will be open Sept. 10 and 11

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is extending its Charlemagne's Attic Sale at the Historic Fire Hall at 504 Main Street in Tower on Friday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New items are being re-

ceived weekly and inventory has been replenished. If you wish to drop your antiques, uniques collectibles, cabin, and fun items please call or text Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514, or Louise Gately at 515-229-8757. The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) corporation and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.

TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY **Book helps preserve our area's mining history** 

to the Eagles Nest Fire Department.

### **Tower Farmers** Market raffle tickets available

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market will regretfully not be hosting BLT Night this year. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Tower Area Food Shelf. Residents who wish to support the food shelf can still do so by purchasing tickets for the Harvest Basket Raffle. The drawing for a basket loaded with goodies from farmers market vendors will be held in mid-September. Tickets are \$1. They are available at the market, Fridays from 4-6 p.m., or at the Timber*jay* office.



TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society hosted a talk by Ron Hein on the history of the Erie Mining Company on Aug. 17. The event was a fundraiser for the historical society's Tower Fire Hall Restoration Project.

The story of the pioneers who worked at Erie Mining Company, built a new community and a new life for Minnesota's Iron Range was intended to keep the memory of Erie Mining Company alive and serve as an inspiration to the next generation of pioneers. "If the history wasn't documented, it would soon be forgotten," said Ron Hein, catalyst of the Erie History Project.

"If we don't do it now, it

will never happen," a team member told Ron back in December 2013 at an Erie employee Christmas party when it was noted fewer Erie pioneers were in attendance. "Their personal stories and histories need to be recorded before it is too late and this history is lost forever."

The published history, "Taconite, New Life for Minnesota's Iron Range - The History of Erie Mining Company" documents the 61-year history of Erie from its forma-



Four of the history book's authors attended the event in Tower. submitted photo

tion in 1940 to its closure in 2001. It involved a five-and-a-half-year journey of research, fundraising, oral history interviews, writing and rewriting by a team of eleven dedicated members. Four members of the team were in attendance at the event: Ron Hein, Mike Sterk, Jim Westbrook, and Tom Michels.

'Preserving the Iron Range mining history is important, and especially this story of the world's first taconite plant," said Louise Gately, TSHS Advisory Board member and author of Pursuit of a Dream - James Jor-

dan His Life and His Legacy. "The Project Team has written an incredible book filled with historical photographs. It explains the science and describes the race to process ore pellets from taconite rock as natural iron ore deposits were being depleted. It was written from the heart and includes the story of building a community, as well as the Erie workforce family through 155 oral history interviews.'

The book is available for purchase for \$45 through the Tower-Soudan Historical Society at the train depot in Tower during weekend hours of operation, or by contacting TSHS secretary Linda Folstad at 218-750-0193 or tshssecretary@gmail.com. A portion of the book proceeds will benefit the Tower Historic Fire Hall Restoration Project.

The Historic Fire Hall/City Hall/Jail building, constructed in

1895, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is being restored by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. The roof was replaced in July and the exterior masonry is planned to be rehabilitated in 2022. Donations are appreciated to the Historic Fire Hall Restoration Fund, PO Box 465, Tower, MN 55790. TSHS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.



HARVEST **BASKET RAFFLE** \$1 Tickets

Fridays 4-6 PM at the Train Depot

### THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who helped clean out the old loan closet location. New closets are set up in Tower, Greenwood, and Wuori Township. Thanks to Jeanne and Terry Driscoll for donating storage space the last 25 years.

Pam Lundstrom Retired Loan Closet Coordinator

### Volunteers needed to help paint the caboose at the Tower Depot

TOWER- Volunteers are needed this weekend to help touch-up paint the caboose at the Tower Depot. All supplies provided. Painting will be underway

on Saturday, Sept. 4 from 2-4 p.m. and Sunday, September 5 from 1-3 p.m. If interested, call Doug 218-404-3331.

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### ELY LOCAL NEWS

### I SCREAM ...



As summer turns to fall, three-year-old Hollace Lee Fenske enjoyed a "Hulk Smash" ice cream treat at Northern Expressions Tuesday afternoon. He was at the shop with his mom, Lexy. photos by K. Vandervort



## HammerHeart Brewing coming to Ely?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - HammerHeart Brewing Co. announced this week that they have an accepted land purchase agreement to open a small production facility just outside of Ely.

Co-owner Nathanial Chapman said Tuesday that the brewing company is in the beginning stages of working with St. Louis County on land use permitting."When that comes together, we will be able to share more information," he said. Chapman owns the company with Austin Lunn.

HammerHeart Brewing Co., founded in 2013, produces 600-700 barrels of smoked and traditional beers each year at their Lino Lakes facility.

If the Ely brewery becomes a reality, according to Chapman, it will be a production-only operation. We won't have a tap room in Ely, and the brewery would not be open to the public," he said.

The new brewery will have a special name, Nordland One. "Since this farmhouse brewery is in the



HammerHeart Brewing Co. brewers Austin Lunn and Reece Wagstaff are shown with barrels of a special collaborative beer in their Lino Lakes facility. The company is in the beginning stages of opening a production-only facility near Ely. submitted photo



far north of Minnesota, we felt it appropriate to name the facility after another personal favorite in the Bathory discography, an album that celebrates the beauty of the north," he said.

"Here, Austin will be producing tried and true favorites, mostly focusing on traditional Nordic beer and German style rauchbier, and also further pushing HammerHeart styles into new territory," he added.

### **Breathing Out**

## by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



the mad heat turned down summer's pace ends in cool nights bright leaves and harvest

## EWHS manager, Line 3 issue featured at Tuesday Group

**OUR COMMUNITY** 

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 speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@ gmail.com or by phone at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:.

► Sept. 7: Paul Colwell, Manager of the Ely-Winton Historical Society.

Colwell, originally from Texas, has experience with historical research, archive management, community relations and social media. He has a great passion for local history, and he is looking forward to helping the society expand its outreach efforts through social media and other platforms, and to continuing the society's mission of preserving and transmitting the history and heritage of the Ely-Winton area. His wife, Charlene (nee Haapala), is a Babbitt native, and they have recently moved back to the area from Boston, Mass.

Sept. 14: Line 3 Part One - Barbara Jones, Oil Pipelines and Climate.

Barb Jones is a retired Professor of Physics at the University of California-San Diego whose current interests include climate change, gardening, woodworking, and mathematical art.

She will lead Tuesday Group in investigating why the Enbridge Line 3 oil pipeline project generates such passion. This first session will cover where the oil comes from, how it is transported, and who uses it. Each barrel consumed puts more greenhouse gas into the air. There are ways to reduce our fossil fuel use and still maintain a comfortable lifestyle.

Sept. 21: Line 3 Part Two (extended 90-minute session - Frank Bibeau, Line 3 Pipeline and Indigenous Communities in Minnesota.

Bibeau completed a Bachelor's degree in political science from Bemidji State University in 1985. The following year, while working at the Minnesota Legislative Session, he met Winona LaDuke and they started working on wild rice protection and labeling laws. Bibeau graduated from the William Mitchell School of Law in 2000. His legal work focuses on the Treaty rights of tribes and members to help protect the natural resources for future generations. Bibeau represented Honor the Earth in the Sandpiper Pipeline proceedings, currently Line 3 Pipeline proceedings, at Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. His presentation will explore how the Line 3 pipeline will affect indigenous communities in Minnesota, and the climate/ environmental justice movement generally.

### 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: 827-33	45

### Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous **OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church,

915 E. Camp St., Ely.

SUNDAY NIGHT AA -

## Ely Police Department Activity Report Aug. 1-15, 2021

**Arrests/Citations** Distuibant Individual arrested for Obstruction, Fleeing on foot, and Disorderly Conduct. Traffic Stop-Individual arrested for 2nd Degree DWI.

Officers were called about mined they were using the person left. loud music. Officers

internet.

► Unwanted Person-

identification.

► Call Back- Officers

### Complaints ➤Medical-

Officers assisted the Elv Ambulance with a medical

▶ Public Assist-Individual let back into their residence.

►Animal Disturbance-Officers were informed about a dog that chased people. Officers informed the owner of the leash laws within the city.

▶Fire Alarm-Officers assisted the Ely Fire Department with a fire alarm that was false.

► Disturbance-Officers were called about two people arguing. Officers arrived and the two individuals had already figured out their disagreement.

► Security Alarm-Officers responded to a local business for a security alarm. Officers determined the alarm to be faulty.

>Trouble Neighbor-Officers mediated a disagreement about tree branches across a property line

▶ Public Assist-Individual let back into their residence.

►Loud Music-

located the people with the music and they had agreed to call it a night.

➤Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a person in dark clothing running past houses and into the woods. Officers were not able to locate the person.

► Disturbance-Officers were contacted about a person yelling and listening to music. The individual agreed to call it a night

► Security Alarm-Officers responded to a local business for a security alarm. Officers determined the alarm to be accidental.

➤Check Hazard-Officers were called about a fridge that was left on a sidewalk. Officers located the owner and asked them to remove it.

►Disturbance-Officers were called about a car blocking another car from leaving a business. Officers located the vehicles and everything was sorted out.

 Disturbance-Officers were called about a person living on city-owned property. The individual was located and they moved their belongings back to their own property.

► Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about an individual in a car by a local business. Officers located the individual and deter-

► Animal Disturbance-Officers located a dog that was wandering around town. Officers brought the dog to doggy jail until the owner bailed them out.

➤Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a group of people inside a camper. Officers located the group and determined it was friends.

>Disturbance-Officers were called about an individual getting into a vehicle with another and then being let out a short time later. Officers located both people and they just needed space from each other.

► Animal Disturbance-Officers were contacted about a cat in a trap. The owner wanted it on record that this occurred.

► Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers were contacted about a two-vehicle crash with no injuries and minor vehicle damage.

➤Extra Patrol-Officers were requested to patrol a residence while the owner was out of town

► Public Assist-Officers were requested to stand-by while two individuals exchanged property.

➤Unwanted Person-Officers were called about a person that was refusing to leave a house. Officers arrived and the

Officers were called about a person that was inside a house. Officers arrived and determined that nobody was inside.

➤Disturbance-Officers were contacted about an argument between two people. Officers separated the individuals for the night.

➤Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that had a large number of bikes in a trailer. The vehicle left prior to Officers arrival.

► Found Property-Officers were contacted about a found purse. This case is pending owner

were requested to call an individual that was upset about their trailer being disturbed. Officers mediated the situation.

► Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a vehicle fire.

≻Hit and Run-Officers were contacted about a vehicle that hit a parked vehicle. This case is under investigation.

≻Check Welfare-Officers were contacted about a dog barking and they could not find the owner. Officers located the owner walking back from work.

at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is cancelled. **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.

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

Donald G.

Gardner Humanițies

Trust

We are now accepting

2021 Arts Grant

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

### APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Fri., Sept. 24

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by mid-September for help and review of their applications. Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Wed., Sept. 1 to schedule a grant review meeting.

**BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian. **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely. ADULT BASIC **EDUCATION GED** - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 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

Subscribe: 218-753-2950

### **OUTDOOR WELL-BEING**

## Yoga on the farm remains a popular activity in Cook

by KAREN BARTUNEK Contributing writer

COOK- As this reporter recently discovered firsthand, farm yoga is not quite the traditional yoga of the Rig Veda. For one, this class sequence involves farm seed.

It's not a class for strict yogis, as there are a lot of incredibly cute distractions, but a way to connect with oneself, the outdoors and maybe a spirit animal or two. Mine was an alpaca.

A play off the pop-Michigan-created ular Goat Yoga, Farm Yoga is Cook's Country Connection's variation of the trend.

