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PUBLIC SAFETY

Busy summer for rescue squad in BWCAW

Thinking help is but a phone call away, adventurers taking more risks

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

THE BOUNDARY WATERS— The COVID-19 pandemic and increased cell phone coverage in even the most remote parts of Minnesota are combining to create a record summer for members of the St.

Louis County Rescue Squad, as more people than ever are finding themselves in trouble in the wilderness.

Inexperience and a sense by some wilderness travelers that help is just a phone call away, may be encouraging an over-reliance

See...BWCAW pg. 7

A St. Louis County Rescue Squad canoe sits on the shore of Fourtown Lake during a rain squall Saturday during a rescue mission. submitted photo



NORTH STAR STAMPEDE

Rodeo swaps protesters for spectators

State COVID-19 restrictions only fuel fan enthusiasm

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

EFFIE - Like everyone else who was anticipating the North Star Stampede held here this past weekend, Shawn Stutzman, of Staplehurst, Neb., was taken aback when orga-

See... RODEO pg. 7

Kennedy Wardas, of Orr, TOP, competed in the barrel-racing competition at the 2020 Northstar Stampede in Effie. Protestors, right, were out in force all weekend. photos by D. Colburn



30 YEARS AGO

A life changed in a moment

Jason Goulet reflects on 1990 accident that left him paralyzed

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- "The town of Tower was instrumental in my recovery," said Jason Goulet. "They helped. It wasn't just me."

It was 30 years ago in August that an errant hit during a high school football scrimmage left Jason Goulet with a broken neck and a prognosis that he would never walk again.

Jason reflects back on his injury and recovery in a short film made for this year's Easter Seals Film Challenge.

"It's always been a father-son story," said Jason. "The dynamic is so powerful."

See...JASON pg. 8



Jason Goulet, formerly of Tower, visited the Grand Canyon last year. submitted photo

PUBLIC HEALTH

Face mask mandate takes effect statewide as COVID-19 cases increase

Shoppers and workers at Zup's Market in Ely were properly masked up on Saturday, the first day of the statewide mandate. photo by K. Vandervort



by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL—A face mask mandate announced by Gov. Tim Walz last week went into effect on Saturday, ordering Minnesotans who enter or work in publicly accessible indoor spaces to wear masks to limit the spread of the virus that causes

COVID-19.

Speculation that a mask mandate was coming had been growing in recent weeks as the number of daily cases of COVID-19 shot upward amid growing evidence that too few Minnesotans were voluntarily using masks in their day-to-day activities.

An average of 390 new

cases of COVID-19 were reported in Minnesota in June, but that jumped to an average of 547 through the first three and a half weeks of July— a 40-percent increase. The state recorded its highest single-day total of new cases, 793, on July 14.

"Right now, there's no

See...MASKS pg. 10



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Community notices

Location change for Dream Quilters Aug. 6 meeting

REGIONAL- The Vermilion Dream Quilters' gathering on Thursday, Aug. 6 has been moved from Greenwood Twp. to the Hoodoo Point Campground pavilion at 5788 Hoodoo Point Rd. in Tower. As previously planned, members can begin gathering at 6 p.m., bringing a face mask and show and tell items. You may also want to include hand sanitizer, a lawn chair, bug spray, and your own food and beverage.

Ely-Winton Historical Society reopens Aug. 11

ELY - The Ely-Winton Historical Society will reopen for tours beginning on Tuesday, Aug. 11. Masks must be worn and social distancing must be followed. A maximum of four people will be allowed into the museum at one time unless it is a family group.

Hours and days are Tuesday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Call 218-365-3226 for more information.

Respond today to the 2020 Census

REGIONAL- The 2020 Census is reaching a critical point. The Census Bureau has added a new postcard reminder to households that have not yet responded to the census. Non-responding homes will get the postcard this week. The first 2020 Census mailings were sent March 12, this new postcard mailing is due to the impact of COVID-19 on census operations. Households that do not respond on their own will soon have census takers visit in person on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Almost 72 percent of Minnesotans have already responded, meaning more than one in four households have yet to respond. Groups that tend not to respond, and who have been historically undercounted, include renters, people with low incomes, ethnic and racial minorities and Native Americans.

LSS expands Foster Grandparent service to support area children

REGIONAL- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) recently expanded its Foster Grandparent service to offer guidance and encouragement to children in northeastern Minnesota.

Foster grandparent volunteers are older adults who offer one-on-one mentoring and academic support in classroom settings to children who may be falling behind in school. Their presence and reassurance helps boost children's self-esteem, improve social and emotional development, and results in better performance in literacy and math.

In 2019, 97 percent of students supported by foster grandparents made progress toward their personal and academic goals.

"Our foster grandparents build personal relationships with children they support," said Ron Urbanski, program director with LSS Caregiver and Companion Services. "Personal attention from a caring adult helps keep children motivated, engaged and inspired."

This service is now available in St. Louis, Cook, Carlton, Lake and Pine counties. LSS is seeking volunteers in these communities who are age 55 or older and can commit to at least 10 hours per week. Foster grandparents will be available to support students whether schools return to in-person classes or continue remote learning.

In Minnesota, 273 foster grandparents spent nearly 163,350 hours supporting children at 142 schools throughout the state. The foster grandparents service offers volunteers an hourly stipend, as well as a meaningful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people.

"Supporting students gives our foster grandparents great satisfaction in knowing they help kids succeed in school and have a better chance at life," Urbanski said.

LSS provides training to foster grandparent volunteers and conducts background checks to ensure school safety. If you are interested in becoming a foster grandparent, call 888-205-3770 or visit lssmn.org/fgvolunteer.

The organization also welcomes other non-profits to become partner sites to support youth in a variety of settings, including public and private schools, Head Start locations, shelters, and daycare centers. To become a partner, visit lssmn.org/fgpartner.

HORSEMANSHIP

Chasing the \$\$\$ Barrel Races on Aug. 4



Morgan Gibson and horse Tarino run barrels, the duo will be competing at the Embarrass Fair fundraiser on Tuesday, Aug. 4. submitted photo, courtesy of Cheryl Carlson Photography

EMBARRASS- Grab your cowboy boots and hats, a barrel race fundraiser is planned for this Tuesday, Aug. 4 at the Timber Hall grounds, 4855 Highway 21 in Embarrass. Chasing the \$\$\$ Barrel Races will be a fundraiser for the 2021 Embarrass Fair and will offer an 80-percent payout plus \$425 for division winners.

The event begins with exhibition practice runs at 3 p.m.

Poles will start at 5 p.m. In this event there are six poles and riders must weave as quickly as they can through them. All ages are welcome to compete.

Barrel racing begins at 5:30 p.m. Registration is on the day of the event. Fees are \$15 for poles,

\$5 for PeeWees, \$25 for first open, \$15 for youth, and \$25 for second open. Exhibitions are 1 for \$4 or 3 for \$10. There is an office fee of \$10, PeeWees exempt.

State guidelines for mask-wearing and social distancing will be followed. For their safety, riders may not wear masks while competing.

Lisa Gibson organized the barrel race - it's a hobby her whole family enjoys, including her daughter, Morgan, who competes around the state. She said the Embarrass arena hasn't yet held a barrel run as a main event and she decided this was the year to do it. "Divisions are set by time, so your horse doesn't have to be the fastest to win prize money," she said.

