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the TIMBERJAY

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\$1⁰⁰



SEVERE WEATHER

Storm brings widespread power outages

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

High winds flatten trees, snap power poles

REGIONAL — Thousands of area residents were left without power this week after high winds associated with a line of severe thunderstorms flattened trees, tore off branches and snapped at least one power pole near Ely.

A total of 2,559 Lake Country Power customers were left without service in the wake of the storm, which

struck about 3:30 p.m. on Monday.

About 510 Minnesota Power customers in Tower and along the southern shore of Lake Vermilion's Pike Bay lost power in the storm after lightning apparently burnt a section of electrical line near Tower City Hall. That kept power out in the city for nearly four hours. Most of the damage from the storm was focused in the Lake

A lineman from Minnesota Power works to retore power in Tower late Monday afternoon.
photo by D. Colburn

Vermilion, Eagles Nest, and Ely areas. Lake Country Power spokesperson Tami Zaun said the rural electric coop-

See... **STORM** pg. 8



ENVIRONMENT

State opposes EPA on wood furnace rules

MPCA: Trump proposal would punish those who invested in meeting the strict emissions standards

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The state of Minnesota has taken a strong stand against a proposal by the Trump administration to allow the continued sale of inefficient and polluting wood furnaces past a deadline that the Environmental Protection Agency had set nearly five years ago. And that's good news for one local manufacturer of wood furnaces.

During a hearing last month on the proposal, Anne Jackson, an engineer with the state's Pollution Control Agency, called the proposal by the federal Environmental Protection Agency "unconscionable" and urged agency officials to withdraw the idea.

In written testimony read into the record, Jackson noted that Minnesota has already incorporated the previously-approved federal emissions rules into state law and that the failure of the Trump EPA to enforce the rule, by allowing the continued sales of non-compliant furnaces past the May 15 deadline, threatens to create an enforcement headache for state officials.

At the same time, Jackson noted that the administration's proposal would punish

See...**EPA** pg. 7

The Fourth UP NORTH



Communities mark Independence Day

Two F-16 Fighting Falcons, above, flew in formation over Ely last Saturday as area communities celebrated the Fourth of July. A young flag bearer, left, marched in the Crane Lake parade, A bagpiper, right, plays while marching in Ely. The Hoodoo Point Campground Charmin Crew, below, included, Cole and Danika McCarter; Jemma and Haley Glatch; Kai, Kash and Kinsley Suihkonen; and Maddie and Tristan Lackner. Timberjay staff photos



PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 cases in county spike 65 percent in one month

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Tuesday was largest single-day increase in new cases

REGIONAL- Fifteen new cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, were reported for St. Louis County on Tuesday, the largest single-day increase in the county to date in the ongoing pandemic. Reflecting a state and nationwide trend, most of those new cases

were among young adults.

Indeed, nine of the 15 cases involved people under the age of 30. Young people between the ages of 20 and 29 now represent 27 percent of the cases identified in St. Louis County, which is five percent higher than the statewide average. None of the new cases in



the county were associated with long-term care facilities, which drove previous spikes.

The new cases pushed the

total number of cases confirmed in St. Louis County to 195, a 65-percent surge since June 3, two days before Gov. Tim Walz relaxed restrictions on businesses and public gatherings. Statewide, 39,133 cases and 1,477 deaths have been attributed to the coronavirus as

of Tuesday.

"It's not a complete surprise to see this increase in cases as more and more activities are allowed to resume, and people are interacting with others more and more," said Linnea Mirsch, St. Louis County Director of Public Health and Human Services. "But it really makes

See...**COVID** pg. 8



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Community notices

Choose your 4-H outdoor adventure

REGIONAL- Do you love the outdoors? Are you interested in exploring your local environment? Do you want to take a deeper dive into different outdoor adventures?

Families and youth of all ages are invited to join this FREE 4-H learning experience throughout the summer of 2020.

Outdoor projects will be introduced on Mondays at 7 p.m. in live Zoom webinars with exciting guest speakers and youth-led instruction. You can choose to attend one or all.

Families will then receive Activity Guides to use during the week to dive deeper into the topics. Webinars will be recorded for families to view later. Register in advance for this webinar at https://umn.zoom.us/join/wn_kaSkakPtREaCiti-AUBInUw. For questions, contact Nicole Kuderle by phone at 218-749-7120 or email at vande422@umn.edu.

July 13- No boat, no problem. Learn to have success fishing in one of Minnesota’s 10,000 lakes.

July 20- Learn what it takes to achieve the Olympic dream with Team USA Shooting athletes.

July 27- Come discover Youth Leadership Opportunities in 4-H Outdoor Adventures Program.

Essentia Health offers advance care planning classes online

REGIONAL- 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought advance care planning to the forefront of people’s minds. While COVID-19 can affect people of any age, it’s especially dangerous for those with underlying medical conditions and those over the age of 65. By having these conversations proactively, you can make sure that your preferences are understood if you become unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to an accident, injury or sudden illness like COVID-19.

Essentia Health is offering free, online classes via Zoom to learn more about advance care planning. Upcoming classes will be held Tuesday, July 14 at 10:30 a.m. and Monday, Aug. 17 at 1 p.m.

The class will discuss advance care planning and encourage you to think about who you would want to be your health care agent, what is important for you to live well, what fears or worries you have about your illness, and how you want to be cared for if you become seriously ill.

“Being proactive in making medical decisions allows the patient’s medical team to understand and prepare for the patient’s wishes and preferences,” said Dr. Joe Bianco, a family practice physician at Essentia Health. “Entering into these conversations with our patients helps us to honor their choices.”

Essentia, instead of in-person visits, is offering online classes for those interested in learning more about advance care planning and completing an advance directive. The classes are open to anyone and will provide a thought-provoking presentation to help you make your wishes known, as well as learn vocabulary, reflect on your values, explore goals for treatment, and take steps toward completing a healthcare directive.

Register for upcoming classes at <https://www.essentialhealth.org/patients-visitors/advance-care-planning/>. Classes are free and will be conducted via Zoom, a video conferencing platform. At that link you also can access health care directives and additional resources for your state of residence.

For more information, please contact your primary care provider’s office to schedule a virtual video visit. You can do so at [EssentiaHealth.org](https://www.EssentiaHealth.org) or by calling your clinic.

LIVE MUSIC

Come out to enjoy Music in the Park

Free live music every Wednesday; July 15 features The Hutter Bunch



COOK- Wednesday, July 15, features the music of The Hutter Bunch from 6 to 8 p.m. at the gazebo in downtown Cook. The free Wednesday evening concert series, Music in the Park, is presented under Governor Walz’s new COVID-19 guidelines of social distancing and masks. Bring a lawn chair or sit in your car to hear the sound of music. Hungry? Enjoy St. Paul’s Lutheran Church’s burger stand.

Please accept our apology for the July 1 concert. Eric Pederson, music coordinator for Cook’s Music

in the Park, and Shawna Kishel, Northwoods Friends of the Arts president, were notified and confirmed by radar that a threatening thunderstorm was headed straight for Cook at concert hour. A decision had to be made and they canceled the performance, only to have the storm disappear before concert time. The Divas are rescheduled for Aug. 26.

Here is the lineup with two new concerts for Cook’s Music in the Park 2020, Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m.:

July 15 - The Hutter Bunch, July 22 - Robert Walker, July 29 - The

Beefeater Brothers, Aug. 5 - The Hutter Bunch, Aug. 12 - Robert Walker, Aug. 19 - Beefeater Brothers, Aug. 26 - The Divas, and Sept. 2 - The Blenders.

Music In The Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1157, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and freewill community donations. Citizens, businesses and the performers at these concerts often donate money, time and music.

Ely ski club taking orders for Georgia peaches

ELY- The Ely Nordic Wolves’ annual peach sale this year will feature Georgia peaches from Sunburst Fruit Co., as their past Colorado grower experienced a killing frost this spring.

A box of peaches (12 pounds or approximately 25-30 peaches) will cost \$30. More than a third of the price of each box of peaches will go directly to the local ski team.

Both of the club’s other big fundraisers this year were canceled due to COVID-19.

To order, fill out the form on the Ely Nordic Wolves’ Facebook page and click on the submit button. You should see a confirmation message pop-up after you submit your



order. There will also be a confirmation email sent. Place orders by Wednesday, July 15.

In order to ensure that your order is submitted accurately, please do not order by replying to an email, use the order form. If you are having trouble submitting your order, see the club’s FAQs at <http://elynordicpeaches.blogspot.com>.

A tentative delivery date is planned for early August. Look for an email around the last week of July with more information about the delivery date. Because the fresh produce is trucked in from Georgia, the delivery date can change at the last minute.

Book release party for Korda's poetry collection



ELY - The Ely Folk School is hosting a book release party for a new poetry collection, "The Shore’s Absolute Edge" by DyAnne Korda, on Thursday, July 23 from 7-9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Korda will present a spoken-word performance, accompanied by guitarist Lisa Pugh.

Korda has been published in many journals including The Wisconsin Academy Review and is author of Path of Belonging, Finding the Lost Woman,

and This Earth Woman. She was awarded her second Individual Artist Grant through The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust and an artist access grant through the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council to complete The Shore’s Absolute Edge. Korda has taught nature writing classes at the Ely Folk School for several years.

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

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COVID-19

Community Care Team works for COVID-19 safety

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY- Since the nation-wide onsite of COVID-19, several local agencies have been working together as part of the Community Care Team’s (CCT) COVID-19 Response Team to address the immediate community needs related to the coronavirus pandemic and how to help meet those needs. Partners include Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Essentia Health – Ely Clinic, St. Louis County Public Health, Well-Being Development, Northwoods Partners, Ely Area Food Shelf, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, and community members. “Initially, the team identified a need to coordinate the making and distribution of homemade masks,” said CCT Leader Heidi Favet. “To date, volunteer sewers have produced over 1,600 masks that the Response Team has distributed to area frontline service agencies

and high-risk community members.” The team also saw a need to provide support and information to public housing tenants. Since April, information packets have been hung every few weeks on each apartment door. “These packages have contained homemade masks and information on how to stay safe and healthy during the pandemic,” Favet said. The latest initiative is part of the statewide Minnesota Department of Health’s “Mask Up, MN” project. The group has partnered with the Ely Chamber of Commerce to produce a photo poster campaign to promote positive reasons why wearing masks is important. “A variety of community leaders from Ely, Babbitt, and Tower were approached to volunteer for the project,” Favet said. “Local photographers produced images of community members that explain the reason



why they wear a mask. The photos are displayed in the windows of local businesses. The photos will remain throughout the summer and will be used as part of a social media campaign to continue to serve as a reminder for

why wearing your mask is essential.” Projects completed by the COVID-19 Response Team are funded in part through contributions to the Ely Area COVID-19 Response Fund hosted on Go Fund Me. To contrib-

Why I wear a mask

Over the past week, I personally came in contact with more than 200 people. We did three days of lodging visits to over 30 locations. We visited with owners, managers, some guests, and when not out on the road doing visits, we were assisting visitors at the Chamber. I also made purchases at several local stores filled with shoppers. So, if I came in contact with over 200 people, how many people did each person I interacted with come in contact with this week? Many who contract COVID-19 are asymptomatic. Everyone I came in contact with appeared healthy, but

were they? Am I currently COVID-19 free? As the director at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, I want to make sure my staff are safe. In addition, visitors need to know they can interact with me in a safe manner. Finally, I don’t want to bring COVID-19 home to my family or friends. I wear a mask to ensure that if I become sick, the spread of COVID-19 is minimized. I also wear a mask because I value my staff, friends, and family. Right now, keeping those around me safe is my most important job.

Eva Sebesta

ute, visit <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/ely-area-covid-19>. For more information about the Ely COVID-19 Response Team or to offer assistance, please contact Favet at 218-305-0187.

CITY OF TOWER

Tower Ambulance Commission agrees on subsidy payments

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

City presents financial reports, draft of business plan at meeting

TOWER- The wrangling over the adoption of a new subsidy agreement for the Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) vehicle replacement fund appears to be over. At Monday’s Tower Ambulance

Commission meeting, area township and tribal representatives all agreed to bring the agreement to their respective governmental units for formal approval. The agreement commits townships in the TAAS service area to pay a per-capita amount into an

ambulance replacement fund. Bois Forte, which is also in the service area, agreed to an annual donation. The payments were kept at 2019 levels, with no increases. Last year, townships balked at the request of former ambu-

lance supervisor Steve Altenburg to double the annual per-capita subsidy rate from \$15 to \$30, citing the lack of financial data to show the need for such an increase, along with a general displeasure at the fact the city, under previous city hall lead-

ership, had been transferring profits out of the ambulance’s general fund to pay for other city spending. The previous agreement expired at the end of 2019 without a new agreement in place.

See TAAS...pg. 5

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OPINION

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

Editorial

Legislative breakdown

Divided government used to offer dividends. That’s no longer true.