"The popularity isn't just the yoga itself but the animals that ground the practice. It takes the pressure off. It's fun," Lois Pajari, owner of Cook's Country Connection, noted.

Every Thursday, instead of goats bounding about as you inhale and exhale, the whole farm comes to visit. The idea is to bring a yoga mat and commune with the outdoors, as well as a farm animal or two.

Pajari's popular event farm had its beginning after a tragic circumstance, the destruction by fire of Pajari's business in Cook in 2013. Rather than rebuild in town, she decided to focus on the family farm, creating a new business that honored her family's 120-year-old homestead.

The farm hosts many rental events including weddings, reunions, or proms, and recurring events like monthly live music, a monthly happy hour, and, of course, weekly farm yoga.

The idea for farm yoga was inspired by an article about goat yoga.

"Someone forwarded a story to me and said, 'oh, you should try this.' Pajari said. "So, I did."

This is the yoga event's fourth or fifth season, and it has remained popular with locals and visitors alike.

"It's the highlight of our week," said Kristen McGibern, a returning customer.

Connie Larson, one of two farm yoga instructors at Cook's Country Connection, originally created specific yoga poses for farm yoga, aptly named after farm animals. Think downward goat instead of downward dog; the main difference being that goats jump on your back in this variation.

But, in a poetic yet not unsurprising circumstance, a goat ate her notes at the start of a recent session

Larson led the class through a series of classic yoga stretches instead as an alpaca mama and her baby fed nearby, and goats alternated between grazing on the farm feed and jumping on the backs of the patrons.

The attendees visibly enjoyed interacting with and feeding the animals, who grazed through the rows of people doing downward dog or child's poses.

The pinnacle of the class came during the last fifteen minutes when the staff conspiratorially whispered that they were about to release the piglets. It was their first time being introduced to the other animals, and both the animals and human participants erupted with squeals and curiosity.

An alpaca leisurely grazes among posing yoga participants at Cook's Country Connection in the

Pajari seemed to enjoy it as much as her customers as she chuckled at the scene. "This is all pretty great, honestly. It's a pretty good gig," she said. "You can do yoga

or not do yoga," Larson emphasized as she began the class. "It's just [about] being outside, getting fresh air, sunshine, and just being around the animals- they make you smile and they just exude happiness. Animals are so much fun."

Cook's Country Connection events, including farm yoga, are listed on

photo by K. Bartunek their website at https:// cookscountryconnection. com/hours-admission/upcoming-events/.

And having been immersed in the full aura of the farm yoga experience, if there is a next time, feel free to join in. Alpaca yoga mat and meet you there. Lllamaste.

Jewelry class is coming to NWFA

COOK- There's still time to sign up for "How to Create Your Own Jewelry," a class to be offered on Friday, Sept. 17 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Popular NWFA instructor and Ely artist Cecilia Rolando will guide

students in basic techniques and tools used as they learn how to design their own beaded necklace, matching earrings, and beaded ring. All materials are provided for a \$5 fee, paid to Cecilia at class time. If you have any favorite beads or pendants you wish to add to your necklace, bring them.

and be done or continue on to make more for yourself and others.

There is an additional class fee of \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 218-666-2153 to register or stop in at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St., open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 Create this initial set a.m. to 4 p.m. and Satur-

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

shade cast by a lone tree in the evening sun.

an email to nwfamn.org@ gmail.com.

### The No Notes to close out park concert series

COOK- It's the last hurrah for the 2021 edition of Cook's Music in the Park series on Wednesday, Sept. 8 when music from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s and a little bit of country is on tap at the city park gazebo.

"The No Notes" are the featured group for the evening, which kicks off at 6 p.m. for the two-hour finale. Ken Voight, of Mt. Iron, is lead guitarist, John Elofson, of Virginia, plays

rhythm guitar, Butch Panula, of Britt, plays the bass guitar and electric drums, and all three perform vocals.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket or sit in your car to hear the sound of music. In case of rain, the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

The concert is free to the public.

## HRA director delivers pointed statement to council Erickson claims mayor and council members exceeded authority by stepping into operational issues

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

priety by the mayor and to some degree, city council members as they permitted this to occur.'

edly and accurately stated in recent past meetings that his authority and the council's relative to CHRA extends only to board appointments, and that such authority derives from state law, not HUD regulations. Erickson was not in attendance at those meetings as he was not on the agenda and had other scheduling obligations, he recently told the Timberjay However, Johnston and the council have also provided a forum for a small group of disgruntled CHRA residents to publicly and repeatedly air complaints and accusations against Erickson that have been reviewed and answered both by HUD and the CHRA board. These

the appearance of impro- mayor, and not Erickson. residents have repeatedly tive." Johnston has repeat- asked that Erickson be removed from his position, something the city council is unable to do. continued Erickson his statement by saying there should be no "animosity" between the city and CHRA, and expressed his belief that the controversy was focused on him and not CHRA operations. "This is personal and not business," he said. "This sad situation easily could have been avoided, as it is not the city's responsibility to be involved with HRA business." Erickson extended an apology to council member and CHRA board member Jody Bixby for a recent meeting in which "emotions did run high at times" but that he nonetheless termed "produc-

with city officials, with "I apologize to her the city fully understanding what their role is moving forward." After Erickson concluded and as he was distributing copies of the statement, Johnston asked, "It it an apology?" "It's not an apology, it's a statement," Erickson replied. Council members, including Johnston, made no further comments regarding the statement, and Erickson excused himself from the meeting.

days from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Prospective students may also register by sending

COOK- As has been the case in recent months, issues with the Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority were again on the agenda at last week's Cook City Council meeting, as CHRA Executive Director Reed Erickson kicked off the meeting by reading a prepared statement alleging undue meddling in HRA operations by Mayor Harold Johnston.

By state statute, the only power Johnston has relative to CHRA is to appoint board members, with final approval by the council. Johnston exercised that authority to reappoint Sharon Ratai to the resident board member position she resigned from in April, acting in opposition to past established practice followed by Erickson to identify and recommend a member for Johnston to rubber stamp

"The HRA has not or is not questioning whether the mayor has the authority to appoint an HRA board member," Erickson said, "but the HRA has and is questioning the way the mayor has gone about this process without input from the HRA board, as that was the process in past years. By changing the process - which is well documented in both city and HRA board minutes - there appears to be

Erickson went on to expand on his criticism.

"It seems obvious the mayor has gone beyond his appointed authority in regards to the business operations of the HRA," Erickson continued. "The city and mayor have no authority over the day-today operation of the HRA, nor the authority over the hiring and firing of the executive director or any staff members for that matter.'

Erickson's reference to firing authority was apparently in response to a report of the July council meeting in the July 29 Cook News Herald that summarized discussion surrounding the appointment of Ratai. The article stated: "When the question arose as to what would happen if Erickson rejects the new member, it was brought up that, by HUD rules, the City could fire him."

Such an assertion would clearly fall outside the scope of Johnston's and the council's authority, and in fact, no such statement was made at the meeting regarding Erickson. A review of the audio recording of the meeting made by the Timberjay clearly indicates that Johnston was referring to the HRA board chairman, a legal appointee of the

for any actions on my part that might have been construed as offensive in nature – that was not my intent," Erickson said. Bixby accepted the apol-

ogy. Erickson concluded his remarks by offering an olive branch of sorts to the council.

'Speaking on behalf of the officers of the HRA board and as Executive Director, the HRA welcommunication comes

HERE





### ISD 696

### Construction material, labor shortages causing school project challenges

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – Construction timeline changes are starting to creep into the \$20 million facilities renovation underway on the Ely school campus. Shortages in both building materials and laborers are continuing challenges to progress as summer turns to fall.

There is a real chance that the new building will not be fully enclosed by the time winter arrives, prohibiting or at least delaying the continuation of inside work for many months.

In a school board study session last week, construction managers indicated the completion of a new locker room for the Memorial High School building,

intended to be ready this school year, will not happen until next summer.

Brandon Ward, of Kraus-Anderson, said the construction bid for one locker room came in at \$400,000, including a 10-percent markup for overhead and profit.

"We are hoping that by taking this out of bid package one and putting it in bid package two, we can get the number down to at least \$360,000," he said.

"So, we communicated the tough news that we are not going to have a boys lockerroom this fall," Ward continued. "Right now there is not a single electrician out there. Costco, I think, is offering \$150 a day to be at their job site. It is just hard to get people right now, and contractors are putting prices on work based on that."

The original timeline called for completion of the locker room in time for the beginning of the basketball season, which resulted in the added price premium, Ward said.

"The lockers (delivery) are still four months out, so the supply of steel is running against us,"he said.

For the upcoming school year, according to Ward, the boys will use the existing girls locker room. And the girls will use an existing first floor room on a temporary basis that has access to lockers and a girls bathroom nearby. No showers will be available in the temporary girls locker room space.

As reported in the *Timberjay* last week, the

campus heating plant should be ready to fire up by mid-September to prepare for the winter heating season. The 32,000-gallon propane tank was recently moved from the front yard of the school to the southwest corner of the property.

Many locations around the renovation project will need temporary doors because of supply delays.

"We ordered them but they are four or five months out," Ward said. "For all the materials, the longer we wait to order them the more the price continues to go up. We can come up with the storage space, like in the auditorium and other spaces, and we can lock in our price now for future installation."

Ward added that temporary lighting will have

to be used in many areas of the school.

"A lot of the lights are a long lead item. We can still install the ceiling grid but use temporary lights. We will make sure they are approved by the city inspector," he said.

As teachers and staff prepared for the start of the school year on Tuesday, Sept. 7, the campus was disrupted by power outages as construction continued.

"The stadium needs power for the football games coming up. That was one of the things we didn't anticipate. In the middle of the summer we realized that we needed another transformer pad out there," Ward said. "I talked with the electrical contractor and they don't anticipate any power outages during the school year. We won't cut power during the school day. I can't imagine that we would ever suggest that."

Project managers anticipate the delivery of the new building pre-cast walls in early October and walls will start going up immediately.

"We won't let anybody be on site when they are erecting those pre-cast walls," Ward said. "That is for safety. They pretty much take over the site for two weeks. Once those pre-casts are up, they will work from south to north, the joists will come in, and in a perfect world schedule they will be installed starting in late October."

In the real world, Ward added, "There is not a single mill in the country that has the steel for decking."

### **COVID**....Continued from page 1

18 and younger, although none so far have required intensive care placement. She also provided more information about the county's increasing number of cases.

"We had 273 new cases reported last week, which was a 52 percent increase over the previous week," Westbrook said. "There has been a definite correlation in our county between rising case rates and lower vaccination rates. The areas with lower vaccination rates are seeing the highest incidence of new cases. Our case rates are higher in the northern and central southwest areas, and the Iron Range is primarily in that central southwest."

Boehland said that while hospitalization and ICU numbers haven't approached the levels of last year's November/ December peak, the non-COVID patient load has increased significantly.

"Our non-COVID patient load during this surge is higher than it was during previous surges," she said. "Our non-COVID patients tend to be sicker these days."

Seasonal increases in accidents, people who delayed health care procedures during previous surges, and increased effects of substance abuse, depression, and other stresses are contributing factors that have non-COVID cases competing with new COVID patients for limited beds and services. "Sadly, today our situation is quite serious," she said. drastically affect our staffing," she said. "There have been times this summer when you find yourself working 16-hour-plus shifts or 12-hour shifts for six days in a row or more. I love what I do and I can't imagine working in any other profession, but when I went to nursing school 11 years ago this isn't what I imagined the nursing field would look like."