Business sponsors include Rodney's Sand and Gravel, The Timberjay Newspapers, Vermilion Vet Clinic, Rasmussen Forest Fuels, Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union, and Kristin Pessenda Agency.

"We're really looking forward to the event," said organizer Lisa Gibson, "This is a great opportunity for our community to get out and have fun."

For more information, call or text Lisa Gibson at 218-290-9360. More equestrian fun is planned for later this month. Team Penning will be on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 28 and 29. Ranch Sorting is on Sunday, Aug. 30.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Vaccinations remain a priority amid pandemic

Regardless of where school is held, don't skip out on these important visits to your doctor's office

REGIONAL- Although it appears the 2020-2021 academic year will be unlike any other, one constant Minnesota physicians would like to see is that parents and caregivers practice good health by maintaining routine and back-to-school vaccinations for children and adolescents.

The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP) and the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) have partnered to promote increasing immunization rates throughout the state to achieve community immunity.

Minnesota physicians are concerned about the decrease in vaccinations among children during the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent membership survey conducted by MNAAP found an estimated 30 to 40-percent decrease in childhood vaccinations and 40 to 50-percent decrease in adolescent vaccinations since the beginning of the pandemic.

Vaccinations in Minnesota and across the country have decreased due to fears associated with seeking health care at a physician's office or other medical clinics. Seventy percent of physicians cited that parental fear surrounding COVID-19

has prevented or delayed routine care or vaccinations in children.

"Physicians across Minnesota are urging caregivers not to delay childhood and adolescent vaccinations for the health and safety of their children, families and the community," said Keith Stelter, MD, MMA president. "As back-to-school planning is underway and certain restrictions are hopefully being lifted, it is more important than ever to ensure vaccinations are up-to-date to protect your children and community. Health care clinics are open and doing their part to ensure a safe, secure and healthy environment for patients."

The MMA, the MAFP, the MNAAP and their members believe all children and adolescents should be vaccinated, except for those who cannot be due to medical reasons. Widespread, high rates of vaccination, also known as "community immunity," protect the most vulnerable, including newborns, those with cancer and other conditions that impair their immune system, and elderly adults. The safety of vaccines has been overwhelmingly established through decades of research and study.

"Vaccines work," said Andrew Slattengren, DO, FAAFP, MAFP

president. "They are a safe, effective way to protect our children, families and communities from preventable diseases and death. Your doctors and clinics are ready to make sure your kids catch up on necessary immunizations in a safe environment."

"Telehealth works well for follow-up appointments and routine checkups that can be done without an in-person visit; however, physicians and pediatricians cannot safely practice all routine care and vaccinations via telehealth," said Sheldon Berkowitz, MD, FAAP, MNAAP president. "It is crucial caregivers bring their children to medical clinics for that care. We are prepared to safely take care of patients and children, provide vaccinations, and maintain the recommended schedule of preventive and routine care."

The MMA, the MAFP and MNAAP strongly encourage all Minnesota caregivers to maintain routine care. It is safe to return to your health care provider for routine care, chronic care and scheduled vaccinations. Continue with telehealth and virtual appointments when advised by a physician.

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ISD 2142

District cuts paraprofessional work hours, health benefits

Proposed wage increase awaits union approval

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Paraprofessionals, aides, and assistants in ISD 2142 will have their hours cut back and most will lose the option of health care benefits after the district school board took action, Tuesday, that district officials say is intended to make the district more competitive with other districts in hiring and retention for those positions.

The board, with Chris Koivisto voting against the proposal, approved Superintendent Reggie Engebritson's recommendation to change the work week for these positions from 31.5 hours to 26 hours. A July 14 letter from Engebritson sent to affected employees indicated that they would be cut to 24 hours a week, and both she and board members reportedly received numerous emails prior to the meeting raising questions and concerns about the cutbacks.

A companion piece to the plan, an hourly wage increase, is found in the proposed negotiated agreement with Teamsters General Local 346, which represents 109 paraprofessional, aide, and assistant positions. Approval of the agreement was on the board agenda Monday afternoon, but it was removed from an updated agenda by the time the board met that evening.

Teamsters representative Les Kundo said union members haven't had the chance to review and vote on the revised agreement, which raises the base wage for a Level 1 certified paraprofessional from \$13.45 to \$16.03 for 2020-21, and to \$16.35 in 2021-22.

Similar raises are proposed for teaching and library assistants, but Level 1 teacher aides and in-school suspension monitors would receive only a 31-cent hourly increase this year, according to the draft proposal sent out with the board agenda.

Kundo said that informational sessions will be held at district schools in early August. The union will not make a 'yes' or 'no' recommendation on the proposal, Kundo said, allowing members to decide their votes independently. Kundo also said a strike vote would be taken at the same time, but said he had no knowledge of how members might vote.

Based on the 109 covered positions, the cutbacks amount to 599.5 fewer hours worked each week, and Engebritson readily acknowledged the district would need to hire additional staff to maintain the educational supports those positions provide. The proposed wage increase should offset the loss of hours for current staff and make it easier to hire new ones, she said.

"We're not worried that we're going to lose people," she said. "We think we're going to gain people."

Engebritson emphasized that with a revised schedule of working Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, staff in affected classifications would have opportunities for additional income by working as substitutes on Wednesdays through Teachers on Call.

However, with the reduction in hours, employees in these positions who were hired after 1999 will no longer be able to buy

into the district's health insurance plan. Engebritson said that 14 employees who currently participate in the district's health plan will be maintained on it through December in order for them to find other insurance coverage. Dental and life insurance options don't change in the proposed agreement.

Koivisto noted that while pay raises are pending, those who contacted him were concerned.

"The perception is out there that they're getting cut," he said.

Koivisto expressed concern about making the cutbacks when the district still doesn't know what model of education they will be using when school starts in September. Gov. Tim Walz and Department of Education officials are expected to announce Thursday what learning model - be it distance learning, in-school learning, or a hybrid of the two - will be allowed this school year.

"I'm going to have a hard time voting yes on this, particularly when we don't know," Koivisto said.

Board member Christine Taylor countered by saying that the board makes decisions "all the time about people's pay and benefits, and then circumstances change."

In other business, the board:
➤ Approved a standard resolution setting board elections for Nov. 3. Prospective candidates have until Aug. 11 to file.

➤ Gave preliminary approval, without discussion, to a long-term facilities revenue and expenditure budget. The complete budget will be discussed and receive final

See CUTS...pg. 5

Briefly

Woman injured in Kabetogama boat accident

REGIONAL - Two boats in a four-boat convoy on Lake Kabetogama collided Friday afternoon, and a female passenger was taken to an area hospital with a non-life-threatening injury.

According to a St. Louis County Sheriff's Department release, four boats were traveling together in the vicinity of Sugarbush Island when an object blew out of one of the lead boats, and one of the trailing boats turned to retrieve the item. The driver of the last boat did not notice the boat in front turn and collided with it. The trailing boat went up and partially over the front boat, coming to rest on top of it. The boats remained afloat and were towed back to the Kabetogama Visitor Center.

An adult female passenger in one of the boats sustained a non-life-threatening leg injury and was transported to the International Falls hospital for treatment. The other nine occupants of the boats were not injured.