This is no time for a breakdown in legislative leadership in St. Paul. Unfortunately, that’s exactly what we have seen so far from a divided Legislature that has been unable to pass a laundry list of critical legislation, including a much-needed bonding bill.

The middle of a growing pandemic is probably the worst time for legislative dysfunction. Minnesotans are feeling both the social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there’s plenty the Legislature can do to address it. Bonding bills, in particular, are a remarkably effective way to move the state’s economy forward. In the short term, the spending creates direct employment in the construction sector. In the mid-term, bonding dollars create demand for goods and services, which help a wide range of businesses. And, in the long term, bonding helps the state and its businesses operate more efficiently and effectively, yielding big benefits well into the future.

And that’s just the big picture. These projects also provide significant community impact, including for communities right here in the North Country. Local projects proposed for funding by Gov. Tim Walz include:

- \$5.8 million for campground development at Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park.
- \$2.8 million for the Ely Regional Trailhead Project visitors center serving the Taconite Trail, the Mesabi Trail, and the Prospector Loop ATV Trail.
- \$3 million for the city of Tower’s water treatment facility.
- \$6.6 million for the planned Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park visitor center, campground, boat ramp, and access road.
- \$1 million for expansion of the Voyageur Country ATV Trail in northern St. Louis County.
- \$2.6 million for a Vermilion Community College classroom design and building project.

These are valuable projects with a solid payback for our region. Unfortunately, we’ve seen that divided government, whether in Washington or in St. Paul, just doesn’t seem to work anymore.

There was a time when political leaders could set aside their differences for the interests of the state or the country. But the demonization of the opposition, which began under Newt Gingrich in the early 1990’s and has only grown

worse ever since, has wiped away the sense of comity and cooperation that served as the foundation for progress. So, even in a period of state and national emergency, the two sides are unable to set aside differences for the common good.

In the case of Minnesota, it is the current divide between the DFL-led House and the GOP-dominated Senate that has become the impediment to sound governing. We’ve seen this dynamic at work before, and government shutdowns and repeated failures to pass critical legislation have been the result. This year is simply more of the same.

There was a time when America actually experienced some benefit from divided government, which helped to keep the excesses of either party from getting out of hand, without eliminating the ability of government to function. Divided government provides no such benefits in today’s America, where compromise is a dirty word. So, at a time when the state’s capital needs are significant, the economy needs a boost, and interest rates are at near zero, Minnesota can’t pass a bonding bill. That’s a sad state of affairs.

The last time Minnesota was able to really make progress was during two years of the Dayton administration, when then-Gov. Mark Dayton had a DFL-led Legislature to work with. Education and local government aid funding, which had been gutted by the Pawlenty administration, were restored. Taxes were made fairer. And we rebuilt state budget reserves, which has served Minnesota well during the current pandemic.

As Minnesotans look ahead to this fall’s elections, it’s worth asking whether they want a Legislature that can work productively with DFL Gov. Tim Walz, or whether they want to see the state unable to conduct the basic work of government— like improving public facilities through regular bonding. The choices we make do matter. If you see the value in passing a bonding bill at regular intervals to maintain the state’s public facilities and resources, vote like you mean it. As America demonstrated for generations, we can advance as a country when we have a government that works. But as America has demonstrated far too often in recent years, when government fails, America loses ground. We don’t have much more ground to lose.



Letters from Readers

As politics tears us apart, let’s protect each other

Of course Putin loves Trump. What better way to disable the United States than to have Trump in charge.

As statistics accumulate, it’s obvious that Trump’s failure to contain the coronavirus is racking up a tremendous death toll. Trump has managed to kill more Americans in the United States in five months than the communists killed in Vietnam in ten years.

His inspirational stupidity stopped countless individuals and government bodies from taking effective action.

What is truly amazing is that people who classify themselves as Christians defend a president who doesn’t know which way is up when it comes

to bibles. I remember enough of my catechism to have absorbed some of the lesson from the parable of the Good Samaritan. If wearing a face mask would protect your neighbor, then you have no right to call yourself a Christian if you won’t mask up for your neighbor’s sake.

Bob Tammen
Soudan

Voting by mail is nothing new

All Americans have the honor, privilege, and duty to vote. One way we have ensured this right is voting by mail. Every single state allows absentee balloting. Currently, five states vote completely by mail and have for years, or decades. Three states have entire counties that vote this way. 130,000 Minnesotans already vote by mail because

they live in non-metro cities or in townships with fewer than 400 registered voters. A recent study by Stanford University showed voting by mail increased voter turnout—but clearly did NOT favor either political party. Fortunately, fraud using mail-in ballots is extremely rare (0.0025%). Even our current president and over a dozen of his staffers have voted by mail in recent years. With COVID-19, all citizens should have the right to vote safely and voting by mail is a good option. To request your absentee ballot, go to the State of Minnesota website, Elections and Voting.

The link is <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

Stay safe, everyone.
Betsy Flaten
Eagles Nest Twp.

ENGAGED CITIZEN

Examining the ethics: Thomas Jefferson and voting

by **KEITH STEVA**
Timberjay Contributor



It has never been more difficult to sort out the good from the bad. As we now sort out which statues send an acceptable message, there arise serious complications. Take Thomas Jefferson as an example of a historic icon. How does one measure a man who wrote in the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among those are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness, that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted from the consent of the governed,” but owned 600 slaves, the last of which (except for Sally Hemings, a negro slave with whom Thomas Jefferson had several children) were sold upon his death to pay off debts? While he failed to promote the rights of all members of the American community,

he understood a multi-ethnic nation needed to protect the rights of all its citizens and actively engage them in its governance. His original vision, written in 1776, served as a key argument of President Lincoln when, during the Civil War, he drafted the Emancipation Proclamation and freed the slaves. Jefferson’s vision again reverberated in the 1960’s in many of Martin Luther King’s speeches supporting equal voting rights and poll access for all, regardless of race. Now, nearly 250 years later, many of the government’s institutions are not fully functioning as our Founding Fathers envisioned and wished; there are several key elements of our democracy Jefferson envisioned that seem critical.

Jefferson feared rule by an elite or even a monarch or a

dictator. He stated that a leader selected by all the people of the nation with equal representation based on the wisdom and will of an educated and engaged electorate would create a peaceable barrier to any attempt to subvert a constitution. If leadership would be determined by a small number of people, even elected officials, it would be relatively easy to corrupt the small group of say, for example, United States Senators while it would be impossible to corrupt the entire voting population of 250 million voting age citizens of the United States, hence the direct vote for president today.

Jefferson trusted that an informed and engaged electorate would over time elect leaders that took the country in directions that the electorate supported. Over short periods of time the electorate may not pay sufficient attention or may not make good selections of leaders, but eventually should things go wrong the people

See **VOTE...**pg. 5

How do we mourn in the time of pandemic?

I don’t have to repeat what so many have already said, “These are weird and interesting times,” but I just did. The litany of new developments in the past few weeks is mind-boggling, but that isn’t news to anyone either. Everyone I know remarks about the unbelievable headlines we are bombarded with these days.



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

COVID-19 statistics are climbing again after plenty of talk that “summer would be better.” After “sheltering in place” for three disconcerting months, my hopes have been dashed to reunite with family for a traditional Fourth of July picnic. Or rehiring my grandson to lend me a valued

hand on cabin improvements that we started last summer. Or even hosting a small gathering of friends on our outdoor deck for BBQ and a beer on a beautiful Minnesota night. As is true for a lot of us, none of these or anything like them have happened for twelve-plus long weeks!

Never would I have anticipated a test to my marriage as comprehensive and strenuous as this one. We’re not a couple unaccustomed to “ups and downs”. I’m convinced any two people who have shared life this close for this long a time have weathered much. But to rely this much on each other for so

many needs and desires which, prior to the pandemic, were successfully shared among the willing involvement of family and friends has been comparable to very few things imaginable. My mind is groping... Retreat to a nuclear bomb shelter like those I feared as a young child in the midst of a major Cold War? A long, long bout of chicken pox making the rounds in a family with ten kids? Missing your military GI children, shipped overseas to a war zone for an indefinite period of time with no way to know if they are alive for

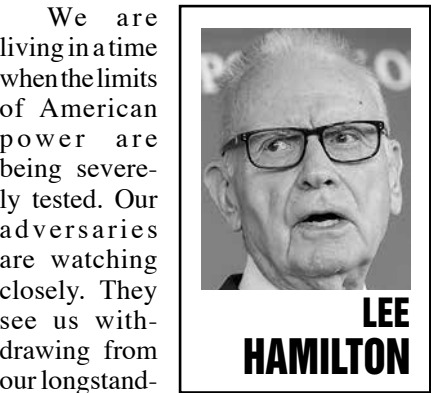
sometimes weeks or months? As crazy, painful and worrisome as those scenarios might have been, this one is definitely a curveball. And it’s not over!

Instead of things looking better with time, increases in the number of cases and deaths are spiking all across our country. We are continuing to learn about how this virus behaves differently from those we’ve encountered in previous epidemics. And so, predictions have proven both correct and incorrect at times,

See **LOSS...**pg. 5

COMMENTARY

U.S. leadership is being challenged



LEE HAMILTON

We are living in a time when the limits of American power are being severely tested. Our adversaries are watching closely. They see us withdrawing from our longstanding leadership role. Eager to fill the vacuum, they are looking for ways to gain leverage, to challenge our strengths and exploit our weaknesses.

President Trump has alarmed allies with his sudden decisions to pull out of the World Health Organization and several other international agencies, and his talk of inviting Russian President Vladimir Putin back

into the G-7 economic planning group.

President Trump is also planning to reduce troop levels in Germany and sub-Saharan Africa, worrying our friends and several members of Congress. He says he wants to withdraw from the Middle East, which would please both China and Russia who are increasing their influence in the region.

Iran is pushing the U.S. in the Persian Gulf area. The Iranians are cautious, wanting to avoid war. But they are accelerating their efforts to produce nuclear fuel and ignoring requests from international agencies to inspect suspected nuclear sites.

Meanwhile, the Islamic State group, which lost its last territory over a year ago, is

resurgent, launching attacks in Iraq and Syria.

China works steadily to reduce our influence worldwide. As we step back in Asia or Africa, the Chinese are eager to move into the vacuum. In recent months, China has stepped up its aggression in the South China Sea, massed troops on the border with India, made threatening moves toward Taiwan, and worked to rewrite the rules for governing Hong Kong.

Russia is active, too. Its warplanes have made aggressive moves toward U.S. military aircraft in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and off the coast of Alaska. Russia has deployed a “hypersonic” weapon that could fly fast enough to evade our missile defense systems

It’s not surprising that all this testing is taking place at a time we are distracted from global

leadership by internal problems. Our economy entered a recession in February after 128 months of expansion. The COVID-19 pandemic has killed over 120,000 Americans, idled businesses and driven the unemployment rate to its highest levels since the Great Depression. The federal deficit has reached levels not seen since World War II, yet little attention is being paid to it. There seems to be no clear path to rebuilding the economy.

Massive protests against racial injustice have highlighted divisions in our country and raised doubts about our institutions. Polls suggest that, in the view of many Americans, our political and economic systems are not working well. 80% of them say circumstances in the US are out of control.

Political polarization continues to grow. Often, we see

those who disagree with us as not only wrong, but morally unfit. As a nation, we seem to have lost a robust capacity to confront our problems and repair our faults. In a statement lamenting America’s “tragic failure” of racism, former President George W. Bush, said this is a time to listen, not to lecture. As Americans, we have to acknowledge our differences, listen to those who disagree with us, and work with all to move ahead.

Internal challenges are not new, of course, but it’s worrisome that they have reached such an intense level. It won’t be quick or easy but in this time of testing, as acute as any challenge we have ever faced as a nation, it is urgent that we regain our confidence and our capacity for global leadership. If we don’t, others are waiting to replace us.

VOTE...Continued from page 4

will correct the problem by a peaceable exercise of their voting choices. Elected officials must abide by the outcome of the election every four years as the choices are evaluated, and the electorate changes or maintains the leadership.

Jefferson believed a free press, even if partisan, was essential as a means to inform the electorate. To Jefferson, it was clear that rather than being an enemy of the people, the free press is the bulwark of the republic. He stated: “Our

citizens may be deceived for a while, and have been deceived, but as long as the presses can be protected, we may trust them for light.” Those who seek to steal power from the people cast doubt on the press.

Fundamental to Jefferson’s

thinking was that the United States would be the strongest nation on earth if citizens were invested in their own government’s success by a fair and equal representation. He wrote: “The true foundation of republican government is the equal right of

every citizen in his person, property, and their management.” Hence the “one person, one vote” principle we hold as the core of our democratic republic.