"A lot of health care and frontline people of all kinds are experiencing burnout," Boehland said. "I think that they're tired. A lot of people have retired, a lot of people have left health care, because it's been a really long haul." Harmony Tyner, an infectious disease physician at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, said, "We were running as though it were a sprint to begin with. And it really turned out to be a marathon. And as any sprinter will tell you, you can't run a marathon at that pace. I think a lot of us feel an overlay of guilt about not being able to do everything for everybody, and we're seeing people become injured by this who avoided medical care, including poor outcomes, and watching our patients die."

The issue of getting vaccinated or not has also created stress and conflict that can be detrimental to one's health, Tyner noted. kind to each other. We're all in this together whether we're vaccinated or not."

B o e h l a n d a l s o addressed something she said she's been hearing in "an alarming amount" among some segments of people of the Christian faith that's keeping some from being vacinated.

In terms of the Christian church, I've heard a lot of people who have been advised by their church not to be vaccinated because it's a sign of the beast," Boehland said. "And something I remind my Christian friends and followers who have thought that or have heard that is that the vaccine doesn't mitigate your salvation. Jesus's blood is more powerful than that. If that's something your patients have heard or come across, remind them what they already know about their faith. Don't try to talk them out of their faith, it's not going to work. It's not what we should be doing."

Westbrook said that 59 percent of the county's total population, and 69 percent of those 16 and older, have received at least one dose of COVID vaccine. Like the other panelists, she emphasized the importance of getting vaccinated in the midst of a surge driven by the more highly contagious Range, state health officials raised concerns last week about a developing COVID outbreak in southern Minnesota. Schools in Albert Lea, which started early this year, had 36 cases of COVID-19 and 290 students and staff in quarantine by the end of the first week of classes, according to state infectious disease director Kris Ehresmann.

Cases have also been reported in summer camps and childcare centers, Ehresmann said, and while children have generally experienced less severe effects from COVID-19, trends emerging as the Delta variant has become dominant are concerning, she said.

"We were seeing about 0.7 percent of the cases in children being hospitalized (last fall)," she said. "And now we're seeing that at 1.5 percent. That is still a low number, but it's a doubling of what we saw last fall. And that is definitely concerning. And as (Commissioner Jan Malcolm) said, we're seeing more and more cases of illness in each group."

Officials implored local decisionmakers to adopt mask mandates for all individuals in schools, regardless of vaccination status, as recommended by the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Minnesota Departments of Health and Education.

"We're concerned to hear reports that in some school districts and schools, the fact that we as a state are no longer mandating these prevention measures is being misunderstood to mean that the recommendations are not important or that we don't feel they are essential to implement," Malcolm said. "I want to be really clear on this point. Our recommendation of universal masking is a recommendation for schools to require it. In the face of the highly contagious Delta variant, there has never been a more important time than right now for everyone in schools where there is a high transmission of the virus to be masking and using the multiple layers of prevention available to prevent infection."

#### **Regional data**

Consistent with Westbrook's information about higher case rates in northern St. Louis County, new cases in the six North Country zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay* jumped by 18 last week, bringing the total for the past three weeks to 50.

Tower topped the new case count with nine, followed by Cook, 4, Ely, 3, Embarrass, 1, and Orr, 1. No new cases were reported for Soudan.



International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE

Emily Meyer, nurse manager of women's health and birthing at Grand Itasca Hospital in Grand Rapids, said the challenges for staff there are no different from anywhere else right now.

"Even one sick call can

FAIR....Continued from page 1 -

vaccination bus was at the fair on Saturday and gave some vaccinations. Hand sanitizers were abundant throughout the fairgrounds.

Beaton gave a heartfelt thank you to all the volun-teers.

"This isn't just about information," she said. "It's also about an emotional component that people feel invested in or feel very strongly about for a lot of different reasons. I've seen people be ripped apart by conversations about vaccination and about why they've chosen to do one thing or another. Whether you've chosen to be vaccinated or you've chosen not to be vaccinated, please, be Delta variant.

"This is for the health of our kids too young to be vaccinated, our neighbors who may be experiencing waning immunity, and to prevent other strains of COVID-19," she said. "Just half of one percent of new cases and .03 percent of hospitalizations are among fully vaccinated individuals."

### School concerns

While Tuesday's focus was on the Iron

to consider volunteering

for the fair next year.

Volunteers are most needed

to sell tickets at the gates

and to set up the event in

the days beforehand.

"They were wonderful," she said.

Beaton also gave praise to the musicians, including the karaoke singers, who provided "fantastic" entertainment all weekend.

Beaton asked others

### **SEARCH**...Continued from page 1 -

opmental training manager by National Recoveries, Inc, in Arden Hills, which was also involved with collections.Originally from Virginia, Schultz received an Associate Degree from Mesabi Range and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. John's University in Collegeville.

The city's hiring committee has also interviewed Melissa Bauer, originally of Cook, now of Tempe, Ariz., who currently serves as procurement manager for the Town of Queen Creek, a post she's held since 2018. Her resumé lists six different government positions she's held between 2006 and 2021, ranging from six months as grant contract administrator for the Maricopa County Human Services Department to four and a half years as contract branch supervisor for the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

Her resumé does not list a degree, although it shows she studied social work at Winona State University in the early 1990s. She has earned certificates of completion in topics such as project management, risk management, and contract administration.

The earliest the city council is likely to make a hiring decision would be at their regular meeting on Sept. 13. Ranua has indicated she is willing to stay on as long as needed to train in her eventual replacement.

### INTERNATIONAL RAINY-LAKE OF THE WOODS WATERSHED BOARD

The International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board invites you to attend a virtual public meeting with the Board on:

### September 14, 2021 1–3 pm Central Time

To participate in this Zoom meeting, please register on the Board's website: ijc.org/rlwwb. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. You are encouraged to register by September 7.

This meeting is an opportunity to hear about the activities of the Board and its Committees e.g. the Water Levels Committee, the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee, the Engagement Committee and the Adaptive Management Committee. Participants will also have an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback.

All are welcome! Please circulate this invitation to others who may be interested.

If you require additional information, please contact:

**Wellsley Hamilton** IRLWWB Canadian Secretary Wellsley.Hamilton@ec.gc.ca

**Scott Jutila** IRLWWB U.S. Secretary Scott.A.Jutila@usace.army.mil

The International Joint Commission formed the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board to assist with binational coordination of water quality efforts for the entire boundary watershed and to coordinate the management of the water levels and flows on Rainy and Namakan lakes and the Rainy River.

### WILDFIRES

## **Red Cross staffed Babbitt Municipal Center for evacuees**

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

BABBITT - As firefighters welcomed weekend rains to gain a foothold at the 26,000-acre Greenwood Fire, the American RedCross Northland Chapter's temporary evacuation shelter at the Babbitt Municipal Center was closed on Monday.

Officials said the decision was made due to the changing needs of the people affected by the nearby wildfire. The Red Cross said even though the shelter closed after just a week, services are still available, and to call 1-844-292-7677 for assistance.

Just down the street, the U.S. Forest Service was using the city's ice arena to serve firefighters battling the blaze some 15 miles away.

Last Saturday morning, the gymnasium in the former school building had just one cot set up for a lone evacuation client.

Red Cross shelter manager Rod Winters said that just the one evacuee used the shelter since it was opened earlier last week.

"We originally opened in Finland," he said, "and moved here to Babbitt



Red Cross shelter manager Rod Winters, standing, and volunteers reviewed the Babbitt shelter supplies inventory Saturday morning at the city's municipal center. photo by K. Vandervort

after no one there needed to shelter. Based on the characteristics of the fire, supervisors considered there was heightened risk on this side of the fire and determined this was an ideal place for a shelter."

Winters said one woman who sought brief shelter at the Finland evacuation center last week was picked up by a family member and did not spend the night.

'The one client here in Babbitt was forced to evacuate her home and has been here for two or three days," he said.

disaster, such as this fire, we work with emergency management and others to determine the possible impact on people and are asked to open a shelter that is safe from the emergency but also is easily accessible to those being displaced," Winters said.

The Babbitt shelter could comfortably accommodate up to 100 people for several days or a week, if necessary, he added.

"In northern Minnesota here there are a lot of self-sufficient people, and a lot of these are cabins and recreational spaces and not "Anytime there is a necessarily permanent residences, so it stands to reason that many people have other sheltering options. It is not surprising that we have a low (shelter) population. At the same time, it is important for emergency management that there be a safe place for those who need it," Winters said.

The Red Cross evacuation center's mission is primarily to provide shelter.

'We have a warm place for our evacuees to sleep,' Winters said. "We provide cots and blankets. We provide meals for those who are forced to shelter here. We have snacks and water available 24 hours too."

Bathroom facilities

are available and off-site shower accommodations are also nearby. "If we had a larger population of evacuees we would make sure we have showers available more readily," he added.

An integral part of the Red Cross shelter is to have health services available for evacuees. "We have retired nurses staff the shelter 24 hours a day. Some people who do come in may have health care needs. We can assess those needs and accommodate any care they may need," Winters said. "We assist those people with chronic conditions. It is not uncommon that people may leave their place without glasses or medications. We can help mitigate that.'

All evacuees and volunteers are offered three meals a day. A visitor to the Red Cross Shelter Saturday morning was invited to join the shelter staff and volunteers for lunch in the senior center dining room. They were serving fajitas, beans and rice.

Winters noted that the American Red Cross focuses on three areas of emergency services. "We prepare, respond and recover. We offer community education on the prepare

side, such as having a to-go bag ready to go," he said. Take you medications and important papers. We help people to think through what they would need if forced to evacuate. Still we have cases where people forget some things.'

To help people feel more comfortable while at an evacuation center, the Red Cross makes mental health services available.

"Sometimes people may just want to talk to somebody. They may have some stress issues. We want to be a safe place and keep the stress level low and quiet. We realize that it is very traumatic to be evacuated from your home. We make this a friendly and safe place for whatever period of time they are here," Winter said. As many as 40 individ-

ual volunteers helped with the evacuation centers over the last two weeks, he added.

"The Red Cross also collaborates with St. Louis County and Lake County emergency management officials. We also work with Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Health in staffing this shelter, also with providing supplies and resources," he said.

### FIRE ... Continued from page 1

mid-week. Fire officials now project they'll have the fire fully contained by Sept. 10.

By Wednesday, priorities continued on mop-up, improving and holding containment lines, and removing hazardous and fallen trees along roads. Weather and fuel conditions were reportedly assessed with a test burn for a potential defensive firing operation to secure a 100-200foot buffer zone along Hwy. 1 toward Isabella.

By last Saturday, evacuation orders in the Slate Lake area were lifted. This includes the area from Chub Lake to the New Tomahawk Road. Properties in this area can be accessed from the New Tomahawk Road, coming from Babbitt, or Hwy. 1 approaching from Ely. The Slate Lake Area is not currently accessible from Lake County Hwy.2. Evacuation orders were still in effect as of presstime for McDougal Lake, the Hwy. 2 corridor, and the

the ground. They are both deep in the wilderness and hard to reach.

The John Ek Fire was remapped using infrared data and the size was reduced to 1,339 acres. The Whelp Fire remains at an estimated 50 acres.

This week, crews continued work on improving portages to identify areas that will allow for safe access in and out, hose lays, and installation sites for sprinkler systems. Fireline locations are being identified at a safe distance from the fire that will allow crews to begin indirect fire suppression in the future. On the Whelp Fire, air resources were used to monitor and suppress fire activity.

Firefighting resources stretched thin by the Greenwood and BWCAW fires, along with severe drought conditions, led Forest Service officials to close the entire Boundary Waters on Aug.21. The closure was extended until at least Friday, Sept. 3.

#### Local impact

Country throughout last weekend. The Greenwood Fire appeared to be the primary contributor to the "very unhealthy" conditions in the Ely and Babbitt areas.