The drivers of the two boats involved in the accident were identified as two men, ages 63 and 60, from Blaine. No additional identifying information was provided by the Sheriff's Department.

Voyageurs National Park rangers, Kabetogama First Responders, International Falls Ambulance Service, St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, and Minnesota State Patrol assisted with the call.

Illinois man injured on ATV

REGIONAL - On July 27 at approximately 4:57 p.m. St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies, Orr Ambulance, and the Crane Lake Fire Dept., responded to an ATV crash that occurred in the 7900 block of Vermilion Falls Rd.

Gregory Dennis, 64, of Wilmington, Ill., lost control of his ATV while rounding

a corner. Passersby found Dennis lying in the road and severely injured. It appeared that his ATV had rolled and he had been ejected.

He was transported by Orr Ambulance to a landing zone and flown by North Memorial Air Medical to a Duluth area hospital in serious condition.

Man injured in rollover

REGIONAL - An Angora man suffered non-life-threatening injuries in a one-vehicle rollover accident on Monday near Sand Lake.

Christopher John Riesberg, 61, was driving a 2005 Ford Ranger northbound on Hwy. 53 at about 12:20 p.m. when the vehicle swerved left into the west ditch, according to a Minnesota State Patrol

report. Riesberg reportedly overcorrected, causing the Ranger to cross over to the east ditch where it rolled.

Riesberg, who was wearing a seatbelt, was taken by Virginia EMS to Essentia Health-Virginia.

St. Louis County Sheriff's Department also responded to the accident.

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Town board harassment

Greenwood is poorly served by town board intimidation tactics

At some point, the Greenwood Town Board needs to accept the will of its residents and end its campaign of harassment and intimidation of Township Clerk Sue Drobac. Ms. Drobac was elected by the voters of the township in 2016 and she was re-elected this past March by a wide margin. Indeed, she was the highest vote-getter in the last township election.

The voters of Greenwood had four years to weigh her job performance and, evidently, they liked what they saw, re-electing her by a 186-102 margin, a far bigger vote of confidence than most of the members of the town board now trying to force her from office.

Perhaps the reason that Drobac has proven popular in the community is that she has tried to stay out of the political grudge match that has determined the township's governance for a number of years. She's acted like a public servant rather than a partisan.

The town board, of course, is exactly the opposite. Rather than fairness, they have adopted a series of job-dropping provisions over the past year, some of which have ultimately left board members with egg on their faces. Their motion to prohibit the release of any public information to township resident Jeff Maus was a notable example. Maus challenged it and the state Commissioner of Administration told the board that public information means public for everyone, not just their political pals.

Yet the board's attempts to push Drobac from office have been even more astonishing.

In March, they attempted to take away the right of township residents to even elect their own clerk, instead giving the town board the right to appoint a clerk. Township voters rejected that transparent effort to oust Drobac by a 2-1 margin at the same time that they overwhelmingly re-elected her for another four years.

Prior to that, the town board had installed surveillance cameras in Drobac's office, including one that points directly at her workstation. The board has claimed these are security cameras, installed for the protection

of township employees, but that's just fiction. If it were a security system, it would actually have an alarm connected to it. Drobac has repeatedly asked for a township policy on who has access to the surveillance footage and how the information is stored, to no avail. When she covered up the camera that points to her workstation, the board passed an ordinance making it a criminal offense.

They later tried to criminalize parts of her standard duties, such as providing public information to township residents. In May, the board adopted a bizarre and cumbersome information access policy that requires the okay of the town board chair for even the most routine request for information and allows the town board to prosecute the clerk for any violations.

Most recently, as we reported earlier this month, the town board voted to cut Drobac's pay by 40 percent, from just over \$2,300 a month to just \$1,404. The cut in pay came despite the fact that her duties remain the same.

The town board amusingly tried to suggest the pay cut was simply an effort to keep township expenses in line, but they made no similar reduction in the pay for the township treasurer or the town board members themselves, nor have they shown any interest in cutting costs in other areas. The cut to Drobac's pay came not long after the board approved a substantial increase in the pension for the township's firefighters.

The town board's actions are perfectly transparent. The board members don't respect the choice of their own voters and they're hoping that Drobac will finally throw her hands up and walk away, giving the board the chance to appoint someone of their choosing in her place. That's exactly what they did when township treasurer Pam Rodgers recently resigned.

The town board, unfortunately, is representing only one faction in this troubled township. In doing so, it is furthering the divisions in the community and discrediting the very notion of public service. Greenwood residents are being poorly served as a result.



Letters from Readers

Let's not continue to deny reality

In response to people who don't want to wear a mask to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, who want schools to open in the fall, and like to congregate closely in public places: Think of the numerous things we do as part of this society. Wearing clothes in public, driving with a driver's license and car insurance, carrying a fishing and hunting license, registering your car, other vehicles and boats, having child car seats, 'hands free' in-car phoning. As you know, the list is long. We all tire of these requirements but you do them to reap the privileges and safety they provide. Why then would you not want to reduce the spread of an epidemic that could kill you, your relatives and friends?

It is simply mind boggling that mask wearing threatens personal liberties. This is a public health issue, not one of civil rights! Perhaps you don't watch TV, read the papers, look at your phone? Have you seen the U.S. map related to this deadly disease? One TV expert has said that until someone near and dear to the naysayers dies, they will resist conforming and will continue to spread the illness. Something is definitely amiss. Even the President, our chief role model, has changed his tune about the spreading virus and wearing masks; it is now patriotic according to him and the virus is going to get worse before it gets better—although his motive seems less humanitarian than due to a desire for votes in the upcoming election.

If you don't believe there is a virus, if you want to get and spread the virus, if you want your relatives to die from it, then congregate closely in public places, don't wear protective masks, pretend times haven't changed, that this is a normal summer in Ely. Continue to deny global warming. Pretend the mine will not harm the environment here. Life is so much easier if facing reality is

impossible. You will however learn a lesson. That same TV expert said, the "virus will be the teacher."

Those millions of sick and dead learned that lesson. You can, too.

Cecilia Rolando Ely

Become informed and vote

Our democracy is stronger when more people vote - the higher the voter turnout the better. In the beginning, only white males were allowed to vote. Since then women and people of color have been allowed to participate in our democracy. This is progress. However, just because someone has the right to vote does not mean she or he has an opportunity to vote. Roadblocks that discourage voter turnout weaken our democracy. The coronavirus may become one of those roadblocks in the coming election, if we do not plan ahead. Fortunately, Steve Simon, Minnesota Secretary of State, has made voting by mail accessible for all Minnesota voters. Go to www.sos.state.mn.us. Now it is up to all of us to apply for our absentee ballot, become informed about the issues, and VOTE!

Caroline Owens Ely

Worldwide conspiracy? Yes, and the Earth is flat

You don't hear too much about the WALL because we are hearing more about individuals' rights being trampled on.

It seems more and more people are so consumed about the fact that wearing masks is an infringement of THEIR rights. When everyone was told not to smoke in bars and restaurants people thought that was an infringement of their right to kill themselves with a known cancer-causing substance. What they didn't realize was that secondhand smoke was a cause of cancer in others also. Science told them that.