LOSS...Continued from page 4

strategies adopted have both “worked” to contain or reduce the spread and also backfired. We began relaxing restrictions with hopeful anticipation only to see it prove to be a terrible mistake, calling into question if our children will be returning to school in the fall to resume some level of normalcy with their education. In short, our future is unknown, and what we imagine looks very uncertain and borders at times on “bleak.” A lot of people are saying, “I just want my life back!” but there’s no assurance of if or when.

Often, through this, I have realized how “on the periphery” of the pandemic and its full impact we happen to be here in the Northland. It’s especially true

when I phone my son in the Twin Cities. I don’t underestimate my good fortune to be situated right here in rural Cook. But I experienced my first rude awakening last week.

After a very short episode with unexpected and critical physical decline, I lost a very dear friend to medical circumstances with an unknown cause. In her ten days of ICU care at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis, having received every possible test to diagnose the source of the issues, no identifiable cause or explanation could be determined. She had tested negative for the coronavirus but the science tells us that not all tests are 100-percent accurate. So

that big question lingers for me despite it not being named on her death certificate.

I received a call last week from her spouse that, per her wishes, he would hold a very small gathering of her closest friends to remember her and spread her ashes in their woods. He asked me to attend. Up to that point, I had declined every offer to gather socially just to be careful not to bring the virus home, putting my spouse at higher risk of infection. But this was Stephanie, a person intrinsic to my development as a young adult, an active participant in supporting me as a young mother, working with me every day for over five years in the cleaning business we had

created, and even nudging me to attend college after years of believing I wasn’t “college material.” In short, she had greatly improved and even changed the course of my life in more ways than one. I had a lot of stories I could share. And then there was Greg.... struggling alone through his grief, choosing to risk his own physical security to assure his emotional and psychological survival as he mourned his enormous loss. I knew I had to accept the risk and say “yes” to this out-of-the-ordinary invitation.

Twelve were invited. Twelve showed up. Twelve shared stories. Twelve took little hand-made wooden boxes, each with a portion of our beloved friend’s

remains and followed Greg on that twenty-minute walk through their gorgeous wooded property, continuing our remembrances as we discovered the “perfect places” to leave her in peace and go back to nature.

The 90-minute drive home was a difficult one, the day necessary and good. To be among loved ones again. To share stories, laughter and tears together, in community. To give and receive on a deeper level with kindred spirits. To fulfill our human rites of passage and send a good and dear person on her way. Maybe a little more vivid and more meaningful in this time of pandemic.

TAAS...Continued from page 3

Questions had also been raised about the ambulance’s finances and whether or not the increased number of inter-hospital transfer calls, and the subsequent hiring of paid-on-call staff, were a net gain or loss for the service.

The agreement calls for the city of Tower, which also pays the per-capita subsidy, to contribute \$1.66 per transfer mile driven from the ambulance service’s general fund into the ambulance replacement account, to account for the added depreciation of vehicles during these non-emergency runs. This amount is substantially higher than the 22-cents-per-mile initially proposed by Altenburg earlier this year.

“You’ve seen this agreement three times now,” said Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua, who noted that all the changes suggested by the commission so far have been incorporated into the agreement.

Ranua said they were waiting for final approval on some of the language from the Bois Forte tribal attorney, and then the agreement would be finalized and sent to the members’ governments for approval.

Ranua also reiterated that the ambulance subsidy account was never used for other purposes and commission members received copies of bank statements, along with the regular ambulance fund bank statements, to provide evidence of that claim.

Ambulance updates

Commission members received a comprehensive report at this week’s meeting, which included data on usage of each of the three ambulances, infor-

mation on major maintenance and repairs and their costs, and a general summary of the vehicles’ condition.

The ambulance service has driven a total of 7,130 miles for 911 calls and 5,372 miles for transfers in the first six months of the year. The service has cut back on its transfer calls, only driving 640 miles on transfers in the last three months.

Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen reported that the service currently has only one ambulance, Unit One, in service. Unit Two, the ambulance slated for replacement right now, is out of service with a diesel fuel leak, which the service may opt not to repair. Unit Three is currently having some electrical repairs done and is expected to be back in service next week.

“We did need to have Virginia Ambulance respond to one call over the Fourth of July weekend,” Suihkonen said.

The ambulance replacement fund shows a balance of \$159,155 as of June 30. The city will need to pay about \$180,000 for the new ambulance upon delivery. The remainder of the money needed will come from the ambulance’s general fund. The new ambulance, which was ordered in December 2018, is now projected for delivery sometime in September.

“The delays are still due to COVID-related issues,” said Suihkonen. “We made some changes to make the delivery go fast, but it is still slow.”

Runs so far this year are running well below the record number of calls the ambulance service responded to in 2019. Of the 202 calls recorded as of

July 6, 65 involved no patient transport.

Suihkonen said the decline in call volume is partially due to reduced hospital usage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Calls during the first half of the year were down by 54 over 2019 levels, with the biggest declines coming in April and May.

Ambulance business plan

The commission got its first look at a draft business plan, something that members of the commission have been seeking for a long time. The plan, still in its early stages, is being developed with help from the Small Business Development Center. Betsy Olivanti, SBDC Business Consultant, was on speakerphone during the meeting, and reviewed the plan with the commission.

Olivanti explained she used data on revenues and expenses from the previous three years. The plan also details staffing costs, breaking out costs for paid-on-call wages versus other wages.

“We looked at an analysis of previous years and the changes that have happened so we could understand the increases in revenues,” she said.

Olivanti noted that the pandemic had affected call numbers, and subsequently revenue, so far this year, and said they were not sure how it would impact revenue for the rest of the year.

The business plan uses actual expenses and revenue for the first six months of this year, and then projects the next six months to be similar to 2019.

Those preliminary projections, which are almost certain to be modified significantly, suggest a dramatic turnaround in the service’s financial picture in the second half of the year. Based on actuals through June, the projections show the Tower Area Ambulance Service took in \$75,875 in receipts, while spending \$156,233 on its operational expenses, for a net loss of \$61,245 during the first six months of the year. But Olivanti projects a stunning turnaround beginning in July, suggesting that the service will take in \$393,120 in revenue in the second half of the year, while expenses will decline to \$137,958.

City officials were quick to advise that the numbers are merely preliminary. “The draft financial projections were provided to the Ambulance Commission because there was a previous obligation that the city would provide the commission a draft business plan at the July 6 meeting,” said Ranua in a written response to questions from the *Timberjay*. “This is the work product available at this time. I personally would hesitate to draw any definitive conclusions about the financial projections at this stage, knowing that the work is not done.”

While the projections appear to rely on call volume and revenue from 2019, last year appears to have been an outlier and reflects a pace of runs that the TAAS is unlikely to match in 2020.

“This is a start,” Ranua told the commission on Monday. “A lot of work has gone into what we have in front of us today.”

Moving forward, the plan

will include data that will allow the service to understand the costs of each type of call, expenses of various supplies used, fuel costs, repair costs for each ambulance, and more. It will also allow the service to budget the cost of more expensive medical equipment that needs to be replaced.

“We needed to start somewhere,” said Olivanti. “We will see how the numbers break out.”

Vermilion Lake Township representative Phil Anderson was happy with the information being presented.

“This seems to be a much better way of keeping track than what was done in the past,” he said. “It will be more understandable going forward.”

“We all know we have a good ambulance service,” said Anderson.

Breitung Township representative Chuck Tekautz said if the profit projections are true and projected profits are set aside, it might mean the township subsidies are no longer required in the future.

Olivanti said another goal of this type of planning is to find the most cost-effective ways of running the service.

“We want to find your sweet spot,” she said, “so you can target your services to what is best for your community.”

Ranua said once the budget is completed, it will go to the Tower City Council for approval, possibly at their Aug. 10 meeting.

The Tower Ambulance Commission meets quarterly. Their next meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 5.

Week of July 13

Monday

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

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on July 13. Check city website for meeting location and info.

Tuesday

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

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on July 14. Phone-in meeting, check township website for call-in information.

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.

CELEBRATING THE FOURTH



Pictured clockwise from above: This Lake Vermilion/Sunset Road parade! Pictured (from left) Carter Haycraft, Hudson Cobby, McKinley Haycraft, Emmi Aluni, Harper Cobby, Halli Aluni, Aubri Aluni and Channing Haycraft. Kira Harmelink enjoying the 4th at the family cabin on Eagles Nest. She is visiting her great-grandmother Mary Ann Berg and her grandparents, Jim and Jill Berg. Jamma Glatch was part of the Hoodoo Point Charmin delivery crew. Amelie Zak decided to decorate herself while playing with cousins at a family cabin. Susanne Vanberg was among a group of teachers from Sweden who visited a few years ago. She and some friends shared their support for our national holiday.



Thank you to all our readers who submitted photos of their celebrations this year!

Homegrown fun on the Fourth



COMMUNITY NEWS

EVFCU reopens lobbies

REGIONAL- The Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union has started the reopening of all of its branches, including Aurora, Embarrass, Tower, Nett Lake, and at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

The credit union has installed protective shields and has implemented new procedures to ensure safety of its members and workers.

Those who enter the lobby will be required to wear masks and adhere to the CDC's six-foot social distancing guidelines. Visitors should read the notices on the door before entering, use the hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the lobbies, and have their transactions ready for processing. Occupancy will be limited, so you may be asked to wait outside. Time inside will need to be limited, too, so please limit conversation. Those who have symptoms of illness are asked to use the drive-through.

Members are encouraged to call or text

1-888-341-2308 or check the website evfcu.org or Facebook for questions.

The member-owned credit union is proud to say it was able to serve its members' needs, even while lobbies were temporarily closed. The credit union opened new accounts, processed loans, closed mortgages, accepted remote deposits, and electronic signatures, as well as day-to-day transactions, thanks to its past investments in technology, and thanks its members for utilizing them during these times.

In the event of a rise in COVID-19 cases, the credit union may change its operations again.

Frandsen Bank and Trust reopens lobby

TOWER- Frandsen Bank and Trust has reopened its lobbies and asks that visitors lower their masks so people can be identified. A hand sanitizing station is available, and those who enter are encouraged to use it. Visitors should also adhere to the CDC's six-foot social distancing guidelines.

Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms or wishes to wear a mask is asked to use the drive-through. For questions, please call 218-753-6100.

St. Paul's Evangelical resuming Sunday services

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church is resuming Sunday Services at 8:30 a.m. with Pastor Greg Anderson. Sunday School is held during the service.

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

EVFCU annual meeting set for Aug. 18

EMBARRASS- Due to the COVID-19, the 78th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 18 a of the Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union at 5:30 p.m. will be a business-only meeting. The meeting will be held at Timber Hall in Embarrass. Attendees will be

required to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Dean Boese graduates from Minnesota State Community and Technical College

REGIONAL - Dean Boese, of Embarrass, was among the 745 Spring Semester graduates of Minnesota State Community and Technical College with campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena. He graduated with a degree in Electrical Line Worker Technology.

Ecumenical Men's Breakfast Group resumes

TOWER- The Ecumenical Men's Breakfast Group sponsored by St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower has resumed meeting on Thursdays at 8 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. All men are invited.

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Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely
WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, St. Anthony Church basement, Ely
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., upstairs at Woodland Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment.
Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesdays.
All presentations are administered in a virtual presence until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. Send email to stevieschon@gmail.com for more information.

July 14 - Katya Gordon - Climate Change in the Northland: A Sailor's Perspective

July 21 - Becky Rom - Save The Boundary Waters Update

July 28 - Kathryn Hoffman - PolyMet Update

Breathing Out

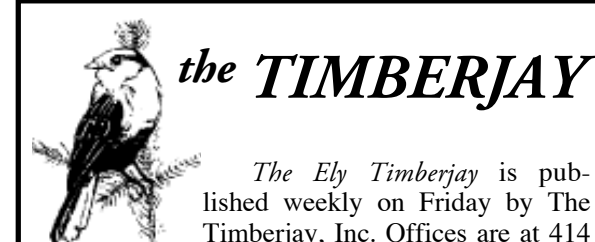
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pure summer beauty
wildflowers lining roadsides

daisies for picking

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ELY TRACK CLUB

4-on-the-4th goes virtual this year

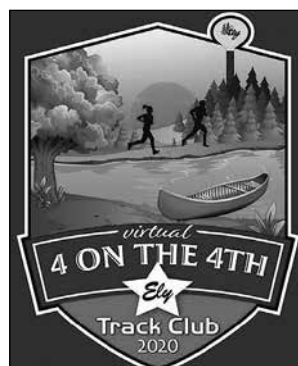
by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Although the Janet Gensler Memorial Run here was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic this year, the Ely Track Club invited runners of all ages to participate in a virtual four-mile challenge on Independence Day.

"We hoped, in the world of social distancing, we could continue to support our Ely track and field athletes and programs with this opportunity to continue traditions, get some exercise and make some fun memories - social distance-style," said Megan Devine, one of the organizers of the event and an assistant coach for the school track and cross country programs.

Instead of gathering at the Trezona Trail on the morning of Independence Day, participants could run anywhere.