Children, asthmatics and people with heart or lung conditions were advised to avoid the outdoors and all others were warned to reduce their outdoors exertion when "very unhealthy" conditions exist. Anyone can experience smoke-related health symptoms when air quality standards are deemed unhealthy or worse.

Morse/Fall Lake Fire Department Chief Ted Krueger reported last Sunday that all his department's trucks and equipment were back from battling the Greenwood Fire as area volunteer departments were told they could stand down.

"All fire departments are back and probably just like us rehabbing trucks and getting ready for the next call," he said in a Facebook post. "It's been a long 14 days but it was an experience I will never forget being a strike team leader. We got the opportunity to work with many different people from all over the region and the country. It was amazing how everyone meshed and just easily worked together to accomplish one goal and made it go smoothly considering the circumstances. One thing I learned from this fire was that the fire service is a family and we all worked together and looked out for each other."

### No more donations

Superior National Forest officials leading the fight against the wildfires in northeastern Minnesota warned about a new threat this week. Bears attracted by generous donations of food and other supplies have taken resources away from putting out fires to mitigating damage and minimizing hazards to staff.

"Donations have far outstripped our need and our ability to store what we have received,' SNF officials posted on social media. "We have no remaining storage space and donations now must be stored in the open on pallets, making them an attractant to bears. We have had two instances of bear damage already."

Black bears are common in the North Country and the drought this year forced them to get creative in seeking food, sometimes conflicting with people

As of last Friday, certain land management activities in the Superior National Forest were restricted to the hours of 11 p.m. to 11 a.m.

All equipment used on the national forest must have fire suppression equipment readily available on site at all times or be in compliance with fire prevention/ precaution measures specified by a timber or acquisition contract.

A fire watch person must remain on site and monitor for one hour after operations shut down for the day, according to the new order.

Land management activities included in the restriction include cutting forest products, using power saws other than trimming loads, operating tractors, skidders, feller-bunchers, forwarder logging operations, and road graders, mowing and clearing grass and brush, dressing (sharpening) road grader blades on hardtop roads, preparing land for tree, shrub, or grass planting (e.g. roller choppers, anchor chains, and rock rakes), and any other mechanized operation that could create a spark and result in a fire.

Mitawan Lake Road area.

Hwy. 2 remains closed from Forest Hwy. 11 to Hwy. 1, and Hwy. 1 is closed from New Tomahawk Road to Lankinen Road.

### **Other fires**

Thanks to the rain, USFS officials reported no growth Tuesday on the John Ek and Whelp fires, which are inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Crews began efforts this week to fight those fires on

Smoke from the area fires caused a dramatic decline in air quality and visibility across the North Country late last week, with an area of "very unhealthy" conditions centered on Ely and points east, especially last Thursday. At one point that day, Ely's air quality was nearly 70 percent worse than predicted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, with a particulate level of 261.

"Unhealthy" air quality predominated across the North

"We understand the genuine concern and undeniable generosity of community members, but we need to be able to return the focus of our logistics staff to supporting the Greenwood Fire and our fire fighters," officials posted.

They suggested donations to local food banks, the American Red Cross and local fire departments.

"Or thank a firefighter. We love signs along the road and cards.'

Welding, using acetylene torches, or other devices with an open flame, to cut metal or rock, and grinding metal and rock is also restricted. Parking vehicles and machinery in tall grass and vegetation is not advised.



### CITY OF TOWER

## **Council wants more information before creating new task force**

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council, here, opted for more research before considering a new task force to develop an emergency preparedness plan. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad had mentioned the need for a plan at the Aug. 23 council meeting and asked to have the idea on the agenda at the council's Aug. 30 special meeting.

Kringstad cited the rash of forest fires in the

area this summer and said the city needs to be prepared in case of fire or some other disaster. The city did have an emergency management director for several years, but it's not clear what the individual did, since he never provided a report or developed an emergency plan. The city didn't fill the position, which use to pay \$200 a month, in 2020.

Kringstad proposed a motion to establish a task force with two council members plus three citizens, to begin work on a plan. Kringstad said

he wanted to develop the plan in coordination with Brieitung Township, although it was unclear how the two entities would undertake that planning process.

Council members appeared reluctant to take on the work of a new task force, noting they already had full plates with a number of other city issues. Clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua noted that state law requires the city to have an emergency management director, although it doesn't require a plan. "Sounds like a good job," joked council member Sheldon Majerle. "Really," agreed council member Dave Setterberg. "Being in charge of doing nothing."

Ranua suggested that any plan that's ultimately developed should be incorporated into an agreement with Breitung, or an ordinance, so future councils have a better understanding of the council's thinking.

Council member Joe Morin said he's for developing a plan. "It's just a question of how we get there," he said. "Maybe

we're not ready for a task force, yet," he suggested. After more discus-

sion, Kringstad agreed to talk to Breitung chair Tim Tomsich about a joint planning effort. Council member Kevin Norby said that would be a good first step. "Let's see if Breitung wants to work together first," he said.

By consensus, the council agreed that Kringstad would reach out to Breitung, while Ranua researches the plans developed by other communities. The issue is expected to be back on the city agenda later this month.

In other action at the city's special meeting, the council reauthorized the vacation of the original plat for Birch Street in the North Star Addition. A previous council, back in 2004, had approved the vacation but the city had failed to record the vacation with the county. The council reauthorized the vacation and instructed the clerk-treasurer to record the change with St. Louis County.

## Council greenlights police department contract talks with Breitung

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here authorized council members Joe Morin and Dave Setterberg to negotiate with Breitung Township on the terms of a possible service contract with the township's newly-reconstituted police department. The council took that action at their regular meeting held Aug. 23.

The city has been relying on the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement response since the township disbanded its police department back in March. The city has paid for occasional local patrol services from the sheriff's office, as well.

Councilors acknowledged that the community is largely divided on the need for locally-based policing, but Morin argued that the city would be sharing services with a significantly smaller department than the township maintained in the past, which should limit the city's expenses.

While subject to change, the township has, to date, hired only a chief. If shared by the two communities, Morin estimated the city's annual expense at around \$65,000-\$78,000, or about \$50,000 less than what the city had been spending for full-time local policing under the previous contract. The city and the township would continue to rely on the sheriff's it being Tower-Soudan," said council member Kevin Norby. Morin agreed. "I also think that potentially partnering with Breitung on policing, tends to lead to more cooperation in other ways," he said. "That helps to build that sense of community."

township."I like the idea of

While councilors were willing to start negotiations, they acknowledged that there would be any number of issues, including whether the city would have to continue to purchase its own vehicle for local patrolling, or whether the city and township could split the cost of a single vehicle. "We'll need to flesh those out," said Morin.

Any contract that's ultimately negotiated by Morin and Setterberg will have to come back to the full council for approval, so the issue will almost certainly be back on the city agenda, perhaps later this month. In other business, the

council:

► Agreed to continue using GoToMeeting to continue streaming and recording meetings for now. It's unclear how long the city might maintain the records, given that they are very large files.

► Discussed the ongoing drought and its impact on the community's water supply. The council considered possible updates to the city's water usage ordinance that would give the city more authority to order reductions in usage in the absence of an emergency declaration from the governor. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said there does not appear to be a need for a lawn watering ban at present, in part because residents have voluntarily reduced water usage by about 25 percent in response to the drought. "The reduction in water usage has helped," said Kringstad, "and we should let people know they should continue to restrict their water use."

➤ Asked the city's public works department to provide a recommendation for an upcoming meeting on what to do about the city's grader, which is in very poor condition. Council member Sheldon Majerle said the grader is only used about twice a year and suggested the city could look at contracting for such services in the future.

➤ Heard an update from Morin on the medical equipment loan closet. He said he had found at least a temporary home for the remaining equipment and offered to coordinate access to the closet, at least for now. "I want to make sure it's saved," said Morin.

➤ Approved the low bid of \$5,400 from Jola and Sopp Excavating for a needed sewer pipe and manhole repair. The only other bid came from C&W Dirtworks, at a cost of \$7,000.

➤ Made no immediate decision on whether to utilize or sell the former police vehicle, which Breitung Township recently returned to the city.

➤ Heard from Kringstad on the need to pre-plan for emergencies, such as the possible need to evacuate all or portions of the community due to forest fire. He noted that the city is currently housing

d some evacuees from the
d Greenwood fire and that
d the city should have a plan
in place in case a wildfire
were to break out nearby.

"Depending on how dry the rest of the summer and fall is, we could be in danger here," he said.





Capture Her Brilliance Designs by Claude Thibaudeau

office during periods when the police chief isn't on duty.

While the council hasn't faced a major backlash over the loss of local policing, several members said they see value in further cooperation with the

> Art & Soul Gallery & Gift House announces "Muse Unleashed" by Nancy Scheibe



This "Fox", painted by Nancy, is not traveling alone!



Nancy's 1957 vintage corvette trailer is coming to Ely! The Artist, Nancy Scheibe, is returning to Ely, MN for an exhibition of her current work in the Exhibition "Muse Unleashed".

Exhibition Dates: September 1 - 30th, 2021 Gallery hours Mon - Sat 10:00 - 5:00 PM Location: 427 E. Sheridan, Ely MN 55731 Ph 218-365-7300 info@elysartandsoul.com Open House: Saturday, September 4, 2021, noon - 4:00 PM \*COVID protections will be in effect



Nancy Scheibe is the original owner of the Art & Soul Gallery. Opened in 2016, she is the muse behind having a place for local artists to exhibit and sell their work. Join us to view Nancy's current work created in her new home in Utah.



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### VOLLEYBALL

# Grizzlies push MI-B to the limit in opening loss

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

MT. IRON- It looked like the North Woods volleyball team would make a quick exit from Monday's season road opener against Mt. Iron-Buhl, but the Grizzlies roared back from a 2-0 deficit to tie the match before the Rangers pulled out a 3-2 match win.

The Grizzlies took the floor shorthanded without

the services of senior Olivia Udovich and junior Hannah Kinsey, so Head Coach Kandi Olson was forced into juggling players from the outset.

North Woods trailed through much of the first game, then battled back to take a 19-17 lead on the strong serving arm of senior Morgan Burnett. But tied at 23 each, a North Woods kill sailed long and MIB served up an ace for a 25-23 win. Appearing rattled, the Grizzlies were never in the second game, losing 25-11.

"At that point, we weren't having a really effective offense," Olson said. "Our most effective offensive player (Burnett) was setting the ball. We had to make a change so that she could hit the ball a little bit."

Olson's solution was to insert sophomore Talise Goodsky into the lineup. The Grizzlies fell behind Right: The Grizzlies' Karah Scofield makes a dig while teammate Skyler Yernatich looks on.

photo by D. Colburn

again, but righted the ship when senior Abbigail Shuster nailed a kill down the line and followed up with a service ace. With the Grizzlies getting strong play from junior Skyler Yernatich and sophomore Tori Olson, North

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 4B





### VOLLEYBALL

# Ely tops 'Hawks in four sets

### Both teams tally strong stats in season opener

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY— It was the regular season debut for both Ely and Northeast Range, but there was

to even the score. The Wolves just edged Northeast Range in the third set, 25-23, before tallying a more convincing 25-19 win to clinch the match.

Kellen Thomas led the offense



# NER players to hit the field for Ely

Low numbers force Nighthawks to cancel their own season

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY- As the Ely Memorial High School football team hits the field on Friday, Sept. 3, two players from Northeast Range will suit up in red and white as the Timberwolves take on Carlton in their season opener.

A last-minute agreement between the two schools, with approval from the Minnesota State High School League and conference opponents, allows the players from Babbitt to compete on the gridiron this season after the NER program was suspended last month due to insufficient numbers.

The agreement, announced last Wednesday after the *Timberjay's* deadline, still needs to be approved by the school boards of both ISD 696 and ISD 2142, but the athletic directors of both schools indicated last Thursday that they have the support of both their superintendents and administrations.