Now here we are again. People are told by health care experts and scientists that wearing masks will help considerably in stopping the spread of the COVID virus and people refuse to believe it. It's funny. All this time the President wasn't getting behind the science but now that he's lagging in the polls he's advocating wearing masks.

But this is just another conspiracy cooked up by the Democrats right? It's a worldwide conspiracy right? Perhaps some of the commenters on this letter or last week's editorial still believe the earth is flat....

Brian LaFrenier Embarrass

Don't text and drive

I've seen an alarming number of people texting and driving over the past few weeks in my small Soudan neighborhood and while we are out on the road. I've seen children on four-wheelers and adults in cars and trucks, even driving heavy equipment.

The first ticket is more than \$120, which includes the fine plus court fees. The second and later tickets are more than \$300, which includes the fine plus court fees, but what's worse than a costly fine is the fact that you could take someone's life, including your own. Forty-five deaths and 204 life-changing injuries per year are attributed to distracted driving in the state, according to statistics from the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety.

Don't text and drive. It can wait. Is changing your music, checking that message, or making a phone call worth your life? Talk to your friends and family about the dangers of distracted driving today.

Stephanie Ukkola Soudan

Stepping up the communication in 2020

With all the struggles Americans have to face these days, I feel privileged to live in the great north woods of Minnesota. Linden Grove has a whopping population of 130. The nearest city, Cook, which provides for most of our necessities, hovers around 563. The view out my window mostly consists of trees and regular visitations from does



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

and their fawns, an occasional buck or black bear and many, many birds. As I've said before, it's our little piece of paradise.

And then, as is true with all things, there is a downside of rural living. I notice it most when I try to engage in social activities with friends face-

to-face. We aren't able to sit for hours over coffee "chewing the fat," as Grandpa used to say. You know, sharing stories about our pets, our kids and their kids, the coolest booth at the Farmers Market, or the latest coming out of Washington. They always include recent COVID statistics. And after five long months, the bad news seems only to be getting worse. All those visits must now happen by phone.

Recently, a new subject has soared to the top of my conversation list — one that has tampered with my very ability to

stay connected, even by phone, with friends and family. My little piece of heaven has been plagued by what many call a poor signal. It keeps cutting out or my texts fail to send. I've read that we in the Northland sorely lack reliable access to just about every form of communication technology that exists. Here's a glimpse into my world.

My story begins with a twist. The way I describe it is that "I entered the 20th century just in time for the 21st." I was one of those "back-to-the-landers" who, in the late '70s followed

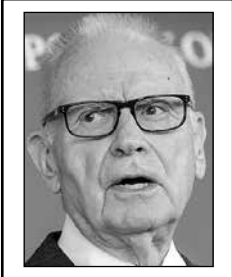
John Prine's advice and "moved to the country to build a little home." Our little home was nestled at the end of a road and didn't acquire electricity until 1997. But once having access, we quickly adjusted to the amenities — like running water, a toaster, the washing machine and eventually, the most difficult adjustment for me of all, satellite TV. In 2010, I decided to return to college to obtain a graduate degree. That's when I first discovered the world wide

See **TECH...** pg. 5

COMMENTARY

It's time to learn what our system's about from the inside

I've spent a long time in politics, and over those years one thing has remained constant: There are a lot more Americans who criticize government than there are who serve and do something about it.



LEE HAMILTON

sionate intensity, driven by deeply held beliefs or newfound conviction and a sense that it's time to weigh in. I agree—but then, I think it's always time to weigh in. That's what our system asks of us as citizens. And in particular, I'd argue that it asks us to do it from the inside, not just from

the outside.

We desperately need citizens to enter the public arena—people who are not afraid to plunge in and try to improve our democratic institutions. To be sure, critics and ordinary engaged citizens have an important role to play in shaping the public discourse. But if at some point in their lives they and others do not also see a duty to serve, our nation is in trouble.

I know the arguments you can find against it. You have to compromise your values. It's thankless. The system turns you into a cog. You make

yourself a target of scrutiny. You can't actually accomplish anything.

To all of this, I say: So? There is no question that our governing institutions need improving. But it's not going to happen unless people with the power to change them roll up their sleeves and set about doing so. And those people are the ones inside those institutions, who've learned how they work and who understand that actual change happens by dint of legislation, administration, and the nitty-gritty details of reform.

There are plenty of other things you can do, too: vote, spend time learning the issues you care about, make informed judgments about your elected representatives, get involved in organizations that advocate for the causes you value. But as writer Andy Smarick put it recently in *The Bulwark*, "Governing is formative. Knocking on doors as a candidate is not just about winning votes. Sitting through a long bill hearing is not just about

following the legislative process. Taking part in public debates is not just about self-expression. Making a tough governing decision is not just about resolving a policy matter. Through these activities, the public servant listens to fellow citizens, learns of competing priorities, and witnesses principles in conflict."

In our democracy, these and other skills are vital—not just for public officials, but for any citizen who wants to be involved in the community. Listening to our peers, understanding their hopes, appreciating the differences among them, grasping why accommodation and compromise are crucial to resolving those differences, and learning how to accomplish them are part and parcel of making a representative democracy work. People who do this feel in their bones how hard it is to govern in a large, diverse republic—and why we depend on large numbers of ordinary people to step forward, find their niche, and participate on town

boards, in state legislatures, and in Congress.

So, as I look about at the remarkable levels of public engagement in this intense political year, I find myself hoping that more comes out of it than simple public pressure. I hope that people who'd never considered it before decide it's time to step forward, serve in public office, and help their fellow citizens make this a better country

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

ELY EDA

Ely awarded up to \$125,000 for business relief program

IRRR grant designed to help local businesses recover from coronavirus shutdown

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – A new community relief financial program designed to help businesses here get back on their feet following a shutdown of commerce due to the coronavirus pandemic has tentatively been approved. The announcement was made Tuesday by the Ely Economic Development Authority.

As much as \$125,000 in grant money will be soon be coming to EEDA from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation's Taconite Area Community Relief Grant Program.

Businesses that are having issues with job recruitment and job retention, and others who are looking to expand their business and may be having trouble raising capital, are eligible to apply for a one-time forgivable loan of up to \$25,000.

The city's economic development leaders applied for as much as \$400,000, but applications far exceeded the \$2 million

IRRB had available.

"The reward will be smaller but the effectiveness will be what we are trying to portray," said Ely's economic advisor John Fedo.

With the EEDA's 25-percent match, Ely City Clerk Harold Langowski said the financial program will include options for forgivable loans for several local businesses.

"We have had two businesses call and ask about this program already," he said. "We will be able to offer a \$25,000 loan at one-percent interest, and if they can retain new employees for at least two years, this could be forgivable and they won't have to pay it back."

The money to local businesses should be available by the end of August, he added.

"While this is a loan program, if the businesses meet all the requirements, this would be a grant," he said.

Eligible businesses are required to hire at least two employees at a wage of at least \$15 per hour and retain them for at least two years.

Mayor Chuck Novak suggested a greater investment from the EEDA, perhaps as much as \$20,000 additional dollars to offer more help for local businesses through the program.

Langowski added, "Hopefully we will have more businesses ready to go by our next meeting."

High-speed fiber and the VA Clinic

In other business, EEDA officials were updated on the city's high-speed fiber installation program in the downtown corridor, designed to encourage more businesses to relocate here.