Registration is available online, runners logged four miles of running, posted photos, and donated to the Ely Track Club, which supports the school running programs. More information can be found on the Ely Track Club's Facebook page.



Runners in the 2020 Janet Gensler Memorial Four on the Fourth Run participated in a virtual challenge this year. submitted photos

Contributions to the Ely Track Club can be sent to Frandsen Bank, 102 E Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731. Suggested contributions are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.

Fill out the Finisher Form through this link: <https://forms.gle/cG3ZAJaSJPVnVzA98>.

Pictures are posted on the Ely Track Club facebook page. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/elytrackclub>.

All registered participants received a participant sticker in the mail.



OUR COMMUNITY

Fluoride treatments coming to Farmers Market

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

"Fluoride is a naturally-occurring mineral that has been shown to reduce the risk of cavities for people of all ages. It is also very effective in reducing tooth sensitivity due to gum recession and loss of enamel," said Dr. Crystal Chopp.

Fluoride varnish is similar to the fluoride gel that is applied during teeth cleaning visits using special trays, according to Dr. Chopp. "In contrast, fluoride varnish will stay

on the teeth for a few hours which multiplies its effectiveness. It will then "wash off" after four to six hours by design as it is exposed to food, liquids, as well as the forces of the teeth and your jaw."

This type of fluoride varnish can be applied to the entire mouth in about two minutes. "It can be an economical way to treat sensitivity in adults and provides an additional tool that protects the teeth from cavities and sensitivity. It is suggested that this treatment be repeated every three to six months," she said.

Because of the

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

See the Ely Community Health Center volunteers at the Farmers Market to sign up for an appointment or call them at 218-365-5678.

Vitals checked

The Ely Community Health Center performs free vitals checks for anyone who wants one, every Tuesday at the Farmers Market.

"These checks (blood pressure and temperature)

are an important step to monitoring your health and can also provide an early detection for COVID-19," said Jon Erickson, director of the health center.

They are located next to the entrance where the hand-washing and disinfectant station is located. "Please come by if you would like to have a free vitals check while you are shopping at the Farmers Market," he said. "We do require that you wear a mask when you are having your vitals checked. If you do not have one, we can give you a new disposable face mask."

Public Library posts photos of all their new books

ELY - The Public Library here remains closed to the public due to the public health concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, but new books are coming in daily.

"We realize that it can be hard to choose books with curbside service, especially when you don't know what's available," said Ely Public Library Director Rachel Heinrich. "Our new-arrivals shelves are very full right now, so we took some photos to help people know what's here."

Nearly a dozen images appear on the library's Facebook page.

For those interested in any of the titles, call the library at 218-365-5140, and they will pull what you want and set up a time for no-contact curbside pickup.

Senior Center re-opening

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

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

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

Public Health



A Fourth of July message at Cecilia Rolando's house on Conan Street was "Protect yourself and others," referring to the coronavirus threat. Some residents organized and conducted a "patriotic march" in protest over the city of Ely's cancellation of the traditional event due to public health concerns of COVID-19. She cordoned off her property at the corner of Harvey and Second Ave, on the traditional parade route, creating space as a reminder to spectators during the event of the need for social distancing and other precautions. submitted photo

St. Louis County Area Solid Waste Facility Site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N. between Ely and Babbitt Summer Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: noon-6pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N. Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd. Hours Thu: 10am-5pm Sat: 12:30-4:30pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169 Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5341 Regional Landfill Rd Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd (east of Virginia) Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Summer hours effective April 15 through September 30th
For recycling information go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
1-800-450-9278
 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday

Cook receives \$200,000 FAA grant for airport

Beacon replacement and pavement rehabilitation on tap

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Federal Aviation Administration has awarded \$200,000 to the city of Cook for improvements to Cook Municipal Airport, one of five regional Minnesota airports to receive grants from supplemental funds allocated through the federal CARES coronavirus stimulus bill.

Some of the funds will pay to replace and relocate the airport beacon, a need that has been under discussion since at least 2016. The beacon was raised as an issue by the FAA last year during a site visit to the airfield.

City Administrator Theresa Martinson said the beacon has outlived its useful life, and it has been a longstanding safety concern because someone had to climb the tower to maintain the beacon. The new beacon will be one that can be lowered to the ground. It also will be moved to allow for future plans for an additional row of hangars, she said.

Additional funds will

be used to pay for sealing of the runway and other paved surfaces.

“We’re basically going to be doing some crack sealing,” Martinson said. “It’s mostly maintenance and safety.”

Martinson said she was not certain when work would begin.

This is the first large-scale award directed toward areas dedicated for aircraft usage from the FAA’s Airport Improvement Program since Fiscal Year 2014, when the city received approximately \$257,000 to rehabilitate the runway and conduct an airport master plan study. The city did receive an additional \$25,000 in FY 2015 to address apron, taxiway, and runway issues.

More recent awards totaling \$285,000 were designated for rehabilitation of the airport access road and parking lot.

Other regional airports included in last week’s announcement were Longview Municipal Airport in Cass County, Brainerd Lakes Regional in Crow Wing County, Cambridge Mu-



This aerial view of a portion of Cook Municipal Airport shows some of the features that will be addressed through a federal \$200,000 Airport Improvement Program grant. The airport beacon will be replaced and moved, and the runway and other paved areas will be sealed.

nicipal Airport in Isanti County, and Staples Municipal Airport in Wadena County. The total award amount, including Cook, was more than \$3 million. Congressman Pete Stauber commended the FAA’s action.

“As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation, I know Minnesota’s regional airports are critical to the economic success of our smaller communities and am happy to see

much-needed funding going to these five airports,” Stauber said. “This money will provide relief to help our airports weather this storm, so they can maintain operations and continue to provide Minnesotans with transpor-

City of Cook photo

tation services once this pandemic is long behind us.”

In the first round of AIP awards announced in April, Ely received a \$348,000 grant for snow removal equipment.



Baytree Field 4-H members presented a \$75 donation to the Cook Food Shelf last Thursday. Pictured are, from left: Cheyenne Schelde, Bridget Schelde, Sara Anderson, Director Cleo Cottrell, Alli Schuchard (front), Emma Schuchard, and volunteer Lynn Polich. Photo by D. Colburn

4-H club makes food shelf gift

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The saying “When life gives you lemon, make lemonade” was taken to heart by the Baytree Field 4-H Club, which last week presented a check for \$75 to the Cook Community Food Shelf in spite of the cancellation of their annual Timber Days pet show.

Club member Bridget Schelde was initially disappointed when she heard that Cook Timber Days was canceled.

“It was a little sad because we do it every

year,” she said. “It’s just a fun thing we do for the community.”

But after the initial shock, club members put their heads together and came up with an alternative, a virtual pet show in which participants could post their pet pictures on the Cook Timber Days Facebook page. If 15 pictures were entered, the club said it would give \$75 to the food shelf.

“At first I didn’t think it would work, but it turned out that a lot of people participated in it,” Bridget said.

A total of 31 pic-

tures, many with multiple pets, were posted to the Timber Days page on the June weekend when it normally would have taken place. Dog and cat pictures were most popular, but people posted pictures of geese, horses, chickens, a parrot, a sugar glider, and a hedgehog.

“It was kind of cool seeing how many people responded,” said Bridget’s sister, Cheyenne.

Most of the entries won some kind of “award,” based on some aspect of the photo that was interesting or unique. Among them

were the Chillin’ Couch Potato, Lovable Cuddle Pug, Purrrfect Princess, and Most Vibrant Color awards.

The club’s donation came from money they had earned from other fundraisers.

“It’s very helpful,” Food Shelf Director Cleo Cottrell said. “And especially that it comes from the kids. That’s what makes it special.”

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Trinity Lutheran offers home-based VBS kits

COOK- Instead of kids going to Vacation Bible School, Trinity Lutheran Church, of Cook, will be sending the school to them this summer.

Trinity is making the Vacation Bible School program, “Living Water,” available this year as take-home kits. Each child will receive a bag with all of the items needed to enjoy this five-day program at home. There is no cost to participate. The kits will be available for pick-up during the last week of July.

To sign your children up, please call the church office at 218-666-5965 or email lori@trinitycook.org with your name and the number of kits needed.



the *TIMBERJAY*

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

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th



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CITY OF ELY

Ely begins design on \$9 million wastewater facility improvements

Committee formed to plan scope of project, work to begin next spring

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – City council members this week authorized proceeding with a \$9 million project at the wastewater treatment facility, and following a recent study session and a public hearing earlier this year, approved the formation of a subcommittee to negotiate an engineering contract and project scope.

Council members Paul Kess and Albert Forsman will be joined by representatives from the Ely Utility Commission and city staff to begin work with engineers on the project as early as next week.

The project addresses a variety of issues, includ-

ing improvements to meet new state mercury standards, equipment replacement, and other issues at the plant, according to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, who said that some of the equipment is more than two decades old.

“We need to expedite this as soon as we can, as we need a plan submitted by January,” he told council members on Tuesday. “With design approval by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, we need to be under construction by next spring, with completion next summer.”

City officials are hoping that a \$7 million state grant will fund a large share of the project. A revolving state loan

fund could help bridge the financing gap. The impacts to utility rates should be minimal as current utility debt payments will be retired next year, Langowski noted.

New mercury limits are incorporated into the current permit for the facility. A mitigation plan to address high-flow events that put the city over the limits was developed last year by JPJ Engineering of Hibbing. That firm subcontracted with Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, according to Langowski, to establish potential options that address the mercury discharge and improvements to the wastewater facility.

Other business

In other business, the council took the following actions:

- Approved a recommendation from the Telecommunications Advisory Board to use the TAB fund balance to upgrade the microphone audio system in council chambers for \$29,169, with the work being completed by Custom Theaters of Ely.
- Passed a resolution establishing an agreement with the State of Minnesota to maintain the public fishing pier at Miners Lake.
- Authorized resumption of shelter rentals at Semer’s Park and Whiteside Park, on a

recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Committee, under state Department of Health guidelines to address COVID-19 public health concerns.

- Accepted a demolition quote of \$23,350 from G-Men Environmental Services for the demolition of the remains of a house at 131 E Conan Street that was destroyed by fire last month, and to utilize grant monies from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for the project.
- Initiated the hiring process of a new officer for the Ely Police Department, likely to be completed early next year.
- Approved a

Storefront Rehabilitation Loan of \$12,000 for Doug Scheibe of Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. for a new roof at the Sheridan Street business.

- Approved a resolution appointing election judges for 2020.
- Authorized a request from Prospector Trail Alliance for assistance with payment on a 10-year lease for state lands along the ATV trail system for up to \$50,000, to be reimbursed through an IRRR grant or state funds.
- Mayor Chuck Novak introduced the new USFS Kawishiwi District Ranger Aaron Kania (see page 10) who replaces Ranger Gus Smith.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Iowa couple survives plane crash in Eveleth after departing from Tower airport

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- An Iowa couple who spent several days visiting at Lake Vermilion for the Fourth of July holiday was on the road home Tuesday, lucky to be alive after their Piper PA-32 plane crashed on Sunday near Eveleth, not long after they took off from the Tower airport.

73-year-old Richard Zahasky and his 68-year-old wife, Roseann, of Decorah, Iowa, took off from the Tower airport at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, and

soon began experiencing engine problems, according to Deputy Chief Jesse Linde of the Eveleth Police Department.

“At some point in the air they started having engine issues and his engine completely stopped,” Linde said. “He tried to do a restart and that didn’t work, so then they were gliding.”

Linde said that Zahasky, a seasoned pilot with more than 30 years of experience, looked at an iPad navigation program to determine that the Eveleth airport was the closest airstrip.

However, when it became apparent the plane wouldn’t reach the airport, Zahasky started looking for a “soft spot” to try to land, Linde said. As the plane glided toward a marshy and wooded area about 2.5 miles east of the airport runway, Zahasky made a decision that may have been instrumental to the couple’s survival.

“He opened the door on the way down,” Linde said. “That’s smart thinking, to think ahead so that they would be able to get out after the plane crashed. The plane immediately started on fire.”

The crash reportedly sheared off the plane’s wings, and the fuselage was severely mangled, Linde said.

“If you saw the crash site and the burned plane you wouldn’t expect that anyone would have come away from it alive,” Linde said.

But the Zahaskys did survive, escaping the plane with minor injuries, but without a cellphone. With no way to communicate with the outside world, they decided to try to walk to the airport, Linde said. The crash site was about 1.5 miles away from the

closest road, in the vicinity of the convergence of Bodas and Clyde roads in Fayal Township.

Linde estimated that the crash happened around 11 a.m., but no emergency call was received until 3:02 p.m. Once notified of a possible accident, a spotter plane was activated that located the scene of the crash. A specialized unit from the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, designed to travel in swampy areas, found the couple walking near the crash site, having turned back after finding their original route too difficult to traverse.