The Timberwolves were expecting

no sign of opening night jitters as both teams put up impressive stats in a hard-fought contest that left Ely up three-games-to-one under new head coach Megan Wognum.

"We had multiple players contribute to the game," said Wognum. "It was nice to see everyone playing an important role in the win tonight."

Ely took the opening set 25-18, but the Nighthawks rebounded for a 25-21 win in the second frame for Ely, with 11 kills and three blocks, while also notching 12 digs on defense. Kate Coughlin tallied ten kills and seven digs, while Madeline Kallberg added nine kills and three blocks. Rachel Coughlin notched seven kills, six blocks, and 12 digs, while setter Katrina Seliskar added 46 assists, six digs and three ace serves. "We've been working on

See VOLLEYBALL...pg. 4B

#### as many as nine NER players to join them on the practice field last week, but six players showed up on the first day and ultimately just two players made the commitment to play this season. The Timberwolves will start the nine-man season with 22 players on the roster.

"What it all boils down to is that Northeast Range didn't have enough participants to field a team, and we were able to work something out very

See MERGER...pg. 4B

### COMPETITIVE FISHING

## Angler smashes bass pro tour record on Pelican Lake

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Move over, Billy Bluegill, and make room for Buster Bass.

Orr may want to consider getting a partner for their iconic panfish sculpture on Hwy. 53 after Adam Rasmussen's incredible record-breaking take last Thursday in the Classic Bass Champions Tour event on

Pelican Lake.

Rasmussen, owner of Rasmussen Outdoors guide service in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., obliterated both his 49 challengers and the all-time tour record with a jaw-dropping haul of 98 bass weighing in at 247 pounds, 10 ounces, 106 pounds more than the previous record of 131-07 held by Tim Schroeder.

Runner-up Matt

Thompson was far, far behind with 32 fish and 105 pounds,8 ounces, a total that would have won the previous two Champions Tour events.

"I've fished a lot of tournaments in my life, and to have something like that happen the stars really have to align. It was unbelievable. I still can't get over that day," Rasmussen said on Tuesday.

### **Picking Pelican Lake**

For the Champions Tour See **BASS...**pg. 4B

Adam Rasmussen celebrates an afternoon catch, one of 98 bass that he caught recently during the Classic Bass Champions Tour on Pelican Lake.

Champions tour photo

and most of the competitors, this was their first time at Pelican Lake, but not so for Classic Bass owner and





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### WILDFIRE

## **Quetico fires top 120,000 acres**

### After months of monitoring, Canadian fire officials begin to take action

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK- Even as the North Country's attention turned in recent days to the Greenwood fire, wildfire is literally reshaping the 1.2 million-acre provincial park backcountry just north of the border.

The Crooked Lake fire, known as FOR035 to provincial authorities, has been burning at least since it was first spotted back on

June 9. From its start along the far northwestern shore of Crooked Lake, the fire has burned in fits and starts for months. As of this week, the fire was estimated at 45,712 hectares, which translates to 112,956 acres, dwarfing the fires south of the border.

The Crooked Lake fire was one of several separate fires that had been burning in the south-central portion of the Quetico, but those fires have since merged into one enormous blaze, fueled by the same drought conditions and

winds that allowed the Greenwood fire to explode. The fire's perimeter is enormous, extending approximately 25 miles across, winding past dozens of lakes. It now reaches almost two-thirds of the way across the vast Quetico, from the U.S. border in the south as far north as Lonely Lake, in the northern part of the park.

Several other fires are still being monitored elsewhere in the park, but most are relatively small.

See QUETICO...pg. 3B



Smoke from Quetico fires was clearly visible last week from Jasper Peak, near Soudan. photo by M. Helmberger



## TAKE A VET FISHING Honoring those who served

Heavy smoke doesn't dampen enthusiasm for spending a day on the lake

by BRIAN K. ANDERSON

"It is great getting together



## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower NODDING BUR-MARIGOLD



The Nodding Bur-Marigold, Bidens cernua, is one of our cheeriest late-summer and fall wildflowers. It's bright yellow blossoms are like small sunflowers, and they can be found growing in profusion in wet ditches or along swamp edges or lakeshores.

They're also known as Nodding Beggar-ticks, because of the bur-like seeds they'll produce as they mature.

These flowers are relatively easy to identify by their bright yellow flowers, about 1-2 inches across, often blooming by the hundreds in decent patches. Also look for their long and

Contributing Writer

OWER-Despite heavy smoke from wildfires across the region permeating the air on Lake Vermilion this past Thursday, nothing could dissuade local fishing guides and boat operators from bringing nearly 70 veterans out onto the lake for the 6th annual Take A Vet Fishing event.

"These guys are used to adverse conditions," said Lake Vermilion Guides League President Lonnie Johnson a few hours into the event. "They are having a great time fishing, telling stories, and just enjoying one another's company."

It was the first time in two years for the event, which was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19.

The day's festivities started with a guides' breakfast, followed by a continental breakfast at the lakeside tent and several hours of fishing, before moving to The Woodlands Ballroom for a shoreline walleye lunch, music, and a cash bar.

Take A Vet Chairman Phil Bakken was thrust into the role of pastor as a bout with COVID-19 kept the real pastor from giving the invocation.

Bakken spoke just prior to the Cook Honor Guard VFW Post 1757 presentation of the colors. Mary Jo Ralston sang the National Anthem.

Through it all, veterans took advantage of the opportunity to reminisce about years gone by and to reconnect with friendships formed many years, even decades ago, after their service to their country officially ended.

— to give each other sh\_ said 91-year-old U.S. Army Veteran Bob Roskoski. "I can say sh\_\_, right?"

The Korean War Vet is a spry 91-year-old, who is looking forward to his 92nd birthday in October. While the adverse weather conditions were an inconvenience, Roskoski was in a jovial mood as he moved from table to table to talk with his buddies, not only the ones who served in the same war as he, but ones that he met at previous Take A Vet Fishing events.

"If I don't see them here, I get to see other vets every morning when I have coffee with the boys at the club," said the Purple Heart recipient of his daily trip to downtown Virginia to the VFW. "But this is a special day for us and we thank everyone involved in putting this on."

However, for Bakken, all of the thanks should be directed at the veterans who show up year after year to this event. He finds it heartbreaking to see the number of World War II vets dwindle, but he also appreciates the fact that there is still a small contingency of the Greatest Generation attending the event.

"These World War II vets are a special people," said Bakken. "When they came home from the war, very few of them shared their experiences with their family, but when they come here and get together with other vets, they swap stories. It's because other veterans can relate to what they've gone through."

Bakken said the World War II veterans more than live

See FISHING....pg. 3B

Top: A pontoon boat full of vets headed out on Lake Vermilion last Thursday, led by longtime guide Rob Bryers (in red hat).

Above: Longtime guide Cliff Agenbach gives a big smile as he heads out with his own boatful of veterans.

Below: Time marches on and the number of WWII veterans attending the annual Take A Vet Fishing event continues to dwindle. Four WWII vets attended this year's event, including (I-r) Bill Shersha (Army), Ed Mayasich (Navy), Ray Anderson (Army) and Laurie Laakso (Marines).

photos by B. Anderson



narrow, opposite leaves.

### Outdoors briefly

### **Remote camping** restricted in area

REGIONAL- While weekend rain offered temporary relief to intense wildfire conditions, the Department of Natural Resources has enacted a ban on remote camping in state forests and parks in much of the Arrowhead as the area heads into a potentially signifcant fall fire season.

Dispersed camping in state forests and backcountry camping in state parks will be closed in the northern portion of St. Louis County, and all of Lake, Cook, and Koochiching counties. Land management activities on state lands within these counties will also be restricted between the hours of 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Dispersed camping is now prohibited in 18 state forests and backcountry camping is now closed in six state parks, including Lake Vermilion and Bear Head Lake. Be sure to check the website for state forests and park restrictions before your visit.

The U.S. Forest Service has issued similar dispersed camping and land management activity restrictions for the Superior National Forest.

All previously issued burning and campfire restrictions remain in place for public and private lands at this time.

### Outdoors in brief

### Watch for wild ricers during early teal season

R E G I O N A L — Minnesota waterfowl hunters will have a new opportunity to hunt teal during an experimental early season from Saturday, Sept.4, through Wednesday, Sept. 8.

The new early season will put waterfowl hunters in the field at the same time that many Minnesotans are out gathering wild rice, so there's potential for conflict unless hunters take extra care to be sure where they're shooting.

"Since wild rice season is open at the same time, teal hunters will need to be aware of and cautious about wild ricers," said Steve Cordts, DNR waterfowl specialist. "A safety mindset and mutual courtesy will allow for successful early teal hunting and wild ricing. With this year's drought conditions, scouting ahead to ensure access to desired areas is critical for both teal hunters and ricers."

The early teal season is experimental for up to three years. Observers will be documenting what species hunters target and shoot so DNR biologists can evaluate that data each year.

"Future seasons are contingent on hunters' abilities to hunt safely and accurately target only the species of allowed teal," Cordts said. "With others on the water at the same time, hunters must know with certainty what's beyond their blinds and decoys before shooting."

### FISHING...Continued from page 2B —

up to their moniker of the Greatest Generation.

"Whenever I tell people that we have World War II vets participate in this event, they are like, 'Wow!,'" exclaimed Bakken. "They are truly amazed that we still get them to show up for this event and celebrate them for the sacrifices they've made."

One such World War II Veteran on hand for Thursday's event was Eveleth's Ed Mayasich, who is 93-years-old, but still moves around quite well and has a zest for life.

"I went to World War II on my 17th birthday," recalled Mayasich. "I still remember my mom asking me why I didn't go to work that day... I told her I didn't feel very good, but when my Navy recruiter came to my home later that night, she knew what I did and she started crying. That night was the first time I ever saw my dad with tears in his eyes, too."

As it turned out Mayasich's decision was one he never regretted, even though it meant he lost a lot of innocence when he signed up that fateful day.

"But it was something I wanted to do," said Mayasich, who had guit school leading up to his ultimate decision to help out his country. Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers and Secretary/Treasurer Dave Morrison were two others who took the time to thank the veterans and express much gratitude and respect to the veterans gathered in The Woodlands Ballroom after their morning fishing excursion ended. "I am a daughter of two veterans as my mom and dad served in the Navy

Chavers, who has been the tribal chair since 2016 and is the first female to serve as President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. "I am proud of their service and very honored and grateful for everyone's service who is here today. We all sacrifice something... but your families also deserve a round of applause for the sacrifices they made. I am proud and honored to be with you today."

in World War II," said

Once the shore lunch was served, the veterans enjoyed more time together. There were plenty of laughs, some tears, and emotions as they bid farewell until they meet again.

For Johnson, that is what the event is all about.

"I was in the dentist's office once waiting to be seen and an old fellow was looking at me and recognized me from a past Take A Vet Fishing event," said Johnson. "He wheeled himself over to me and thanked me and told me how awesome it is that we do this. That really touched me and it's stories like that, that keep us coming back to do this for our veterans."

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### **QUETICO...**Continued from page 2B

The largest of the other fires, labeled FOR055, is currently estimated at 11,000 acres.

While provincial authorities were able to keep the Quetico open for much of the summer, rapidly increasing fire activity last month prompted park authorities to close the park's backcountry to visitors on Aug. 17, a closure that remains in place despite recent rains that have at least temporarily eased the fire danger. The park's developed Dawson Trail Campground, in the far northeastern corner of the park, has remained open throughout the summer. The rest of the park is considered backcountry, accessible primarily by canoe.