Fedo noted that the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic shutdown this year, "pulled back the curtain, so to speak, and revealed that we don't have very good infrastructure across the country for high-speed internet and fiber at the level necessary for businesses to operate."

Novak lamented that local officials have been talking about improved internet service avail-

ability for at least two decades.

"We hear a lot of talk at the federal and state level," he said. "If legislation does make it through, we don't qualify because we are labeled as an urban community. There is always another roadblock."

Langowski noted that progress is being made on the city's own high-fiber project that will be available to nearly 260 properties, both businesses and residential.

"We are currently upgrading our poles in town and bids are out for the installation of the fiber lines," he said.

"We are at a point where we want to start marketing, but the materials we need for installation are not in stock anywhere right now. We have a project ready to go. We have the finances but we can't source the materials," he said. "A lot of this has to do with COVID-19. Many companies are not manufacturing or shipping right now. I would love to tell you this would be done this fall, but I can't promise that."

EEDA President Heidi Omerza revealed, unofficially,

that the city has been awarded a new lease from the Veterans Administration and work will soon begin on a medical clinic expansion project at the Miner's Drive facility.

A formal meeting will be held in early August, according to Langowski, to review the expansion plan and finalize the design.

"At that point, we have until the end of next summer to be 100-percent completed," he said. "The clinic will remain at its current location until the day they can occupy the new portion."

With the 3,500 square-foot expansion, the clinic will double in size and new medical services will be available for the area's many veterans.

"This will be a state-of-the-art facility," Langowski said. "We will have a 10-year lease and the possibility of 10 more years to be added to the agreement."

TECH...Continued from page 4

web. I knew what it was but had no idea how far it could take me! (Now we had two satellite dishes on our roof!)

Backtracking a little, in 2004 I was hired for a job that required me to carry a cell phone. It was another moment of surrender as I'd never felt I needed one. But "what must be, must be" and I got a simple flip phone. It wasn't long before I had to admit this little device was certainly a huge convenience. My end-of-work-day routine suddenly included a quick call home just to "check in" with dad and the kids. Routinely there'd be a request. Of course, I could pick up some milk or toilet paper (or treats) on the way home.

So, back to the here and now... as some may recall, I've

been spending a lot of time at the log house where we raised our children (the place without electricity) slowly saving the cabin from the clutches of entropy. I needed a phone in case of an emergency and my AT&T cell service was almost useless. I decided to invest in a landline. After seven months, it too had proven unreliable. After countless hours with customer service agents (nothing but pure rigamarole) and four fruitless visits from repair techs, the landline was more a headache than a help. I decided to just disconnect. So now what?

I shared my tale of woe with my adult sons. As they were listening patiently and also sharing their frustrations with trying to stay in touch with me, they

were also assessing my needs, the costs, and alternate ways to get me some service. Out came the identical message. "Mom, if you would just get a smartphone you'd probably get more reliable phone service, plus internet, and pay a lot less money." My question was, "How?" That opened the door to the next level.

One son loaned me his TracFone and set me up with a pre-paid phone card. It included a "hotspot" that enabled me to use my laptop "almost anywhere." Good-bye, AT&T. Hello, Verizon. Voila! Now I could talk on my phone from inside my house. No more would I need to don my mukluks and parka to wander down the driveway at -40F seeking a signal to receive a call or send a text.

Now I could respond to emails promptly, research an issue, read an article, or listen to my son's latest recording project. I could even view photos of my grandson standing next to his father, now a whole head taller — a surprise after being separated for months due to the need for social distancing. Wow, has he grown. And so have I!

I must admit, the learning curve has been steep with many boulders to be moved, and a few landslides dodged. My sons are encouraging me and helping to back me out of those periodic "box canyons" I find myself in. I am progressing. According to John, my tech-stress level is noticeably less. "A big relief for me!" he said. No more Century Link or HughesNet, two compa-

nies so big that customer satisfaction is no longer guaranteed. And the kids were right. The costs are so much less now.

My new missive is "Old moms can learn new tricks." The real test will come when I navigate Verizon's "customer service" labyrinth. I'm not looking forward to that. But one thing I'm sure of, it's time to approach telecommunications and high-speed internet needs in the same way we did in the mid-1950's when rural communities in northern Minnesota didn't have electricity. Our government made sure we got it. It's time we fully support Border-to-Border Broadband. Now that's something we should all look forward to!

CUTS...Continued from page 3

action at an upcoming board meeting.

- Hired Nathan Anderson as a science teacher at North Woods.
- Hired Tia Jansen as a

social worker to be based at North Woods.

- Approved the resignations of paraprofessional Joshua Gaskell, preschool teaching assistant Danielle Johnson, and

paraprofessional and van driver Samantha Schultz, all from North Woods.

- Approved Joel Anderson as North Woods football head coach, and assistants Nathan

Anderson, Dan Reing, and Mark Fabish; Kandi Olson as North Woods volleyball head coach, with assistants Kaileen Redmond, Julie Holien, and Sue LaVigne; and Dan Squires as

crosscountry assistant for North Woods.

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Week of Aug. 3

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

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is August 18.

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

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

Breitung Town Board- Aug. 5 at 12 noon

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

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



Tower Farmers Market midsummer updates

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market is having a great year. There are several new vendors with interesting offerings and traffic has increased. Thanks to all the customers supporting local vendors, whether buying cucumbers, cutting boards, cookies or clothing. And thanks to everyone who is respecting the market's request to follow CDC guidelines for social distancing and the wearing of face masks. The new hand-sanitizing station is also seeing good use.

The EBT/SNAP program is up and running. \$10 on an EBT card will be doubled by a \$10 matching grant from Hunger Solutions Minnesota. \$20 can then be spent on food products. See Janna at the Fat Chicken Farm table to take advantage of this great deal.

Another addition to the market this year is the Power of Produce, or PoP, program, which provides funding for free produce for kids! Vendors who sell fruits and veggies will have a limited number of free PoP bags displayed on their table. The bags are filled with \$2 worth of produce and are free for any child up to age 12. PoP is all about getting kids to eat fresh, healthy food.

In light of the COVID-19 situation, there will be no BLT Night this year, but the annual fundraiser will be back next year. In the meantime, people who want to support the Tower Area Food Shelf can do so by buying a raffle ticket for the Sharing the Harvest basket. Tickets are \$1 and available every week at the market. The drawing for a



basket full of food and other goodies donated by vendors will be held at the end of the market season.

Finally, in some good news/bad news, Bear Creek Acres will not be back at the market this season. They have sold all their available meat! Orders for meat from the fall butchering can be placed on their website or

by calling/texting Mary Ann at 218-290-9634.

The market is open every Friday from 4-6 p.m. at the train and depot. Please come to support the gardeners, artisans, bakers and more who are part of your local community.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Thinking big: JPJ hired for bike trail project

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- The plans have changed. The township was improving the current paved trail to McKinley Park, but now they are looking at a bigger, more comprehensive project. Chairman Tim Tomsich said that after speaking with Jim Plummer of IRRR, the initial project, totaling \$304,000, was unlikely to be funded at this time. However, the plan to

complete the loop, linking the Breitung Trail, which ends soon after McKinley Park, to the Hoodoo Point/Mesabi Trail in Tower, would have a better chance of funding. Once completed, the six-plus mile paved loop would connect Tower and Soudan to both campgrounds, and also provide access to the Mesabi Trail.