“The rescue squad is absolutely amazing,” Linde said. “We don’t train on plane crashes. They actually had something like this not too long ago that they assisted on. It pays off for something like this.”

The Zahaskys were taken to a local hospital, treated for minor injuries, and released.

“I spoke with him early this morning,” Linde said on Tuesday. “They’re driving back to Iowa.”

The crash is under investigation by the FAA.

EPA...Continued from page 1

those manufacturers that made the investment to meet the strict new emissions standard, known as Step-2.

“Recognizing the value of providing efficient and clean-burning wood stoves, Minnesota manufacturers like Lamppa Manufacturing in Tower, Minnesota, have been making and selling Step 2-compliant stoves long before the May 2020 deadline,” Jackson stated.

“We’re opposed to the extension,” said Dale Horihan, plant manager for Lamppa Manufacturing, which remains the only wood furnace manufacturer in the country with a wood furnace that meets the new emissions standard. He notes that the EPA had established the new rules and announced the timeline in 2015, which

should have given companies plenty of advanced notice. “A lot of this is coming from the big manufacturers with a lot of lobbying money,” said Horihan. “But the rules of the game were established, and now you’re trying to change the rules?”

Even if the EPA decides to offer the extension, Horihan is comfortable that Minnesota and nearly a dozen other states plan to enforce the new standards no matter what the EPA does. In all likelihood, Lamppa Manufacturing won’t be able to meet the demand for compliant wood-burning furnaces anyway, at least not without expanding their operation. The company has already nearly tripled its workforce since 2018.

In either case, the enforcement delay proposed by the Trump

administration won’t last forever. Instead, it’s supposed to allow retailers additional time to sell wood-burning furnaces that don’t meet the new standard. Some have argued that the COVID-19 pandemic prevented them in some cases from selling older, non-compliant models ahead of the May deadline.

In Minnesota, however, Jackson said many retailers had donated their non-compliant inventory to a Stoves for Homes program in order to meet the deadline.

Minnesota wasn’t the only state expressing opposition to the administration’s proposed enforcement delay. Indeed, more than a dozen states urged the agency to withdraw the plan. The state of California’s Air Resources Board threat-

ened legal action if the administration fails to enforce the new emissions standard. The new standard was designed to sharply limit particulate emissions from wood furnaces. In many parts of the country, wood-burning furnaces contribute the lion’s share of particulate pollution. “There is no good reason to provide additional time to sell noncompliant devices,” said MPCA’s Jackson, “especially in the face of fighting a deadly, respiratory virus pandemic.”

Lamppa company a beneficiary

The new emissions standard, which was developed and adopted under the Obama administration, proved to be a boon to Tower’s Lamppa Manufacturing, which remains the only manufacturer in the U.S. to

meet the new standard. The company’s wood furnaces, which exceeded the strict new standard by 40 percent, remain among the cleanest-burning and most efficient wood furnaces being manufactured today anywhere in the world.

Lamppa Manufacturing underwent a significant expansion of its operations in 2019 in anticipation of increased sales of its Kuuma Vapor Fire 100 wood furnace. So far, sales have been brisk, says Horihan.

“We’re swamped, actually,” he said. “People normally don’t start ordering furnaces until July or August but we’ve sold a lot of them already this year. We’re probably out at least five to six weeks, which is where we usually are in October.”

At the same time, sales of the company’s

famous sauna stoves are up sharply as well, according to Horihan.

And Lamppa Manufacturing is hoping to get a second wood furnace, the Vapor Fire 200, certified later this year. The company has been manufacturing that furnace for years, but couldn’t afford the cost of testing. With the new rules in place, Horihan said the 200 model could significantly expand the company’s market share, particularly since it’s smaller and somewhat less expensive than the Vapor Fire 100. Horihan said he had hoped to send the furnace in for testing in August, but the testing lab has been backlogged with wood furnaces that other companies are currently testing in hopes of meeting the new emissions standard.



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COVID...Continued from page 1

clear that all of us need to remain vigilant in protecting ourselves and those around us and doing what we can to prevent the spread.”

Clear evidence that younger adults are accounting for a greater share of cases can be found in the statewide median age for COVID-19 cases, which is now 38.4 years. State health commissioner Jan Malcolm termed it “quite a notable drop” from the median age of 41.5 years at the beginning of June.

St. Louis County’s median age has traditionally skewed much older than the state average due to outbreaks in Duluth-area long-term care facilities that drove early COVID case numbers, but with new cases shifting to community-based sources, the county’s median case age has dropped to 50 years

of age.

Mirsch said that while changing protocols have allowed for more widespread testing than in the early months of the pandemic, increased testing doesn’t account for the numbers they’re seeing.

“Our positive rate is incredibly low,” Mirsch said, “so it is not explained by an increase in testing.”

And while early testing efforts were limited to high risk populations and long-term care facilities, recent testing has revealed that community transmission, including travel-related contacts, are driving the increasing numbers.

“It’s complicated, but it’s really important to remember how much testing protocols have changed over the past four months. Whether out-of-state or in-state, these are community transmission

cases more and more,” Mirsch said.

Cases countywide

While officials don’t provide details on specific cases or cities, Mirsch emphasized that Tuesday’s surge included cases from both rural and urban areas. Following a meeting Monday, Mirsch was able for the first time Wednesday to provide a clearer picture of how cases are distributed around the county.

“It is important to emphasize every commissioner district in St. Louis County has been impacted by COVID-19,” Mirsch said. “Confirmed cases are being reported in both rural and urban locations and across all ages.”

Overall, 73 percent of county cases thus far have been in Duluth, with the remaining 27 percent outside of the city, Mirsch

said. A look at the monthly data reveals that cases in April were skewed heavily toward Duluth area long-term care facilities, when 88 percent of cases were found in Duluth. Since then one-third of the cases in the county have been outside of Duluth, and that breakdown is trending even more heavily towards other parts of the county as summer has arrived.

“It’s only July 8 and there’s a delay in getting test results, but right now the majority of cases are outside of Duluth for the month of July,” Mirsch said.

Asymptomatic spread

Mirsch cautioned that location data could create a false sense of security in some areas at a time when health officials across the country have increasing

concerns about transmission of the virus by those who show no symptoms of COVID-19.

“Data regarding locations of confirmed cases paints an incomplete picture at best,” Mirsch said. “As we have said from the beginning, people should follow all recommended guidance to protect themselves and minimize the spread of COVID-19 regardless of where the confirmed cases are because there are likely many more cases than we are aware of.”

Continued testing in long-term care facilities has revealed that even people in high-risk populations can be asymptomatic, Mirsch said.

“We can only assume an even greater prevalence of asymptomatic carriers within the general population,” said Mirsch. “The

CDC estimates that the number of people infected with COVID-19 could be as great as 10 times higher than the number of laboratory-confirmed cases,” she said.

Mirsch strongly encouraged people to follow the prevailing guidance regarding social distancing and wearing masks to limit the spread of the virus.

“This is a novel virus – we are all learning right now,” she said. “There is unexplained hospitalization and fatalities without underlying conditions. I think the reality is that we absolutely have to consider that when we make recommendations for public health, we’re making recommendations for the whole of the community.”

STORM...Continued from page 1

erative had dispatched a dozen two-person work crews to the area in the immediate aftermath of the storm. She said lots of downed trees were found in the area, which had contributed to the outage. Crews restored power to virtually all Lake Country Power customers in the region by midday on Tuesday.

Private tree services reported they were busy in the wake of the storm, helping people clean up downed trees. Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad had his own adventure after the storm blew through the Eagles Nest area, where he maintains a cabin. “It blew my pontoon boat off the mooring and floated away with the dock attached to it,” Kringstad posted on Facebook. “I had to swim out to get it and then slowly drive the pontoon back, dock attached.”

While the storm brought high winds and lightning to the area, it didn’t bring much rain. Many areas saw barely a quarter inch of rain from the storm, while others saw virtually no rain at all.





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THE WRITER'S LIFE

Young writing students get away from it all

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Ely area youth expand their skills with author Mary Casanova

ELY – Eight aspiring young writers recently participated in a writers’ retreat with Ely school district middle school language arts teacher Heather Cavalier.

While current public health concerns over the coronavirus might seem to put a halt on such an adventure, the group made the necessary safety accommodations. “We had an absolute blast,” Cavalier said.

The girls in attendance from Ely were: Esther Anderson, Evelyn Cavalier, Zoe Devine, Abigail Johnson, Morgan McClelland, Cora Olson, and Juliet Stouffer. Samantha Kvistad, of Soudan, also joined the group.

Last fall, authors Mary Casanova and Jeanette Cox, from Story Portage, contacted Cavalier about putting together a group of teen girls interested in attending a summer writers’ retreat on Rainy Lake.

“After fundraising and planning the trip, we were upset about having to cancel due to COVID-19,” Cavalier said. “After



Aspiring writers from the Ely area recently participated in a writer’s retreat on an island near International Falls with author Mary Casanova. submitted photo

giving it a lot of thought, we decided that by making some accommodations to our plans, we could still take the trip. We’re so glad we did.”

The girls joined Cavalier, Cox, and Ely math teacher Molly Olson, who is also the mother of one of the girls, on a four-night stay at Atsokan (Ojibway for “storyteller”) Island, just outside of

International Falls.

“The girls worked individually and as a group with Mary (Casanova) to expand their writing skills, find their voice, and challenge their imaginations,” Cavalier said.

The island stay was the setting for Casanova’s historical fiction novels, “Frozen” and “Ice Out,” as well as her next novel in the series to be published

in the spring of 2021. She is an award-winning children’s author of novels and picture books. Many of her books stem from her life on the Minnesota-Canadian border, yet some of her stories have taken her as far away as France, Norway, and Belize for research.

According to her biography, whatever the setting for her books, Casanova writes stories that matter,

and stories that kids can’t put down. Her book awards include: American Library Association “Notable,” Aesop Accolades by the American Folklore Society, Parents’ Choice “Gold” Award, Booklist Editor Choice, and two Minnesota Book Awards. Her books frequently

land on state children’s choice book master lists across the country. “The greatest reward for me is when a young reader tells me she or he loves one of my books. For me, it’s all about communicating writer-to-reader through a character and story,” she said.

“The girls all enjoyed it so thoroughly that they will return again next year, along with six more teen girls from the area,” Cavalier said. “We are very grateful for the generous support we received from our community as well as the Ann Bancroft Foundation, which awarded nine of the girls with a one-time \$500 Dare to Dream Grant.”

To contribute financially toward next summer’s trip, donations can be sent to Camp Atsokan, c/o Story Portage, PO Box 286, Ely, MN 55731. The girls are also selling T-shirts at the Ely Farmers Market and at Front Porch Coffee.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ely Rotary Club holds its 5,000th meeting

ELY - The Rotary Club of Ely held its 5,000th meeting last week in Whiteside Park. This was its first in-person meeting in nearly three months, due to public health concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

“All of the rules Gov. Walz has in place for social gatherings were followed,” said President Todd Heiman.

During the meeting, members celebrated the “passing of the gavel” from current president, Jeff Sundell, to Heiman, and Heiman discussed plans for the club for the 2021 fiscal year.

Founded in 1921, the Rotary Club of Ely will celebrate its 100th anniversary in May, 2021.

Rotary International is a worldwide network of service clubs who provide sanitation and drinking water to the developing world and are working to eliminate polio around the world.

“An active and engaged club, the Ely Rotary has funded benches, tables, and waste bins at the Veterans Memorial, Trezona Trail, Whiteside Park, and the new Pocket Park on Chapman Street,” Heiman noted.

The club also sponsors the Ely Area Food Shelf Penny Jar Project in local businesses, which has raised more than \$8,000.

This fiscal year, Ely Rotary has donated more than \$10,000 to other local projects.

Ely Rotary currently has 44 members who represent a broad spectrum of the Ely community. “Once

traditionally a male organization, today’s Ely Rotary Club membership is more than half female,” he said. Our club is seeking new members of all ages and stages in life.”

For more information,

call Heiman at 218-235-1561 or email him at rheiman1@gmail.com.

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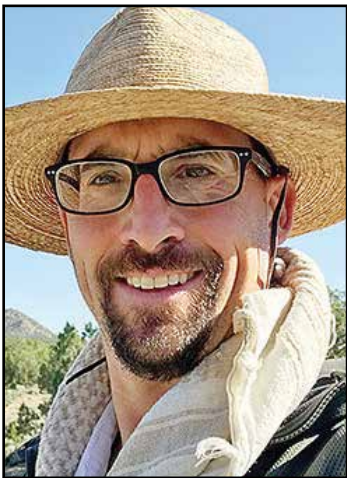
New forest ranger takes over in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY—Aaron Kania recently took over as the new permanent district ranger for the Kawishiwi Ranger District, which is headquartered out of Ely.

He most recently served as a supervisory ranger with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in southwestern Utah. The Kawishiwi Ranger District is one of five districts on the Superior National Forest.