The fires in the Quetico prompted the U.S. Forest Service to close the northwestern portion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in late July, out of concern that the Canadian fires could spread south of the border. The Forest Service, on Aug. 21, extended that closure to the entire Boundary Waters due to a rash of wildfires south of the border, including the 26,000-acre Greenwood fire.

Unlike earlier in the summer, Ontario fire officials are now making efforts to suppress the fires in the Quetico. "For a long time, those park fires were under observation while we addressed higher priority fires," said Chris Marchand, a fire information officer with the province's Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services, based in Dryden. "We had several communities under risk from fire," said Marchand, although significant rains in other parts of

### **Fishing report**

### Ely area

Walleye fishing has been good to excellent for many anglers this last week. Reports continue to come in of anglers catching nice walleyes right off their docks during the evening hours, on many area lakes. Here jigs tipped with either half a crawler or with a minnow has been most effective when fished ive 10 feet of water or less. Other anglers have reported catching good numbers of walleyes jigging with jigs tipped with pike suckers around sunken islands in 25-30 feet of water. Trolling large crankbaits, with leadcore, over large, deep water flats, in 25-30 feet

of water has also been very effective

for anglers. Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors

### C TO AN



**Ouetico Provincial Park** 

northwestern Ontario have since eased the fire risks in those locations. "We're now turning our attention to the park fires," he said. "It's sort of the hot spot of the region at the moment."

Currently, the province has nine crews of four firefighters each stationed at various locations in the Quetico. While it's not a large contingent by U.S. standards, Marchand said the crews are positioned at a variety of chokepoints, typically between lakes, where they are working to check the spread of the fire. They're being assisted by some aerial resources as well, primarily medium to heavy helicopters to conduct strategic water drops.

If the province is demonstrating a more subdued response to the fires than what's been seen south of the border, it's all part of the provincial Above: Quetico burn zones outlined in red.

policy. "The management strategy in remote parks is generally to let things burn," said Marchand, to allow fire do its thing on the landscape." But given the length of time the Quetico fires have been burning, Marchand said it's time to shift more toward suppression.

Park officials say it's too early to discuss the impact that the fire will have on the Quetico ecosystem, but fire is traditionally beneficial in the long run, prompting new growth that benefits a number of species, particularly moose. "All that will be assessed at the end of the season," said Quetico park superintendent Trevor Gibb. "Right now, were just concentrating on the current fire situation. And there's still more fire season to come."





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### **SWIMMING**

## THE TIMBERJAY

## NER swimmers post two wins in season opener

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

BABBITT- The Northeast Range girls swim team finished first in two events Tuesday night in the Nighthawks' first home meet of the season against International Falls.

Anna Larson posted a

winning time of 2:36.04 in the 200 Free. I-Falls swimmer Gracie Bowles was second with a time of 2:50.87, with NER swimmer Lauren Olson right behind her at 2:54.43

Lily Tedrick took first place in the 200 Individual Medley with a time of 2:42.25. Bowles posted a second-place time of 2:50.87.

NER swimmers scored 31

points in the meet. The Broncos scored 59 points on the night.

Kelly Thompson finished the 50 Free in 0:30.09, behind Broncos' swimmer Jillian Bilben's 0:27.61. Tedrick's second-place time in the 100 Fly event was 1:18.76. Kelly Thompson was edged out in the 100 Free, with a time of 1:07.25, just behind Quianna Ford who won the event in 1:06.69. Maggie Dammann, with a time of 1:23.01 in the 100 Back, finished just behind Grace Jensen who won the race with a time of 1:21.84.

'Our season is going very well so far," Coach Cheri Debeltz said. "Our meet in Virginia last Thursday was an all-relay meet and no scores were kept, but it was a great opportunity for the

girls to get in the water and try a couple of events. We as coaches liked how well everyone swam."

Debeltz said the new scoring system at the Northeast Range swimming pool that was installed in the off-season worked flawlessly.

The Nighthawks host Mesabi East on Thursday, Sept. 9.

hauled in about 100 pounds

of bass, almost exclusively

largemouth, in the first two

hours of fishing. At the

end of the first half of the

day he was just one pound

short of the all-time record and could have skipped

the afternoon session alto-

gether and still won the

single largest bass fishing

beat down I have ever

seen anywhere," Bonnema

said. "Not only did he

smash what has been a

five-year record, but he

won over second place by

130 pounds. So that was an

gested that with a nation-

wide audience tuned in

more incredible days ahead

not only for Pelican Lake

of this, down the road,

you're going to have some

very large tournaments that

follow the type of formats

that we have looking at

that region," he said. "It

could very easily entice

some of the (Major League

Fishing) programs and

championships to come up

there because it is such an

incredible region with such

Champions Tour will likely

find its way back to Pelican

Lake in a future season, too.

Bonnema said. "It's already

on my radar."

And the Classic Bass

"No question about it,"

incredible fisheries."

"I believe as a result

but for the region.

And Bonnema sug-

incredible day."

'It was probably the

tournament.

### **BASS...**Continued from page 4B

longtime tourney pro Scott Bonnema, who said he was introduced to the lake many years ago by famed anglers Ron and Al Lindner during a lull in a fishing retreat at Lake Vermilion.

"Ron came to me and said, 'Hey, we've got time tomorrow, let's go fishing. I'll take you to one of my favorite lakes,"" Bonnema recalled."So we drove over to Pelican Lake. It turns out that had been one of their favorite lakes for many vears. And I kind of fell in love with it. We caught a bunch of big fish and had a great time. It was just an awesome lake."

Bonnema had a hand in bringing a Student Angler Tournament Trail tournament to Orr last year. He suggested the venue to SATT President Jimmy Bell not only because he knew the young anglers would have a good experience there, but also because he was thinking about bringing a Champions Tour event to Pelican Lake and he wanted to see how the cell-phone-based scoring app Classic Bass developed would perform there. Catches are weighed, photographed, and immediately released back into the lake, with information and photos immediately uploaded to the app. Thousands of people from around the country watch tournaments play out in real time on the app, Bonnema said.

Both the SATT tournament and the app were resounding successes, securing Pelican Lake's

place on this year's Champions Tour.

"I was excited about it since day one to have them experience what I consider one of my favorite lakes in the state," Bonnema said.

### **Tourney prep**

The summer schedule of three qualifying events and a championship tourney was announced in March, and anglers quickly began booking spots at Pelican Lake resorts, with Oveson's Pelican Bay Resort and Inn serving as the focal point for tournament activity.

"The community bent over backwards to help us," Bonnema said. "I think they were a little bit overwhelmed when we came to town with the horsepower behind our event. The guys have their boats, they need fuel, they have to be able to charge their batteries in the evenings and do all sorts of things. We should have contacted a chamber of commerce person earlier so they could let the community know we were coming at that level. But it was a great event, and the community was great. I couldn't tout that lake and that community any better from a resort perspective and visitors destination. It's one of the finest in the country, in addition to Vermilion and all the others right there."

Rasmussen also had high praise for the experience.

"It was a neat little town, and that part also kind of helped," he said.



Competitors in the bass fishing contest gather at the start, just out front of Oveson's Resort, in Orr. Champions tour photo

"I had a pretty relaxing week. We had a cabin over at Island View Resort and got to hang out with some buddies and obviously do some fishing all week long. But the people in the area were great. It was just a fun, relaxing week, no pressure."

Competitors began arriving early in the week to scope out the lake, an activity made more important due to the fact that electronic maps of Pelican Lake are less refined than those for other lakes.

'The electronics today is phenomenal. Most lake maps that we get, Lake Vermilion included, have one-foot contour levels now," Bonnema said. "If there's rocks in the shallows, we know exactly where they are. Pelican Lake is on the map, but if you look at an uncharted lake on a digital map it gives you generalities, but it does not show you the details of how far a point sticks out or how high a couple boulders might be where the rocks are. Pelican hasn't gotten there yet. It just takes time."

But it took no time at all for competitors to discover Bonnema had picked a gem of a location for the tourney.

"It was kind of fun, because the guys contacted me as the week goes on with practice, and they're like, 'This place is absolutely amazing,"" Bonnema said. "And I said, 'Told ya.' And they were just blown away with the fishery."

### Scoring big

With lackluster performances in the tour's first two events, Rasmussen's hope for qualifying for this week's 25-man championship at Mille Lacs was

accomplish that, he chose an unorthodox strategy.

"He specifically structure," Bonnema said. "He said he found about these areas."

Rasmussen said he while others struggled with winds, Rasmussen stayed away from the fray and immediately began reaping the harvest of his decision.

schedule on Oct. 15, the as six Babbitt students date Ely and Northeast indicated initial interest Range were scheduled to to join the Ely junior high nities for Northeast Range football team. Ely first-year football coach Louis Gerzin said he welcomes the two NER players to the team. "We are looking to have a competitive season," he said. "This is all about giving the kids an opportunity to play football.' Coombe said the process of merging the teams at the 11th hour was "an extremely fluid situation with a lot of moving parts," and involved numerous discussions with multiple individuals over several days. "While the timing is not ideal, the bottom line is this will provide some much needed depth for

our football program this year and provide opportustudents to play after their season came to an early end," he said. "I also believe both programs were on course for a merger, given the respective participation numbers, and the events of the last week simply sped up that process. I'm sure there may be some growing pains or bumps in the road as our student-athletes come together, but I feel this is a move that will allow both Ely and Northeast Range to maintain football as an extra-curricular offering," Coombe added.

**MERGER...**Continued from page 4B

quickly, with the help of the Minnesota State High School League, that will allow Northeast Range students to play football this year in Ely," ISD 696 Athletic Director Tom Coombe said. "Given our numbers and theirs, we were heading in the direction of an eventual merger, but this (agreement) sped things up.' Northeast Range High School Athletic Director Aaron Donais added, "I'm glad for our students who want to play football to have the opportunity to play in a safe and competitive manner for this season. I'm thankful for the open-mindedness and support of both the administration and coaches of our schools to

make this arrangement possible on such short notice." In a letter sent to Ely

at the nine-man level for the regular season, but because of the combined enrollments of the two schools, the Timberwolves will be forced to compete at the 11-man football team level should they advance to the playoffs in Section 7A for the postseason, according to Coombe. "This is not uncommon.Justlastyear,Carlton/ Wrenshall played a nineman schedule and moved up to 11-man for the playoffs," he said. If the cooperative agreement is extended to the 2022-2023 season and beyond, the Timberwolves will compete at the 11-man level.

to get the automatic entry through the app, and word that would come with a getting out about the event win at Pelican Lake. To in the broader bass fishing community, there might be

decided to look for offshore eight areas and fished four of them during the day. Those were big expansive cabbage weed flats that had some big, isolated rocks and a couple smaller rock piles right in the middle of

started the day with a goal of catching 250 pounds, and decreased bass activity due to cloudy skies and shifting Tossing Ned rigs and

Chatterbaits, Rasmussen

tootball families last week. Coombe wrote, "Because of extremely low participation numbers, Northeast Range is unable to field a team this fall. Over the last several days, we have been involved in discussions with Northeast Range officials, the Minnesota State High School League and area (athletic directors) ADs, and we are moving forward with a cooperative agreement that would allow Northeast Range students to play football in Ely this year, and hopefully in future seasons as well.'

The Ely varsity schedule is set and will remain the same as they compete

With the agreement in place, the Timberwolves have an open date on their

blay each other. It is a longshot, but we will look to see if there is an 11-man, Class Aprogram that has an open date the same day," Coombe said.

The junior high football programs at Ely and Babbitt also have very small participation numbers this year. "It is our hope that some Northeast Range students in those grade levels will also join our program," he said. "We will make every effort to maintain some level of junior high football this year if the numbers allow, playing some grades 7-9 games in an effort to get all of those students a football season." As many

### **GRIZZLIES...**Continued from page 4B-

Woods forged a 22-16 advantage and held on for a 25-22 win on another Shuster sideline kill.