The board unanimously passed a resolution to hire JPJ Engineering to develop the trail and find funding sources to connect Hoodoo Point Campground to McKinley Park Campground and redesign the trail exit to McKinley Park. Tomsich emphasized the safety issue driving the project. Currently, pedestrians and bicyclists have to share the road with vehicles on Cty. Rd. 697, a wooded and winding road without a shoulder, to travel between the two campgrounds.

Chairman Tim Tomsich will speak with representatives from the city of Tower and St. Louis County, who are landowners in the proposed trail areas, to gain their support. If either party were unreceptive to the project, the township would be forced to cancel the project and just make the improvements to its

existing trail.

Ambulance

The board accepted the Tower Area Ambulance Service agreement of \$15 per person per capita, or \$8,700 for the current year. "I think it's important. Tower takes the whole burden to run the service, the only obligation townships have is to subsidize the new ambulance," said Supervisor Chuck Tekautz who presented the new agreement to the board. The board paid the full amount up front to help pay for the new ambulance on the way. Tekautz said he hopes other townships will do the same. "It benefits all of us," he said.

McKinley Park

The township will not extend internet services at McKinley Park Campground to individual campsites. A seasonal camper had asked the town board to look into it, however, the board found that installation and an ongoing \$400 per month was too high a price to pay. Internet is available at the campground's store.

Chairman Tim Tomsich told the board the docks at McKinley Park are in poor shape and

will need to be replaced or repaired next year.

COVID-19

The township extended the closure of township buildings until further notice. The community center is open only for public meetings and social distancing should be maintained.

The township will receive \$14,500 in coronavirus relief from the state. The township will use the funds to purchase masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, extra cleaning, and a port-o-potty at the way-side rest.

The township also adopted a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

Other business

In other business, the board:

- Received a \$16,000 grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation to replace the fire department's complete set of air tanks which were set to expire this fall. A thank you will be sent.

- Heard from a citizen that there are private barricades on the side of Puncher Point Road that could be a safety hazard. Breitung Police will take a look. This is a recurring issue.

- Heard from Supervisor Greg Dostert

who said the recent baseball tournament in town had a good turnout. In the last game, home plate was damaged and a new one has been ordered.


- Supervisor Chuck Tekautz said blight "has really improved even since last year." Tekautz said only six places were on his list. One home has miscellaneous lumber in the yard, one has a fridge in the yard, one has an unowned lot, and three places have an excess of cars. Tekautz wasn't sure if the cars were licensed or unlicensed, which would determine their legality. The board also heard that many homes were in need of new paint or siding and asked homeowners to consider making those improvements.

- Adopted a community internet policy that would apply to persons using the in-house public computer.

- Accepted a \$250,000 grant from IRRR for water plant renovations.

- Voted to replace the current voting machine. Breitung Township has one of the two oldest machines in the county.

- Set a special meeting for Wednesday, Aug. 5 at noon. The next regular meeting is Aug. 25.



the TIMBERJAY

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BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls: 289
Citations/formal charges/arrests: 7
Monthly mileage: 2136 (Tahoe: 1,587 Explorer: 549)
Squads: Current end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 97,987. Current end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford

partment worked 5 extra TZD shifts.
Citations/formal charges/arrests:
3 Harassing telephone calls - Citation
1 DUI — Referred to County Attorney
1 Assault Misdemeanor- Citation
2 Speed Citation



June Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

Explorer is 28,774. Additional shifts: During the month of June the Breitung Police De-



GREENS!
GREENS
GREENS!

Fridays 4-6 PM

Immanuel to offer Drive-In Worship
TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower will be offering a Drive-In Worship service every other week using the Vermilion Country School parking lot. Services begin at 10 a.m., and all are welcome to join us! Those attending must stay in their vehicles for the duration of the service. This is a great way to come together to worship while remaining with your family pods and yet able to wave to a neighbor, crack your window to hear each other sing and to fully participate in worship in your own space. Dates are set for Aug. 2, 16, 30, and Sept. 13 and 27. If it is storming, the drive in will be canceled and worship will be recorded at the church and sent out electronically as usual.

Libraries

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

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely. Enter through side door.
WOMEN'S AA - Noon Fridays, Ledgerrock Community Church, Ely
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., upstairs at Woodland Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.

Tuesday Group schedule

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

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

Aug. 4 - Deb Schanilec - Introduction to Organizational Journaling for a Satisfying Retirement

Ely Sauna still out of steam

ELY - Reopening plans at the Ely Sauna have run out of steam.

"While we are aware this is a disappointment to many, we want to make sure we are taking the health and safety of all who love the sauna into consideration," the owners said in a Facebook post last weekend.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



waiting out the heat looking to return of cool

comfort zone sixty

Up in flames: Big fires in Ely's past

by DAVID KESS
Ely-Winton Historical Society

ELY - With the museum at Vermilion Community College still closed, because of COVID-19 public health protocols, this is another article that is not tied to a local history exhibit, but instead features the recent fires that destroyed two vintage structures that have stood in Ely for well over a hundred years, as well as historic fires from the past.

One of the earliest big fires ever in Ely was that of the Vail Hotel, a three and a half-story frame building, located where Tony's Service Station now stands. It was built in 1898 and later purchased by Patrick "Paddy" Vail, one of Ely's first mayors. Unlike other pioneer hotels in Ely, the Vail was considerably more elegant. It had many rooms, porches, balconies, electricity, flush toilets, a first class dining room, and its own power plant. Its loss was estimated to be \$25,000 in 1907 — just under \$750,000 in today's money.

Most of us were not around to remember that building or that fire. The same may also be true for the Pink Hall and its fire. It was built soon after 1900 by Finnish Socialists. It was a large frame building located at 120 W Chapman St. It was originally painted red. The red faded eventually to pink, hence the name Pink Hall. Clarence Ivonon, former editor of the *Mesabi Daily News* and a former Elyite, recalls that even the politics ranged from red to pink. There were tales of nasty altercations between the two groups but the socialists apparently prevailed. This group was an active one: meetings, dances, programs, many plays, Christmas parties, and dinners. Neighborhood children of a number of nationalities loved to sneak in on these events and they were seldom turned away.

During the Depression, interest waned and the building stood empty for many years. Local contractors Harvey Tjader and

WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY



One of the earliest big fires in Ely was when the Vail Hotel burned down in 1905.

photo courtesy of Ely-Winton Historical Society

Marvin Jonas later rented it for a shop building in the early 1950s. One night in the late '50s it caught fire. All machinery, tools, and materials stored there were lost. The building turned "red" again! The lots then stood empty for many years until a large new home was built many years later.

Quite a few of us living in Ely can remember Dec. 19, 1967, the day the Forest Hotel met its end by fire. It was an imposing brick and steel three-story building that opened in 1928 and had cost \$250,000. It was completely backed by local businessmen. There were 44 hotel rooms but only four of them had full bathrooms. Vertin's Cafe, a very popular Ely eating place, was located on the main floor. A rather grand lobby and the elegant Blue Room, as well as a barber shop, were also located there. The Vertin family operated the hotel for the last 18 years. Club rooms for the American Legion and a popular lounge were situated on the lower level.