Ely is not an unknown for Kania. He has family in Minnesota and has spent time exploring the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and surrounding landscapes with his two daughters. He is an avid boater with lots of time spent kayaking, rafting and canoeing the rivers, lakes, and oceans of North



Aaron Kania

America. He has spent much of his free time backpacking along with hunting and fishing some of the best places on earth.

Kania is excited to add many more stories and adventures in the Ely area.

“Being lucky enough to work on the Superior National Forest is a dream,” he said.

Kania is eager to return to a small town in a beautiful setting found at the end of the road. “I’m looking forward to better understanding the concerns folks are discussing, and working with the community to address those challenges,” he added.

Kania was raised in rural New England where he developed a love of the woods by traipsing around the forests and creeks, making forts, and exploring ancient trails. This love of adventure brought him out west for an undergraduate degree in history from Adams State College in southern Colorado.

There, he worked as a guide, which included backcountry skiing, hiking, backpacking, and whitewater rafting. These pur-

suits led to a profession in the outdoors and seasonal employment with the National Park Service in Bryce Canyon National Park, Dinosaur National Monument as a river ranger, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Winter seasons brought Kania to southern California with the Bureau of Land Management as an EMT at the Imperial Sand Dunes and a wilderness ranger.

The next chapter in his career found him working as a law enforcement ranger with BLM in Salt Lake City, Utah. He also received a master’s degree in public administration at the University of Utah.

His BLM career and growing family next took him to north-central Wyoming where they bought a small farm along the banks of the Bighorn River. He worked with the ranching,

mining, and hunting guide communities to address the multitude of issues that arise when various interests live, work, and enjoy the same lands.

Kania then sought the next challenge of his career in southwestern Utah as a supervisory ranger with the BLM. Aaron worked on many projects balancing resource use and conservation of the land. The deserts and plateaus of Utah are hardworking landscapes that attract a tremendous number of visitors while also diversifying the local economies. One such example is the Piute ATV trail that connects many towns in the area through public lands, attracting many visitors to the area.

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

BWCA wildfires spark on Fourth of July weekend

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - Multiple wildfires burned in the Superior National Forest and BWCAW on the Fourth of July.

“Late in the day on July 4, four wildfires were reported on the west zone of the Superior National Forest, three within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in St. Louis County and one outside of the BWCAW in Lake County,” said Tim Engrav, public information officer for the Superior National Forest.

USFS personnel reported that there were thunderstorms with lightning passing through the area. Moderate to severe drought conditions have been reported in northern Minnesota this summer.

The Sundial Fire was approximately eight acres in size and burned in a remote area of the BWCAW south of Iron Lake, Engrav said.

“The Sundial Fire was detected burning in jack pine regeneration and the old 1996 White Feather Fire area. Initial response included four aircraft that were used to drop water on the fire Saturday afternoon and evening,” he said.

On Sunday, a fire-fighting crew was inserted near the fire. “The crew initiated suppression action as safely allowable along the fire edge,” Engrav said. “Firefighter and public safety are the most important priorities in all wildfire response and due

to the remote setting of this fire the suppression efforts were undertaken deliberately and with life safety in mind.”

The fire started away from any travel routes and was not accessible by lakes or rivers due to low water. It was located in a very remote area about 3.5 miles south of Iron and Crooked lakes and the Canadian border, he said.

Two other blazes, each about one-tenth of an acre in size, were located north/northeast of Trout Lake and north of Lake Vermilion in the La Croix Ranger District.

What Engrav referred to as the “213 Fire” was located north of Lake Vermilion and west of the Trout Lake Portage. It was accessible from Lake Vermilion and was one-tenth of an acre in size and a single tree lightning strike fire.

“A fire crew was on site taking suppression actions on Sunday,” he said.

Another small blaze, the “212 Fire” was located northwest of Trout Lake and also anticipated to be a single tree lightning strike that burned about one-tenth of an acre. A fire crew traveled by boat on Trout Lake to locate and suppress this fire on Sunday, according to Engrav.

The Independence Fire was one acre in size and located near Birch Lake south of Ely, according to Engrav.

The one-acre Independence Fire was reported Saturday near

Birch Lake south of Ely in the Kawishiwi Ranger District. USFS crews and the Morse Township Fire Department responded.

“Crews remained on site and continued to work on the fire into the evening and early Sunday morning,” Engrav said.

Cedar Lake and No-See-Um Lake fires

On Sunday afternoon, a fire was reported off Cedar Lake, on Minnesota state land in St. Louis County, within the west zone of the Superior National Forest.

The Cedar Lake Fire

was 1.5 acres in size and burned in mixed timber and slash. “The fire was determined to be ignited from lightning,” Engrav said.

Fire crews were on scene and suppressed the fire on Sunday afternoon and evening. Several cabins are located along the shoreline of the lake, south of fire.

Another fire off No-see-um Lake, found in the Tick PMA (primitive management area) of the BWCAW (Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness) was also detected. The fire was about one-tenth of an acre, burning in conifer and dead balsam in iso-

lated flat, boggy terrain. Numerous lightning down strikes were spotted during a detection flight in the area, but no active flame was visible.

Due to impending thunderstorms late Sunday, Engrav said a crew was to be sent in Monday morning to suppress the fire.

Drought conditions

“Northeastern Minnesota is in moderate drought conditions as we have not received significant moisture over the past several weeks. There are several soil and fuel conditions that are monitored to determine fire danger levels and several of those

conditions are indicating a drying trend in the region,” Engrav said.

The Superior National Forest currently has campfire restrictions in place both inside and outside the BWCAW except in specific developed campgrounds.

“There are no fire-specific area forest closures, but visitors should continue to be aware of the dry conditions and expect to see aircraft being used for fire response and detection,” Engrav said.

For USFS fire information, call 218-248-2411.

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SPORTS



Baseball tourney
returns to Ely
this weekend

Sir G’s Classic will
host games in
Ely and Soudan

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – As many as 10 Senior Babe Ruth teams will descend on Veterans Memorial Field here this weekend for the first and only youth baseball tournament of the summer.

The Sir G’s Midsummer Classic starts Friday, July 10. As many as 20 games will take place this weekend, most at Ely’s historic baseball field, along with several games at Soudan Legion Field. Action begins at 11 a.m. on Friday and concludes at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

The first Sir G’s Classic was held in 2002 and included six teams, according to Tom Coombe, Ely’s head coach and tournament organizer. The classic-style tourney format will be in effect with the champion determined by tournament record and tiebreaker if needed.

“Ely is the only Class A high

See **TOURNEY...**pg. 2B

RESCUE

Lake mishaps
send two
to hospitals

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Two men in their sixties ended up in area hospitals on July 4 after swimming-related incidents on two area lakes, according to a St. Louis County Sheriff’s press release. In both cases, prompt assistance from people at the scene may have saved their lives.

A 65-year-old man was found unresponsive in the water in Bear Island Lake near Babbitt at about 1:30 p.m. after attempting to swim after a floating object that was in the water. Several individuals at the scene performed CPR on the individual. He was later transported by Babbitt Ambulance to Ely-Bloomenson Hospital, at which time he was reported to be conscious and alert. The Sheriff’s Office was assisted by the Babbitt Police Department.

A half-hour later at Pelican Lake in Orr a 69-year-old man was found unresponsive after he jumped off a pontoon boat to swim. Others on the boat were able to rescue him and they performed CPR in an effort to revive him. By the time First Responders arrived, the man was found to be conscious and alert. He was transported to Cook Hospital by Orr Ambulance. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources staff and Virginia Ambulance service also assisted.

No additional information about the conditions of the men was available as of presstime.



Left: Revelers at the 4th of July parade at Crane Lake.

Above: A lone mask wearer stands out during the “patriotic march” held in Ely.

FOURTH OF JULY

It’s always a party!

Even a pandemic can’t stop the North Country from celebrating independence



Clockwise from above: Fireworks over Main Street in Tower on July 4; a smiling flag waver in the mini-parade for the Carefree Living facility in Ely; Carefree Living resident Barbara Kollar waves through the window of her room, a poignant reminder of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; Andy and Sarah Levar show the colors during a July 4 flotilla on Burntside Lake; Michael and Marjory Wood, of Biwabik, pose for a photo after walking the 10K route of the Vermilion Run in Tower-Soudan; a scene from the Isle of Pines flotilla on Lake Vermilion (submitted); a big smile and lots of red, white, and blue at the Crane Lake parade; the color guard at the Ely patriotic march.

photos by Timberjay staff



WILDLIFE

Forest Service advises public to be “bear aware”

REGIONAL - Superior National Forest managers urge visitors to learn and practice ‘bear aware’ principles for the protection of both visitors and bears. There are several things that people can do to reduce the potential for unwanted bear encounters like the recent instances reported across the forest.

Especially when camping, all food, cooking equipment, and garbage should be stored out of reach of bears or in a certified bear-resistant container. Be aware that bears may also find anything with a strong or sweet odor attractive, such as toothpaste, lip balm, scented personal products, sunscreen, clothing with food odor, etc. A bear can smell food wrappers inside a tent. A clean campsite is much less likely to catch the attention of bears in the area.

Help protect yourself; learn and practice these important precautions:

- After each meal, the dishes should be washed immediately at least 200 feet away from the sleeping area and water source.
- Keep camp stoves away from the tent area.
- Toiletries, food and garbage should be placed in a bear-resistant container, out of reach by hanging the food pack from a high-line between two trees. The bag should be located at least twelve feet above ground and at least six feet from the trees on either side. Protect the trees in the process. If in a dispersed site or developed campground, store these items in a hard-sided vehicle.
- Do not count on a cooler to protect your food. Coolers are not bear-resistant containers. Bears can smell bottled beverages and



food in plastic coolers from a few miles away. Once a bear is rewarded with food or something sweet in one cooler or tent, it learns to bite and tear into other tents and coolers.

- Dispose of fish remains by traveling at least 200 feet away from campsites, trails, portages and shorelines.
- Avoid leaving food unguarded at the canoe/boat landing or at the end of a portage. If it is not in a bear-resistant container, it is an easy target and can teach a bear to frequent high-use

areas. Remember, bears swim from island to island.

➤If you do encounter a bear, most will be scared off if you make noise (shout, bang pots or throw fist-sized rocks at the bear, etc.). A very persistent bear may be discouraged by spraying pepper spray into its eyes.

Residents in bear country must also be bear aware. Keep pet food secured in the house, remove bird feeders at night and store garbage in a building or bear resistant trash containers. Once a bear learns that human food is easily accessible, the bear will elevate its efforts to get it, putting people and bears at risk. Once a bear is compromised, it is often killed, so prevention is key.

To learn more about safe living and camping or hiking in bear country, check out: <http://www.bebearaware.org/>.

TOURNEY...Continued from page 1B

school program in the field and the other teams are Class AA or above” he said.

The Sir G’s Classic is typically an American Legion baseball event, but this year changes were made to all youth sports due to public health concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. The Minnesota Department of Health announced late last month that youth baseball games could resume with an abundance of caution for both players and spectators.

Some teams were turned away because the tournament was capped at 10 teams. Grand Rapids, which has made several Division 1 State Legion Tournament appearances, enters the Ely tourney for the first time ever. Wadena, which advanced to the Division 2 State Legion Tournament in 2028 and 2019, will also be in Ely this weekend, Coombe said.

Other teams taking part include Minnetonka, Roseau, Proctor, Esko, Hermantown, International Falls and West Duluth.

Ely plays:

- Friday, 8 p.m., versus Hermantown.
- Saturday, 3:15 p.m., versus Minnetonka.
- Saturday, 7:45 p.m., versus Esko.
- Sunday, 3:30 p.m., versus Proctor.

Daily admission price is \$6. A tournament pass is available for \$12.