Confidence renewed, the Grizzlies were all over the floor in the fourth game, diving to the floor and making acrobatic lunges for one-armed saves while controlling play at the net. Sophomore Madi Dantes scored the winning point on a clever tap to a hole in the Rangers' defense in a game the Grizzlies won handily, 25-14.

Olson had more juggling to do for the fifth game when Goodsky had to leave the lineup.

"She had already played three games for the B-team and you can only play five games a night," Olson said. "So we had to come up with a new game plan. I have to praise these girls for being willing to shift it up so many times in one match. That's difficult to do, especially for kids who are so used to playing their own positions, but they

### VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 4B

our hitter coverage over the past couple of weeks," said Wognum. "We did a great job putting that all together and executing tonight. Our blocks were also key! They were the fuel to our fire on the court."



were willing to try anything to get the win tonight.'

it

The switching didn't slow the Grizzlies early on as

For the Nighthawks, was the Hannah Reichensperger show once again, as the lanky senior put up 23 kills,

17 digs, and four blocks. Reichensperger, long a volleyball standout, has already committed to play volleyball for Illinois State next

#### Left: Abbigail Shuster reaches high to hit the ball over the outstretched hands of an MI-B defender.

photo by D. Colburn

they grabbed a 9-3 lead, but a series of rotations giving the Rangers favorable matchups led to a 12-11 MIB advantage. The Rangers closed out the match win with a 15-12 victory.

Burnett and Olson tied

year. But the Nighthawks have more depth than just Reichensperger. Setter Maizy Sunblad picked up where she left off last

with 15 while collecting six service aces and six kills. The Grizzlies were scheduled to be back on the court on Tuesday with a road match at International Falls. North Woods will see its first home action on Tuesday, Sept. 7 against

for team high in kills with

eight. Burnett also dished

out 20 assists and collect-

ed three blocks. Yernatich

had a strong overall game,

leading the team in digs

Bigfork, with the varsity match slotted at 7 p.m.

season, adding 11 digs to her 29 assists. Natalie Nelmark added eight kills.

for the 2003 GMC Envoy.

Bidding was extended to

sewer addition to the Ver-

milion Park Inn garage,

which will eventually

serve as residential hous-

ing for owner Mary Bati-

of support for the Tow-

er-Soudan Historical So-

ciety's fire hall restoration

cial meeting to review the

Emergency Action Plan,

blight ordinance, sew-

er work and vehicle bids

on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at

noon. The next regular

meeting is Thursday, Sept.

➤ Will send a letter

> Scheduled a spe-

► Approved a water/

the next meeting.

nich.

grant.

23 at noon.

### **BREITUNG TOWNSHIP**

## Township moving ahead with multiple infrastructure projects

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

SOUDAN- The Breitung Town Board reviewed the status of their ongoing infrastructure projects at their regular meeting on Aug. 26.

The sewer replacement project on 4th and South Streets will get underway in mid-September. A partial pay estimate was approved for \$33,114 to the contractor, Jola and Sopp Excavating. Resident Mike Korpi sent a letter requesting repairs for a dip in the road on South Street. Tomsich said it could most likely be fixed while the contractor is working in the area.

The board received a preliminary opinion of probable construction cost for road work on the Stuntz Bay access road, starting at Jasper St., for \$242,200. The information was sent to Jim Essig of the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park. With Essig's support, the project would be paid for by the state park road funds.

The park improvement committee will work with JPJ Engineering to come up with costs and priorities for the Soudan skating rink and park. The committee reported that their first priority is new boards but other ideas like

a rink foundation, new lighting, an expansion of the warming shack with improved heating, and new park equipment are all possibilities. The rink project will hopefully be completed next summer. The committee received board approval to ask the Tower Firemen's Relief Association to fund \$1,500 of a \$2,500 beginner's skating rink to be placed in the Margaret Lilya Pavilion this winter.

Chairman Tim Tomsich reported that the paved trail from McKinley Park to Cty. Rd. 697, on the way to Hoodoo Point, was funded jointly with Tower ten years ago. He said that the grant agreement states that the trail would jointly be maintained by Tower and Breitung.

"Breitung has been the only one maintaining the trail. A letter was sent to the City of Tower to find out what can be done to correct the past and what we should do going forward so we're not the only ones with that burden," said Tomsich.

Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, who represents the township on the wastewater board, said that the wastewater board may lease a field near the water tower to be used as a solar farm. Part of the property would need to be rezoned

from residential to multiuse. The board passed a motion in support of that change and will pass it on to St. Louis County who is responsible for the township's planning and zoning.

### **Property** issues

The board considered numerous property-related issues at the meeting.

They passed a resolution to make application to and accept funds from the IRRR Residential Redevelopment grant funds on behalf of property owner Tom Larson who will be demolishing a dilapidated home at 21 4th Ave.

Brad Erickson, who recently purchased 27 Church St., inquired about buying an adjacent vacant lot. He was told that the property was conveyed from the state to be used as a parking lot for nearby churches and that it could not be sold.

Lloyd McIntire, who lives near the junction of Cty. Rd. 697 and the west entrance to Puncher Point Rd., explained that runoff from the roads washes out his driveway when it rains. Gorsma said he had looked at the spot before with McIntire and Charlie Winger of C&C Winger. The board agreed to spend up to \$1,000 for repair work.

Three property owners in Breitung who were sent blight letters by certified mail did not pick them up. The town board had asked the county sheriff to hand-deliver the letters, but the county responded that they cannot enforce township ordinances. If the properties are found to be non-compliant with county ordinances, the officers will then provide enforcement.

A property owner who placed a boulder on the shoulder of Echo Point Rd. will be notified by letter to remove the boulder as it is a safety risk and impedes snow plowing.

The township will purchase a small property next to the township gravel pit for \$580 from the county, pending county board approval.

### Emergency response

Fire Chief Steve Burgess relayed a stern warning that absolutely no campfires are allowed at this time. Violators will be ticketed and if a campfire starts a wildfire the person could be held liable for the costs of fighting the fire.

"If we [the fire department] go out, a conservation officer will get called." he said.

Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad suggested that the township board review its Emergency Response Plan. "It would make sense for the two commu-

nities to work together and look at it once per year," he said. The board agreed to review its plan at a spe-

### Other business

In other business, the board:

➤ Heard that it would take 30 days or more to complete a background check on Breitung's potential new hire for police chief.

➤ Made a contribution of \$200 to Northwoods Partners.

► Received only one bid for propane and accepted it. The bid was from Edwards Oil for \$1.29 per gallon for up to 18,000 gallons. The bid covers both the town hall buildings and McKinley Park.

► Received no bids





### <u> Obituaries and Death Notices</u>

### **Thomas P. Bialke**

Thomas P. "Tom" Bialke, 98, of Babbitt, passed away peacefully at Carefree Living in Babbitt on Friday, Aug. 27, 2021. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 3 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Tom will be laid to rest next to his wife, Eleanor Albright Bialke, at the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Funeral arrangements are provided by Kerntz Funeral Home in Elv.

He is survived by his son, Gerald "Jerry" (fiancée Cheryl); daughter, Reinette "Rae" (Joe) Labernik; six grandchildren, Aaron, Brad, Chris, Shannon, Tracy and Katrina; 10 great-grandchildren; sister-inlaw, Cleo Bialke; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

and Joseph Yernatich, both of Duluth; grandchildren, Weston, Ella and Beau Williams; niece, Morgan Rooney of New York City, N.Y.; nephew, Aiden Rooney of Duluth; mother, Margaret Yernatich of Duluth; sister, Mary (Paul) Ravnikar of Champlin; brothers, Daniel (Crystal) Yernatich of Mt. Iron and David (Sandra) Yernatich of Plymouth; numerous nieces and nephews; uncle, John Tekautz of Tower; aunt, Marlene (Jim) Saretzky of Springfield, Va.; dear friends, Jim Mustonen, Ted Pilgrim and Rob Bergquist; and many other beloved extended family members and friends.

### Juanita L. Constant

Juanita L. Bernskoetter Constant, 91, of Babbitt, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021, at Miller-Dwan Hospital in Duluth. Fu-

### **Kurt B. Winans**

Kurt Bradley Winans, 57, of Mt. Iron, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Aug. 23, 2021, at his home. Funeral services were held on Thursday, Sept. 2 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Deven Winans of Mt. Iron, Kendra (Dakota) Swanson of Embarrass, Eddy Orcutt of Britt and Jozey (Krystle) Orcutt of Eveleth; grandchildren, Bradley Winans of Cook and soon arriving Rylee Swanson of Embarrass; siblings, Scott (Debi) Winans of Embarrass, Ted Winans of Moose Lake, Connie (Kent) Olson of Angora, Luke (Amy) Winans of Mt. Iron and Angie (Ron) Williams of Virginia; numerous nieces and nephews; and special friends, Dianna and Jo.

cial meeting.

### Matthew J. Yernatich

Matthew John "Matt" Yernatich, 62, of Duluth, originally of Tower, passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on Friday, Aug. 27, 2021, three years after being diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, Sept. 1 at St. John's Catholic Church in Duluth. Arrangements were with Dougherty Funeral Home of Duluth.

He is survived by his wife, Yvonne Rooney Yernatich; children, Marisa (Jake) Williams of Megan Yernatich Hermantown,

neral services were held on Thursday, Sept. 2 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her children, Dennis (Phyllis) Constant, Kathleen (Tom) Julian, Christine (Donald) Olson and Paul Constant; daughterin-law, Rebecca Constant; sisters, Grace Lund, Gladys Looten and Arlene (Robert) Tatum; eight grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; six great-great grandchildren and two more on the way.

### Lester W. Rablin

Lester Warren Rablin passed away after a brief illness on Nov. 4, 2020. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11 at First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

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#### **EMPLOYMENT POSITION OPENING** Steger **Ely Public Schools** MUKLUKS Paraprofessional **Steger Mukluks is Hiring!** Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year; background check required. Positions include Sewing, Shipping, and Sales: Qualifications include: Sewing can be at our Factory > Associate's Degree/equivalent or Para Pro or as a Contractor at home Certification ➤ Full-Time, Part-Time, Seasonal, and Preferred experience working with school Year-Round positions available age children Evidence of ability to work cooperatively Competitive Wages and communicate effectively in a collaborative Benefits Include: Health Insurance, Paid setting Time Off, and Employee Discount Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us Steger Mukluks has been providing employees a safe and fun work A complete application must include the folatmosphere in Ely, MN for over 30 years. lowing: District Application Call 365-6634 to join the team! tfn Resume College Transcripts 2 letters of recommendation **Charter School Administrator** Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us **Vermilion Country School** Tower, MN Start Date: September 13, 2021 SALARY: PER ESTABLISHED PAY SCALE (AVAILABLE BY REQUEST) Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.90/hour Hours: 6.5 hours/day POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED FULL JOB DESCRIPTION POSTED AT Deadline to apply: September 8, 2021; open WWW.VERMILIONCOUNTRY.ORG until filled. Published in the Timberiay, Sept. 3, 2021 SEND COVER LETTER AND RESUME to: Jodi Summit, Board Chair, jsummit@vermil-ioncountry.org, or call 218-753-2950. QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum 4-year degree in relevant area. Administrator licensure **Equipment Operator** coursework preferred but not required. Experience with charter schools and school Junior leadership. Experience/interest in innovative learning and creating a democratic school environment. Ability to write/manage grants, Apply by 09/07/21 interact with state agencies, VCS authorizer, and all stakeholders. The board envisions this www.stlouiscountymn.gov to be a .50 position, with a possibility of the or call 218-726-2422 remainder of the position to be filled with a teaching, special education, or other assign-Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 9/3 ment. The Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 charter school that opened in the fall of **Social Studies** 2013. It is located in Tower, on the shores of beautiful Lake Vermilion, in the heart of Minnesota's North Country. The school serves a multicultural student body of 30-35 students, with an innovative program learning model that is uniquely-adapted to this remote community. Teacher VERMILION COUNTRY .5 FTE Vermilion Country School in Tower, MN is seeking to hire a .5 FTE Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. For more information, visit our website at www vermilioncountry.org The Vermilion Country Administrator will assist in several aspects of program development and implementation while working side-by-side Position can be combined with other openings. Position open until filled. with our staff to oversee the educational programming. Our school's staff oversees day-to-Application material would include a cover day student management. The administrator letter, a resume, and license. is responsible for guiding our staff to reach our school goals, and will report directly to the Only electronic applications will be accepted. school board, and act as our administrator of Please send application material to record for MDE and our authorizer. jsummit@vermilioncountry.org **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### SNOW PLOWING PROPOSALS

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is seeking snow plowing proposals for the 2021-2022 snow and ice season. The proposal shall include plowing, sanding/salting, and removal of snow/ice as needed for all cam-pus parking lots in an effort to maintain safe

### **EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP** SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

Eagles Nest Township Board The Supervisors will hold a special meeting at 5:00 p.m. on September 3, 2021, at the town hall.