The fire appeared to have started in the restaurant's kitchen. The structure was a total loss and pictures of it covered with ice resembled scenes from the movie *Dr. Zhivago*. The town was truly devastated. The Frandsen Bank building now occupies this corner.

When Frank Veranth, Sr., owned the building the upstairs was a popular dance hall known as the "Turf Hall" and the main floor became Veranth's Saloon until Prohibition came. In 1922 the upper floors were remodeled and became the Veranth Hotel. The Pajari family operated the hotel from 1948 until 1971. It remained as a hotel until 1980 when it was converted to student housing. A new log building, the Chocolate Moose, now stands on that corner.

Dr. Shipman's house, at 26 E White St., burned on March 11, 2019. Originally built as a summer home on an island in Shagawa Lake, it was purchased by Earl West and moved into town where it was remodeled as a home for the West family. Paul and Laurie Kess bought the house from the West estate and they lived there for a number of years. Paul removed the stucco exterior and the plaster on the interior exposing the unique original logwork. The logs were hand-hewn and squared with dog tooth dovetailed corners, a somewhat rare form of Finnish log building. The fire that destroyed it was electrical in nature.

Asa Camp was an early Ely mining man who originally owned the Lucky Boy mine in the 1880s. It is for him that Camp Street was named. His house, a large two-story one, was on Central Ave. and Chapman St. It was one of the very first houses in Ely and it met its end on Memorial Day weekend of this year. It

was of frame construction and was destroyed by the fire.

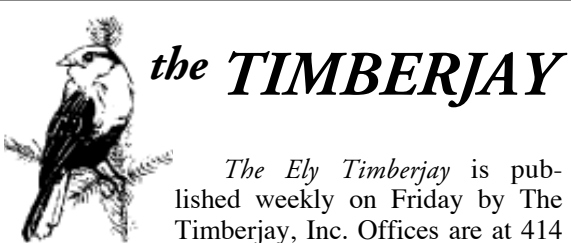
The Exchange Hotel once stood where in later years was the Ely Theater on Chapman St. It too was a large frame structure built in 1888, complete with a spacious balcony fronting on Chapman St. It was later doubled in size. John Glode had earlier been the manager of the Vail Hotel and he was given the same position of the Exchange Hotel in 1905. References to the fact that the hotel sustained a fire exist at the historical society but there is no further information available.

The same is also true of the city hall on West Chapman Street. From what we can tell, the fire was extensive but the building was saved. It is a sad but unfortunate fact that all of history is not always completely recorded.

Last month, another fire destroyed a home, this time at 131 E Conan St. One could easily say it was also historic because of its age (about 120 years old) and its log construction. Like the Shipman house, it was of squared hand-hewn logs with dovetailed corners. The builder was August Tuomala who with his wife Hannah raised a large family there, all of whom are now deceased.

New building codes, building materials, smoke detectors, and building inspections now prevent most big fires such as we have seen in the past. Empty lots and open spaces now are the only reminders of what once was there, but no doubt there still are ghosts of early pioneers hovering overhead.

The historical society office and museum, as well as the Vermilion Community College, remain closed to the public. Hopefully those restrictions will be eased soon. Inquiries may be made to the office by calling 218-827-2386. Books, Carl Gawboy prints, other pictures, and other merchandise may be ordered and sent by mail.



the TIMBERJAY
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OUR COMMUNITY

Veterans salute is Saturday at Memorial Field

ELY — All area veterans are invited to Veterans Memorial Field on Saturday, Aug. 1 for the annual Veterans Day salute, tentatively set for 2:30 p.m., just prior to Ely's first game in the 2020 8th District Senior Babe Ruth playoffs.

The annual event is a traditional staple of the summer ballpark schedule, and will go on this year despite a season that has been hastily assembled and rescheduled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ely Veterans Day ceremonies at the ballpark have been held since 2005 and this year's event is part of a full day of baseball on Saturday.

Ely is set to host its first playoff game at 2:30 p.m., and the ceremony will take place prior to the game.

All veterans will receive free admission as well as a free hot dog and beverage, courtesy of the Ely Baseball Association, and veterans will be invited to come on to the

field for the playing of the national anthem.

Senior Babe Ruth (Legion) playoff games are scheduled to begin at noon on Saturday. Additional games are scheduled for 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. that day. On Sunday, Aug. 2, games are scheduled for noon, 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, a Junior League Playoff is on the docket to begin at 5 p.m.

Wintergreen set to reopen next week

ELY Wintergreen Northern Wear will be opening their brick-and-

mortar store in downtown Ely on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Their hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday thru Saturday. They are asking visitors

to wear masks and use a complimentary sanitizer before touching clothing. In addition, the facility recently resumed production of their Wintergreen

clothing.

More information is available at <https://www.wintergreennorthernwear.com/>.

Three seats open on Ely School Board; candidacy filing closes Aug. 11

ELY — The Ely School District's School Board affidavit of candidacy period closes on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 5 p.m.

The general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3 for three members to be elected to the ISD 696 school board for four-year terms. Those seats are currently

occupied by James Pointer, Heidi Mann and Tom Omerza.

Affidavits for candidacy are available by calling 218-365-6166, ext. 1727, emailing mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us, or by downloading the form from the school website (www.ely.k12.mn.us), or the Secretary of State's

website (www.sos.stat.mn.us).

The filing fee for this office is \$2. To be eligible, candidates must be at least 21 years of age, must have been a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the election, and must have no affidavit on file for any other office in the same election.

Christmas comes early to Norwegian Bay

Decades-old tradition brings holiday cheer to resort staff and guests

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Like other Lake Vermilion resorts, last Saturday was “turn-over” day at the Life of Riley Resort on Norwegian Bay, when the previous week’s guests depart and a new set of guests arrive.

First-time guests at Life of Riley were thrown a bit off base by what they were hearing when they arrived, owner Rock Gillson said.

“Our new guests, and we have a lot of those this year, they walked in and asked ‘What’s going on – I hear Christmas music,’” he said.

Indeed they were, because for the past four decades, July 25, no matter what day it falls on, has been Christmas in July at Gillson’s resort.

The tradition got its roots years before Gillson bought the resort, when he was a young boy who would do anything to work at the Boy Scout camp near his home.

“I may have circumvented the truth to become a staff member when I was 13, 14 years old,” Gillson said. “My first job, I worked in a dining hall doing dishes. I was on staff, and that’s all

that mattered.”

Scouting and summer camps became dual passions for Gillson, and it was working at those camps that he learned about and participated in Christmas celebrations in July. It was typically a staff-only celebration, complete with a special meal and the exchange of gag gifts, done as a morale booster to help staff get through the “dog days” of summer.

It wasn’t long after Gillson took over Life of Riley that he implemented the practice with his staff, and over time the tradition has evolved to include guests

“We only do it for a day,” Gillson said. “We play Christmas music on the loudspeaker all day long. We put all the decorations up, there’s a Christmas tree in the gazebo, we bake Christmas cookies and fix hot was-sail, all for the guests.”

And a special pair of Christmas visitors also makes it a priority to attend.

“Santa comes – the kids are always excited about it,” Gillson said. “Right around evening time we get a fire going in the gazebo and Santa shows up.”