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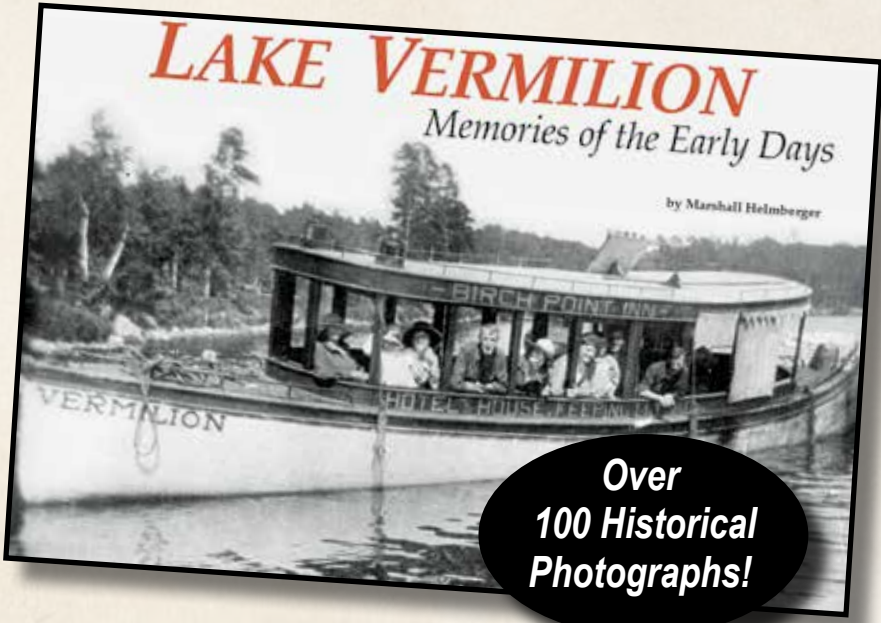
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Obituaries and Death Notices

Helen M. Adkisson

Helen Margaret Mesojedec Adkisson, 94, of Ely and formerly of Tower, died on Sunday, June 28, 2020, in Carefree Senior Living Center in Ely of natural causes. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 11 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Reverend Father Nick Nelson will be the celebrant. The casketbearers will be grandsons, Edward Adkisson, Peter Adkisson, Lee Adkisson, Michael Coombe, Joshua Adkisson and Gabriel Adkisson. Due to COVID concerns, there will be no visitation. Please remember social distancing, and your mask. Interment will follow in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred and may be directed to St. Martin's Catholic Church, PO Box 757, Tower, MN 55790. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Helen was born on July 11, 1925, in Soudan, the daughter of Ludvik and Helena (Breznik) Mesojedec and was a

1943 graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. After graduation, Helen moved to San Francisco, Calif., to work for the United States Army, and met Charles Adkisson. They were married on Aug. 5, 1944, in the Presidio of San Francisco. They returned to Tower and were longtime residents. Helen was an active member of the Tower-Soudan community, serving on the Tower City Council, KSKJ (Secretary 1974 to 2011), SWU, Legion Auxiliary, St. Martin's Church (St. Theresa Circle and General Chairman of Circles), St. Anthony's Church, Respite, Moving Meals, Parkside Advisory Board, Cub Scout den mother, and Girl Scout leader.

She enjoyed crossword puzzles, plant and flower gardening, volunteer work, and providing transportation to those unable to drive. Helen was a wonderful mother and wife. She was caring, accepting, compassionate and generous. Helen was a capable, kind woman who opened her door to anyone. She will be remembered for her wit,

intelligence and strong faith. Helen was a friend to many and loved by many. Her children are so proud of their mother.

Helen is survived by her children, Charles E. (Margaret) Adkisson of Brooklyn Center, Gregory (Gloria Gervais) Adkisson of Eagles Nest-Ely, Mary Lee Erickson of Ely, Scott (Dawn) Adkisson of Red Wing, Joseph Adkisson of Babbitt and Jean (Jess) Lindsay of Iowa Falls, Iowa; daughter-in-law, Nancy (Dennis) Olds of Hibbing; grandchildren, Julie Wolbeck, Anita Adkisson, Edward Adkisson, Ann Adkisson, Peter Adkisson, Lee Adkisson, Michael Coombe, Joshua Adkisson, Gabriel Adkisson and Marina Lindsay; great-grandchildren, Emma Adkisson, Taylor Lussier-Flesher, Chris Hedger, Jason Hedger, Jorie O'Connor, Nolan Adkisson, Summer Pederson, Lilly Pederson, Olivia Pederson, Kaden Adkisson, Aili Adkisson, Tyler Kienlen, Isaac Coombe, Kendall Coombe, Kalie Adkisson, Marie Adkisson, Chloe Adkisson, Isaiah Adkisson, Madeline

Adkisson and Isabelle Adkisson; sister, Rose Passi; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles I. Adkisson; son, Paul Adkisson; grandson, Michael Adkisson; mother, Helen (Breznik) Mesojedec; father, Ludvik Mesojedec; brothers, Edward Mesojedec, Frank Mesojedec, Joseph Mesojedec, Herman Mesojedec and Ludvik Mesojedec; and sisters, Mary Mesojedec, Vida Popesh, Elizabeth Spreitzer, Gizella DeMasi, Pauline Wiirre and Agnes Taylor.

Ervin L. Minier

Ervin Lee Minier, 91, of Ely, died on Friday, July 3, 2020, in Wakefield, Mich. Special thanks to Leonard at the Northwoods Motel in Wakefield and to the Gogebic County Sheriff's Rescue Squad for all of their help. Graveside services will be held at noon on Friday, July 10 at the Embarrass Cemetery. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his daughter, Debra Minier of Floodwood; sons, Daniel, Michael, Dennis and Edward, all of Ely; sister, Karen Wedenoja of Ironwood, Mich.; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



lowing the service at Silverdale Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at GRS Community Center in Silverdale. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Patrick S. Mahoney Sr.

Patrick "Pat" Steven Mahoney Sr., 56, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, July 1, 2020, after a lengthy, hard-fought battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 25 at Faith Assembly of God Church in Aurora.

He is survived by his mother, Janice Mahoney of Ely; children, Kim Shields of Hoyt Lakes, Patrick S. Mahoney Jr. of Mt. Iron and Zach Mahoney of Duluth; grandchildren, Bridgett, Harley and Skylar; sister, Maureen (Michael) McIlvain; brothers, Tim (Brenda) Mahoney, Michael (Adila) Mahoney and Rory (Heather) Mahoney; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews.

Thomas F. LeTourneau

Thomas "Tom" Franklin LeTourneau passed away on Friday, May 1, 2020. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 18 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Burial will take place immediately fol-

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The following offices are open for election at the November 3, 2020 General Election. Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk at the Eagles Nest Town Hall between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on July 28, July 30, Aug. 4, Aug. 6, and from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Aug. 11. Filings are open beginning Tuesday, July 28, 2020 and ending on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Clerk: 4 year term
Supervisor B: 4 year term
Supervisor C: 4 year term
Supervisor D: 2 year term

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Deb Siverhus, Town Clerk
1552 Bearhead State Park Rd., Ely, MN 55731.

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

Published in the Timberjay, July 10 & 24, 2020

NOTICE

CITY OF TOWER

CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD

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

Four CITY COUNCILORS

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

Published in the Timberjay, July 10, 17 & 24, 2020

Notice to the Voters of Kugler Township

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

One Supervisor A – (4) Four-year term
One Supervisor B – (4) Four-year term
One Clerk – (4) Four-year term

Filing fee: \$2.00

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 10 & 17, 2020

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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

PUBLIC OPINION

DNR survey finds mixed views on gray wolves

General public has a positive view of wolves while livestock producers are more negative toward the species

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A new survey commissioned by the Department of Natural Resources finds that Minnesotans agree by a wide margin that it is important to maintain Minnesota’s gray wolf population. The survey, which found results in line with previous surveys, sampled attitudes from more

9,000 Minnesotans representing three distinct groups, including average residents, Minnesotans who hunt deer, and livestock producers living in wolf country. The survey found considerable differences between the three groups. Among Minnesotans in general, nearly 70 percent (68.8) expressed a positive view of gray wolves in Minnesota, compared to 19.6 percent who expressed a neg-

ative view. That result stood in sharp contrast with livestock producers in wolf country, among whom just 31.6 percent expressed a positive view of wolves, while 62.2 percent expressed a negative opinion. Among deer hunters, perceptions were more evenly split, with 39 percent expressing support for wolves, while 51.5 percent had a negative view of the state’s top predator.

Both livestock producers and deer hunters expressed strong support for a wolf hunting and/or trapping season. Nearly 90 percent of hunters expressed support for wolf hunting, a level of support that was shared by livestock producers. Among the general statewide population, nearly half (48.9 percent) indicated

See **WOLVES...**pg. 5B



IN THE OUTDOORS



Adventure with a purpose

Mesabi Outdoor Adventures seeks to build community one event at a time

Can sharing outdoor adventures help create a community of like-minded people? It can, believes Bret Alexander, who founded Mesabi Outdoor Adventures two years ago — with a mission to get people together in the out-of-doors. At first, Alexander was looking for a way to meet like-minded people. He led non-motorized outdoor trips for years but struggled to connect with new friends after moving to Virginia in 2014 with his wife, who grew up on the Iron Range.

introductions, but most of the conversation was out on the water as nearly a dozen people, from as far away as Duluth, turned out for what was billed as a “moonrise paddle.” The heat of the 90-degree day was still evident as the group shoved off from the lake’s one public access to circumnavigate the shoreline of this 750-acre lake, but the temperature moderated as the sun slowly slid to the western horizon and an impressive full moon emerged from a cloud bank to the east.

As the southerly breeze lightened, the light chop turned increasingly glassy, offering reflections of the moonrise and the lake’s often dramatic shoreline, which ranges from rocky, pine-covered bluffs on the east, to birch forest, to muskeg. As the wind died down, the sounds of hermit thrushes, herring gulls, and loons, echoed across the water.

The roughly two-thirds of the lakeshore dominated by muskeg is strewn with the bleached remains of trees, uprooted by windstorms over the years, each offering a unique and intricate sculpture. With muskeg dominating the shoreline and the lake’s high ground owned by the state’s Scientific and Natural Area program, the cabin-less lake serves as a remarkable contrast with nearby Lake Vermilion’s well-developed shoreline. Most of those in attendance had never been on Lost Lake before and all were impressed with the diversity and beauty of the shoreline.

“Lost Lake is one of my favorite places,” said Alexander, although he tries to schedule most of the group’s outings a bit closer to the core Mesabi Range to encourage

See **ADVENTURE...**pg. 5B



Top: A flotilla of kayakers made their way across Lost Lake as part of an outing sponsored by Mesabi Outdoor Adventures.

Above: A determined young kayaker was part of the group. Bret Alexander looks on from the rear of the nearby canoe.

Below: Paddling into the moon’s reflection as the light begins to fade. photos/M. HelMBERGER



Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
SPREADING DOGBANE



The bell-like flowers of the **Spreading Dogbane**, *Apocynum Androsaemifolium*, are prominent atop this wildflower’s 2-3 foot stem in mid-summer in the North Country. Look for the spreading branches of this plant and its prominent, untoothed, opposite leaves. The small pink and white flowers grow in a loose cluster at the ends of the branches and are distinctive for their bell-like shape, flared at the rim. Once mature, the flowers develop into long, thin pea-like pods that open to reveal seeds attached to cotton-like fluff, reminiscent of a milkweed pod.

Fishing reports

Kab-Nam area

The Fourth of July weekend was a busy one. As mentioned before, with our northern border still closed, outdoor enthusiasts are flocking to the area. Woodenfrog state campground was completely full, which is a rarity. The lake is seeing increased pressure with anglers and pleasure boaters. The unusually hot weather had everyone wanting to be on the water. Kabetogama is just starting to come out of one of the largest mayfly hatches in recent memory. We aren’t alone. Surrounding lakes are experiencing the same conditions. That, coupled with sunny, hot and humid weather and lack of wind has affected the bite throughout the area. Walleyes are being found in various depths but are somewhat unwilling to cooperate. If you are marking fish and they just don’t want what you have to offer, keep moving. Mark these areas and go back to them as eventually you will have success as they move in shallower to feed. Enticing these fish takes some time and patience. Pulling spinners is a good way to get a reaction and cover water. If you are using Lindy rigs, an extremely slow approach is key (.1-.2 mph) with leeches being the best bait. Last but not least, don’t overlook casting weed lines. Walleyes will always relate to this structure and there have been good reports of nice fish being caught while targeting pike and smallmouth bass. Courtesy Gateway Store Lake Kabetogama

Images from the North Country



Above: A nearly fledged young flicker pokes its head out of its nest, constructed within a chainsaw carving of a bear in a yard in Soudan.



Right: A nestmate takes a look for itself.

photos by S. Ukkola



Jack Lundquist hoists a mid-sized lake sturgeon caught July 4 on Lake Kabetogama.

submitted

WOLVES...Continued from page 4B

opposition to a wolf hunt, while 41 percent expressed support. A total of 58 percent of Minnesotans indicated opposition to a wolf trapping season, while 30 percent expressed support. For now, a federal court order that prohibits wolf hunting in the Great Lakes region remains in effect in Minnesota, which has prevented the DNR from reinstating a wolf

season.

While support for wolf hunting or trapping was relatively high, particularly among hunters and livestock producers, a broad majority of both residents and deer hunters indicated that they support maintaining the state's wolf population. Among

residents in general, 88 percent expressed such a view. Among those who hunt deer, two-thirds expressed anywhere from slight to strong agreement with the value of wolves in Minnesota. Even among livestock producers in northern Minnesota, 47 percent indicated some

level of support for maintaining wolves in the state.

The results were gathered from surveys mailed to 9,750 households in the state that met at least one of the three categories. Livestock producers had the highest response rate, with 53 percent returning their surveys. Forty-seven

percent of deer hunters returned their surveys, while a third of members of the general public did so.