## King Crossword

ACROSS

ACROSS	1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
1 Wee dollop						-					-	_	
4 "I smell −!"	12				13					14			
8 Lose it	15			-	16					17	+		
12 Single													
13 Only	18			19					20				
14 Chantilly, e.g. 15 Vitamin stat				21				22		+			
16 Frost				<u> </u>									
17 "—	23	24	25				26				27	28	29
Misbehavin'"	30					31				32			
18 Improbable,						•							
unexpected	33				34				35				
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21 Existed								0.					
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**Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital** Attention: Keith Beal Snow removal proposals 328 W Conan St Ely, MN 55731

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 3, 2021





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The purpose of the meeting will be to consider a resolution banning ATV traffic in the Migisi Road right-of-way. Properly-worn masks will be required to enter the town hall

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 3, 2021



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### by Linda Thistle

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MARINE

**7B** September 3, 2021 TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIE

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

## Try out the Timberjay classifieds Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price

3 Robin Hood's forest 4 Prefix with 74-Down 5 "Skoal!," say 6 Perfumery compound 7 Kilmer who played

36 Blazing thing 37 Bikini top 38 Chaney Sr. or Jr. 43 Split to unite 44 "Dogma" co-star Matt 46 "Meh"

47 August sign

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HAIR CARE	Schedule Your Work Today!							
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This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.	EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC	Rentals General Store	YAMA		Tower MN 55790	timbuktuma	rina.com  timb	uktumarine.com
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Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meet-	Plank Paneling     Trim		ACROSS	46 Kumar's	112 Early night	11 Pinch into	<b>52</b> Mardi —	91 Yemen's
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8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.	SELIGA CANOES WANTED:		Sneezy 20 Wheels on	eagles, e.g. <b>59</b> "Just —	answer 124 Upo plus duo	15 Marlins'	61 Stilted reply to "Who's	99 Gin joint
ELY CO-DEPENDENTS	We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-	HELP WANTED	20 Wheels on swivels	feared"	124 Uno plus due 125 Tandoor-	home <b>16</b> Distill, e.g.	to whos there?"	100 Hole to receive a
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3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.	<b>RENTAL HOUSE</b>	at Melgeorge's on Elephant Lake. WEEKEND CABIN CLEANERS also needed. Call	Muhammad 22 Australian	Rome 65 Hair clump	126 French "Stephen"	changes to 18 Most sinless	no., often 64 Erwin of early	101 Kick a
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Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's	LOCAL BUSINESSMAN looking to rent 2 bedroom home/cabin,	FOUND	23 Start of a riddle	others) 69 Riddle, part 4	128 Prov. on Hudson Bay	26 Took to the	66 Bogland 67 Even if, for	say
Lutheran Church, Virginia. BABBITT AL-ANON- meets	October 1 - May 1. References available. Call 218-753-6223 or	PADDLE BOAT WASHED UP	25 Company	75 Prefix with	129 Agcy.	sky <b>32</b> Desktop	short	104 Band around
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Presbyterian Church.		tion and general area of lake where it was lost. 9/3nc	27 Prefix with plop	76 Sod 77 Bursting stars	131 Tender spots	'81 <b>33</b> Pantheon	71 Dragnet 72 Cole Porter's	relative
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP- Are you troubled by someone's			28 Pvt.'s	78 Kisses, on	DOWN	figures	"Well, Did	108 About even (with)
drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends	<b></b>		superior <b>29</b> Erapkenfood	love notes	1 Bird of prey	34 Shutout, e.g.	You —?" 72 Knightly trait	(wiin) 109 Seven, in
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group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037 VIRGINIA WOMEN'S AA MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door

and parking AA OPEN MEETING-Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church,



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

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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, tollfree 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-East Range meetings and infor-mation, 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.



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# Team penning, ranch sorting results

EMBARRASS- This year the team penning and ranch sorting competitions were moved to the weekend before the Embarrass Region Fair. This allowed for three days of games, with team penning on Friday evening and Saturday, and ranch sorting on Sunday.

The organizers of this year's events would like to thank all the participants, spectators, volunteers, sponsors, The Embarrass Region Fair, Embarrass Fire Department and all the others for making 2021 another successful year.

The meat raffle winners were (meat provided by RJ Farms of Stewartville): Andrew Collins- 1/4 beef; Cory Wills- 1/4 beef; June Burrows-1/2 pork; and Jeff Johnston- 1/2 pork.

### **Team Penning Results**

Friday, Aug. 20: 60 teams participated with 37 total riders.

First: Morgan Pugsley, Jane Burrows, Martin Schwartz with 3 cows in 54.47, won \$432 and buckles

Second: Dale Martin, Frank Maki, Sigurd Noyes with 3 cows in 66.35, won \$378

Third: Dale Martin, Lyle Hardy, Teila Nelson with 3 cows in 69.36, won \$270.

Saturday, Aug. 21: 110 teams participated with 45 total riders.

First: Danny Anderson, Gary Kuoppala, Dianna Thurlow with 3 cows in 39.31, won \$792 and buckles

Second: Gary Kuoppala, Tyme Woitalla, Maija Peterson with 3 cows in 45.75, won \$693

Third: Martin Schwartz, Red Barn Connolly, Tracey Marshall with 3 cows in 48.56, won \$495.

Fastest team of the two days: Danny Anderson, Gary Kuoppala, Dianna Thurlow,



won \$300 sponsored by North Shore Mine.

### **Ranch Sorting**

Beginner Ranch Sorting had 22 teams and Ranch Sorting had 110 teams. 51 riders participated on Sunday.

Beginner Ranch Sorting results

First: Phil Schloemer and Bill Morrison with 4 cows in 53.64, won \$264.

Second: Michelle Morrison and Phil Schloemer with 4 cows in 56.88, won \$176.

Ranch Sorting

First: Jeff Thurlow and Matt Schultz, score of 168.36, won \$1,044 and buckles

Second: Dianna Thurlow and Jenna Chandler, score of 170.80, won \$913

Third: Dianna Thurlow and Bridger Schultz, score of 118.36, won \$652.









Clockwise from top: Bonnie Theel Overton heads into the herd of calves; a triumphant rider herds three calves into the pen; Tyme Woitalla searches out a calf; Pam Peterson tries to herd a calf towards the pen; Sigurd Noyes rides towards the calves. photos by J. Summit



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### COUNTY SCHOOLS

## ISD 2142 goes for second refinance of building bonds

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** Taxpayers in ISD 2142 school district will see a bit of tax relief coming their way after school board members approved a \$7.8 million bond refinancing proposal at their Aug. 24 meeting.

A total of \$46 million in bonding, originally issued in 2010 for new school building construction, was refinanced in a series of actions in 2014, returning about \$3.8 million to district taxpayers through lowered tax levies. And Ehlers public finance advisor Greg Crowe told the board that the time was ripe to begin a new cycle.

"We have now worked our way to actually refinancing the refinancing bonds," he said. "You can do this refinancing

### First step expected to yield \$300,000 in tax levy relief for district property tax payers and save another \$300,000 or so on this one. We'll be back every year or two as we work our way through those refundings that started in 2014."

Crowe said that the net effect of the \$7.8 million deal would be "about \$150,000 a year, and it will reduce your levies starting this next year, if that's what you want to do."

Board members asked numerous specific questions as Crowe reviewed the details of an eight-page proposal, then gave their unanimous approval to move ahead. Crowe's timeline estimates that the district would close on the sale of the refinancing bonds in mid-November.

proved a three-year \$2.4 million purchase of services agreement with St. Louis County for the district to operate the Check and Connect school engagement program for participating districts in the northern half of the county. Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said that the district would hire a coordinator and 17.5 Check and Connect mentors to work one-on-one with students and families to improve attendance, behavior, and course performance. ISD 2142 and Ely are among the ten participating districts. The program is funded through American Recovery Act Funds at no additional cost to the districts.

> In other business, the board: ▶ Discussed again the

district's plan for strongly recommended but optional mask wearing for students, staff, and visitors in the district's buildings. While note was taken of increasing case rates since the board's working meeting earlier in August and concerns were again registered by board members Chris Koivisto and Bob Larson, the board reaffirmed its commitment to the policy, subject to change as needs may warrant.

Approved a change to the 2020-22 bus drivers contract to correct a clerical error regarding hourly pay. Business manager Kim Johnson said that the district had already been honoring the amount agreed to in negotiations. The former rate of \$15

per hour for extracurricular trips was increased to \$15.78 beginning July 1 and applies only to bus drivers.

> Approved the hiring of 41 personnel for teaching and educational support positions, representing a mix of new hires and individuals returning to district positions they held last school year.

 Accepted 16 resignations and one retirement request, including seven paraprofessionals and four connected with early learning programs.

► Recognized newly tenured teachers Jason Limp, Rachel Roettger, and Gerald Oehler, all at North Woods.

### Board members also ap-

## **New dock expands Redhead park recreation opportunities**

CHISHOLM- A new floating dock was recently installed for the mine pit lake at Redhead Mountain Bike Park, and the Chisholm Community Foundation gets credit for a major gift that helped the project happen.

The 48-ft. Wave Armor floating dock was installed on Aug. 17 and will provide a safe access point to the mine pit lake for water recreation purposes.

The total cost of the dock was approximately \$14,500. The Chisholm Community Foundation provided a \$10,000 grant toward the purchase, and

**KELLY KLUN** 

Attorney At Law

**Estate Planning** 

General Questions

Power of Attorney

Health Care Declaration

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation

Wills

Trusts

the remaining \$4,500 came from the Minnesota Discovery Center.

"Thanks to the Community Foundation's grant, Redhead recreational opportunities will more than double, offering activities for those who aren't mountain bikers," MDC fund development and marketing coordinator Jordan Metsa said.

Public vehicle access to the beach area at Redhead remains off-limits for safety reasons. The MDC will be conducting a water recreation trial period for the remainder of the season, shuttling guests and their gear into



the pit three days a week on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The shuttle will run every hour on the hour from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. The shuttle will

cost \$5.50 per passenger and includes hauling in personal equipment such as bikes, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, and other recreational gear.

Northwoods Splendor!

Additionally, MDC is now offering public canoe and kayak rentals on site. Available watercraft and pricing information can be found on the MDC and Redhead MTB Park websites. To rent a canoe

or kayak or for more information, call 218-254-7959, send an email to info@mndiscoverycenter. com, or send a message through social media.





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