The DNR conducted the study in partnership with the University of Minnesota through the Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, to support the DNR's

update to the state's wolf management plan. Results of the survey will help in understanding how people and different groups think about wolves and wolf management in the state.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
79 56					79 56					80 56					82 60					80 59				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
06/29	87	59	0.02		06/29	85	59	0.03		06/29	87	61	0.01		06/29	81	63	0.08		06/29	88	61	0.08	
06/30	80	64	0.06		06/30	79	62	0.25		06/30	81	64	0.13		06/30	86	63	0.10		06/30	81	62	0.30	
07/01	85	66	0.24		07/01	86	63	0.02		07/01	86	64	0.00		07/01	88	70	0.00		07/01	88	67	0.00	
07/02	86	60	0.00		07/02	87	58	0.08		07/02	89	64	0.00		07/02	91	59	0.00		07/02	87	57	0.00	
07/03	93	54	0.00		07/03	91	51	0.00		07/03	93	64	0.00		07/03	91	57	0.00		07/03	92	53	0.00	
07/04	94	58	0.00		07/04	92	57	0.00		07/04	93	64	0.00		07/04	88	63	0.00		07/04	93	56	0.00	
07/05	90	60	0.02		07/05	89	56	0.02		07/05	89	61	1.31		07/05	91	61	0.00		07/05	90	58	0.05	
Total			6.67		YTD Total			6.88		YTD Total			8.26		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				5.82

ADVENTURE...Continued from page 4B



Above: A large fishing spider, about three inches across, blends in as it clings to a rock on Lost Lake.

Right: One of hundreds of weathered root masses found along the shore of Lost Lake.

photos by M. Helmberger



more turnout. "I was actually surprised that we had as many people turn out as we did at Lost Lake," he added.

For several people, the paddle was their first time taking part in a MOA-sponsored event, and as they paddled and chatted, this

newly-assembled group made the kind of connections that Alexander has set as his organization's goal. "It's working really well," said Alexander.

If you'd like to try a MOA-sponsored adventure, they'll be meeting at the West Two Reservoir

near Virginia on Friday, July 10, starting at 8 p.m. Next Monday, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the group is sponsoring a ride at the new Redhead mountain biking trails in Chisholm. Check their Facebook page or website for more details.

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DRAIN

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

DRY

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice to the Voters of
Bearville Township

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

Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk at 62949 County Road 557, telephone 218-376-4495 between the hours of 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm beginning Tuesday, July 28, 2020 and ending on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Hours on Tuesday, August 11 are between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, for the offices of:

One Supervisor B – (4) Four-year term
One Supervisor C – (4) Four-year term
One Treasurer – (4) Four-year term.

Filing fee: \$2.00

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 10, 2020

Change of meeting notice
BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP
Board of Supervisors

Due to the August Primary, the Bearville Township Board of Supervisors will meet on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 10, 2020

CITY OF ORR
ELECTION FILING NOTICE

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

➤ MAYOR – 2 YEAR TERM
➤ 2 (TWO) COUNCILMEMBERS – 4 YEAR TERMS
➤ 1 (ONE) BOARD OF DIRECTOR TO COOK-ORR HOSPITAL DISTRICT – 4 YEAR TERM

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

Affidavits of Candidacy are available at the:

**Orr City Hall
4429 Hwy 53
Orr, MN 55771**

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

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

Published in the Timberjay, July 10 & 17, 2020

Bearville Township Accepting Bids
for Snowplowing (Cedar Lane)

Bearville Township is accepting bids for 2020/2021 snowplowing of Cedar Lane area-Beatrice Lake contract. Route would begin on the Snake Trail at Robertson's (where St. Louis County stops plowing) 1.45 miles to Beatrice Lake Forest Road, .4 miles of Beatrice Lake Road to Cedar Lane, .48 miles of Cedar Lane, from Cedar Lane .8 miles of Beatrice Lake Road ending where Echo Lane meets Beatrice Lake Road (approximate total distance 3.1 miles). Plowing would begin when there is a 4" snowfall, road must be kept open. The snowplowing seasonal contract would be in effect from November 1, 2020 until May 1, 2021. Requesting a bid for the total amount for the season. A Certificate of Insurance is required upon acceptance of the bid. Please contact Bearville Supervisor Gene Baker: 218-301-9343 or Kathy Cressy-Clerk: 218-376-4495 or bearlvl@frontiernet.net. For more details and map. Sealed bids will be accepted until September 4 and opened at the September 8 Board of Supervisors meeting. Mail sealed bids to: Bearville Township Snowplowing bid, c/o Kathy Cressy – Clerk, 62949 County Road 557, Cook, MN 55723. Bearville Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 10, 2020

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

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

Dianna Sundahl, Clerk, Breitung Township

Published in the Timberjay, July 10 & 17, 2020

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 15 at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall. Social distancing will be practiced and masks will be required.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 10, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

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

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DENTAL ASSISTANT
Ely Family Dental is seeking a highly motivated professional who enjoys multi-tasking in a healthcare environment as a Dental Assistant. Duties include assisting the dentist during procedures and providing exemplary care to patients. Previous dental experience is desirable, but not required; an aptitude for learning, positive attitude and a strong work ethic are our priorities. This full-time position offers great benefits, competitive compensation and a sign on bonus. Please send your resume to cchoppdentistry@gmail.com. 7/17

Super Crossword

Answers

H	A	T		D	I	S	C		R	E	O	P	E	N	S		P	E	R	K
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FILING NOTICE

Filing is open for the following positions of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District Board of Directors:

- ❖ Angora Township
- ❖ City of Cook
- ❖ City of Orr
- ❖ Crane Lake Township
- ❖ Owens Township
- ❖ Portage Township
- ❖ Willow Valley Township

Dates for filing are **July 28, 2020 – August 11,2020**. File with respective City or Township Clerks and with proper Affidavit of Candidacy.

Terms of Office are four years.

Election date is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.



Teresa Debevec
Cook Hospital CEO/Administrator
218-666-5945

Published in the Timberjay, July 3 & 10, 2020

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Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

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PT Housekeeper

Adult Day Services
Casual RN/LPN

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Vermilion Country
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Paraprofessional

Approx. 170 days/school year plus a few training days • Hours 7:45 am to 3:45 pm

The Vermilion Country School (VCS), a grades 7-12 public charter school in Tower, MN. Personnel must have a strong desire to take part in the creation of a small, innovative, as well as community and environmentally-focused junior/high school serving the Lake Vermilion area in Minnesota's North Country.Paraprofessionals are under the supervision of and assist teacher advisors by providing one-on-one and group instruction as well as any specific services that are required by a student's Individualized Education Program.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: interact with staff, students, parent/guardians, and the community; facilitate academic and personal goal-setting; assist students with skill development in reading, math, science, and social skills; monitor student progress; manage the physical needs of students as needed; chaperone field explorations; records maintenance and due process paperwork; proctor assessments and diagnostic tests; supervise students during lunch and out in the community; address behavior issues in accordance with school policy; maintain strict confidentiality; assist office staff and director as needed.

Minimum qualifications: Experience working with children, and a commitment to their learning; Excellent math, reading, and organizing skills; Excellent computer skills; Mature, friendly, and responsible; Commitment to the school's mission and vision; Positive references; An AA, AS, or AAS (or higher) degree. Additional desired qualifications: Demonstrate a willingness to go "above-and-beyond"; CPR and First Aid Certification.

Please e-mail resume, cover letter, and three letters of recommendation by July 10, 2020 to: Frank Zobitz – fzobitz@vermilioncountry.org. Thank you for your interest!

VCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Weekly SUDOKU

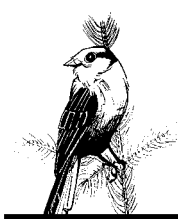
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

HAIR CARE

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

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

HOSPICE

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

BUSINESS SERVICES

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

BOAT FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 1997 Regal 1700 LSR 17ft. boat with Volvo Penta 135-hp inboard engine. Includes Eagle trailer. Fiberglass hull with Hunter Green trim. Well maintained. Winter storage. \$3,800 or best offer. Call Doug at 218-750-0714. 7/10p

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

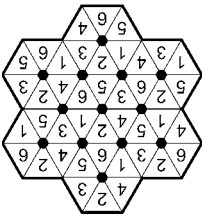
VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

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

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

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.)

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FOUND

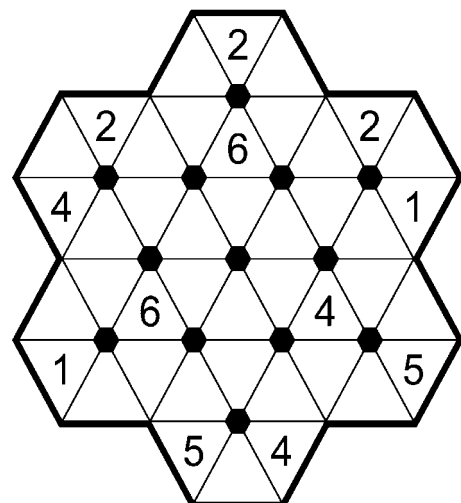
PAIR OF EARRINGS found at Embarrass Visitor Center on Hwy 21. Contact Clerk Jenny Boese to identify and claim. 218-984-2084 or embarrass-township@frontiernet.net.

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SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Answer

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

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Super Crossword

TRIPLE
OVERLAP

ACROSS

1 Boater, e.g.

4 Poker chip, for one

8 Uncorks again

15 Liven (up)

19 Mexican resort port

21 To-do trays

22 Actor Bates

23 GOP race runner

25 At midnight, say

26 Justice Kagan

27 Planet near Earth

28 "Attack, dog!"

29 First-class

30 "Dirty" drink

32 Data entry device

36 Ewoks and Na'vi, in brief

38 Actor DeLuise

39 Strengthens in volume

40 Large insectivores with long snouts

47 Recycling container

48 Support financially

49 Unmannerly

50 Suffix with pay

52 Nissan, formerly

58 Mop brand

60 Common bit of onstage audio

63 Writer Isak

65 Pago Pago's home

66 Pied-à- —

67 Tokyo, prior to 1868

68 Play dumb

73 Bloom-to-be

74 Cliché's river

77 Radio booth notification

78 Mattel guy

81 Company not reliant on a parent, e.g.

86 Actress Kazan of "My Favorite Year"

87 MRI's kin

88 — -de-France

89 Branchlet

91 Krone spenders

92 Breakfast brew

94 Ones who love making others happy

96 Egg-making organs

101 Many a pro bono TV ad

103 Grass sold in rolls

104 Clinton-Kaine, in 2016

108 Optimistic

114 Somber song

115 Party card game cry

116 "Tomb Raider" Croft

118 Raptor's nest

119 Foot bottom

120 They include

Advent and Eastertide

124 Be fitting for

125 Ideal spots

126 Appeases

127 Warlike god

128 Floral wrist accessory

129 Rolling car part, to Brits

130 "Ethyl" suffix

DOWN

1 Female seal group, e.g.

2 Amtrak bullet train

3 Get thinner at one end

4 Persian Gulf emirate

5 Ailing

6 Sword type

7 Funny Imogene

8 Classic detergent brand

9 Complete

10 California's San Luis —

11 Speaking platform

12 Spot-on

13 Kin of .com

14 Flagstaff-to-Tucson dir.

15 Ashen-faced

16 Actress Stritch

17 Wickerwork cane

18 Genuflects

20 Gridiron kick

24 Oval portion

29 Aussie avian

31 Once known as

33 "ER" extras

34 Wallach of "The Deep"

35 Sonata part

37 Poker variety

40 Like the giant sphere at Epcot

41 Occurrence

42 Lymphoid throat masses

43 Lymph —

44 Christmas verse starter

45 Ice cream maker

46 Kylo of "Star Wars"

47 Breakfast meat

50 Sharif of movies

51 Peru's capital

53 Spot-on

54 With 55-Down, Paris edifice housing several universities

55 See 54-Down

56 More out of control

57 Not necessary

59 Ring arbiter

61 Of — (in some way)

62 Spice holder

64 Very bright

69 Agra's home

70 Manxman, e.g.

71 Square root of 81

72 Slithery fish

75 Japanese tech corp.

76 MPG-rating org.

79 Nil

80 "Buenos —" ("Good day")

82 Get admitted

83 Suffix with Denver

84 16 eighths

85 Pups' plights

90 The world over

93 That, in Peru

94 Karachi's nation: Abbr.

95 Kin of .com

96 Ukraine port

97 Fabric with a soft nap

98 2002 César winner for Best Film

99 Popular thesaurus, familiarly

100 Really cold

101 Models on walls, maybe

102 Smelting slag

105 One-on-one teacher

106 Beethoven's "Für —"

107 Tic —

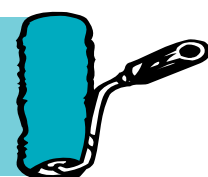
109 With 121-Down, judge in the O.J. Simpson trial

110 Helen of Troy's mother

111 Seeing red



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