Santa, accompanied

the past two years by Mrs. Claus, arrived by boat this year. Gillson said with his suit and hat that the boat was a bit cooler than riding in on one of the resort’s fire trucks.

“They hand out candy canes and do the pictures with kids, and he does the whole sitting on the lap, are you being good thing.”

Still, the emphasis remains on boosting the morale of staff and acknowledging their work.

“We had yellow-fin tuna and a big banquet dinner for the staff,” Gillson said. “Late at night we get together and exchange gifts. It’s a private thing, and everybody has lots of laughs.”

Returning guests get in the Christmas spirit by bringing along Christmas apparel to wear for the day, Gillson said. They’ve learned that if they’re there on July 25, it’s Christmas.

Guests headed to breakfast Sunday could find scant evidence of Saturday’s holiday celebration. The tree and decorations were already down.

“It will be all cleaned up today and we’ll be done with it,” Gillson said. “It’s just another day at Life of Riley.”



This jolly couple took a break from activities at the North Pole to spread some Christmas cheer among the staff and guests at Life of Riley Resort on Saturday. Santa checked his list and certified all children present qualified as “nice” and not “naughty” for now. submitted photo

Thrift shop schedule threatened by volunteer shortage

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Last Thursday the Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop encountered a problem all volunteer-operated enterprises quietly fear.

“It is with regret we have to announce that WE WILL NOT BE OPEN on Thursday, July 23, due to the lack of volunteers to run the Thrift Shop,” the organization posted on its Facebook page.

Auxiliary president Kirsten Reichel said that they have a core group of about 20 volunteers, many of whom come on days the shop isn’t open to process donations and stock shelves.

“Those days are the busiest days, when most volunteers show up,” she said.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, some volunteers have opted to come in on their own to do their assigned sections, Reichel said, while others who are concerned about their own immune systems or that of their spouses have either changed their hours or opted out of volunteering right now.

The auxiliary also has to compete for volunteers’ time with busy summer schedules and other time commitments, Reichel said. As is common in small communities, the women who volunteer at the thrift shop also volunteer for other com-

munity organizations.

Closing the thrift shop during the height of tourist season is hard, Reichel said, because tourists and summer residents are some of their best customers and donors.

“I would wager to say that typically the tourist base spends more money and they donate more stuff, particularly higher-end stuff,” Reichel said.

The store re-opened last Friday, and volunteers are lined up for this week, but Reichel said that uncertainty about having workers to cover the hours the shop is scheduled to be open could force a change in schedule.

“We may have to face the reality that we can only be

open two days a week for the rest of the summer,” she said. In addition to being open on Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the shop is also open on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

“Right now we’re just limping,” Reichel said. “We’re still hoping to stick with the regular schedule. Maybe that was just an anomaly.”

At 57, Reichel is the auxiliary’s youngest volunteer, and she worries about the time when some of her older helpers will no longer be available to volunteer.

“The shop could be run with two people – one person who runs the till and one person who bags the goods and

helps people carry things out,” she said. “The biggest thing is training somebody to work the till. There would be a little bit of training involved for anyone who would want to be there.”

Reichel noted that the store normally cuts back on its hours between November and March.

Reichel said she received just one response to her Facebook post, and had hoped for more.

“I was a little bit disappointed,” she said.

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering at the thrift shop can contact Reichel at 218-666-5444.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NWFA gallery to host traveling exhibit in August

COOK- A traveling exhibit, “Hearts for Humanity”, will be on display in August at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

“Hearts for Humanity” is a visual fine art project that gives voice to the voiceless with images that recognize a problem and suggest a solution or hope. Art enthusiasts, humanitarians, and students of history and politics will appreciate the themes in this exhibit by northern Minnesota artists.

“The humanitarian problems we address (in “Hearts for Humanity”) belong to our families and neighbors, making all of the problems ours.

Our goal is to give hope to others who experience the problems and view the images,” said a release from the The Lyric Art Colony in Virginia, which planned and created the exhibit.

NWFA Gallery in Cook is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S River St., next to Dream-Weaver Spa and Salon. The gallery displays the diverse creations of over thirty Minnesota artists as well as the fundraiser sale and exhibit, “A Canvas and You”. See a video of “A Canvas and You” on the NWFA Facebook page, northwoodsfriendsofhearts.

The Hutter Bunch will be featured at Music in the Park

COOK- “Music in the Park” will welcome back The Hutter Bunch for a free concert at the gazebo from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

A favorite regional band, The Hutter Bunch is a diverse group of talented Iron Range musicians who love to make music and deliver a good show each and every performance.

Food will be available at the St. Paul’s (Alango) Lutheran Church burger and brat stand.

Patrons are asked to follow COVID-19 guidelines for social distancing and face coverings.

Upcoming performers in August include Robert Walker, the Beef-eater Brothers, and The Divas. The free series wraps up with The Blenders on Sept. 2.

Music In The Park is made possible by the Cook Chamber of Commerce, Cook VFW Post 1157 and Auxiliary, Cook Lions Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and freewill community donations. Musical acts frequently donate their time and talents as well.

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the **TIMBERJAY**

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RODEO...Continued from page 1

nizer Cimarron Pitzen announced that spectators would not be allowed at the popular event this year.

And Pitzen, who announced the decision on the rodeo's Facebook page the day before the event was set to begin, made it clear it wasn't his idea.

"Thanks to John Olson from the MN. Dept. of Health and Jason Pleggenkuhle from the Attorney General's office pushing their political agendas, The North Star Stampede will take place with no spectators," Pitzen wrote. "If people would like to come and protest against this ridiculous Government Over Reach, feel free to do so, I will not stand in the way of peoples 'Right to Assemble.'"

Stutzman, a professional rodeo clown who performs under the name "Stutzy," had a vested interest in the news. With events canceled across the country due to coronavirus precautions, this was going to be his first big rodeo in over four months.

"Cimarron called me Wednesday and wanted to make sure I wasn't driving up there," Stutzman said. "He told me to stay home and not come."

But as Stutzman saw the enormous response to Pitzen's post on Facebook, he sensed there would be a good crowd, and he talked with Pitzen to renegotiate his contract and hit the road. "I didn't want to miss being



Shawn "Stutzy" Stutzman, a professional rodeo clown from Nebraska, was at the North Star Stampede in Effie. photo by D. Colburn

a part of it," Stutzman said.

Apparently, neither did the other North Star Stampede fans, as they turned out by the thousands on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to enjoy some rodeo, support the Pitzens, and thumb their collective noses at the state officials who would have denied their attendance.

The first hint of protest at Friday night's opening was evident as people pulled into the parking lot—more than a dozen pickup trucks had dual flags sticking up from their beds, an American flag paired with a Donald Trump 2020 campaign flag. There were no signs of any health or

law enforcement officials trying to turn people away.

Because "spectators" weren't allowed, no one was in the ticket booths to collect the advertised \$15 adult entry fee, but as "protesters" entered the gates they pulled out their wallets and deposited generously, often exceeding the admission price, into containers marked for donations to livestock.

Only a handful had some kind of face covering, which as of last Saturday are required for outdoor gatherings where social distancing can't be maintained. And with the stands nearly filled to capacity, social distancing was the

last thing on anyone's mind.

Homemade posters with protest messages were scattered about the arena—about 30 white, green, and pink signs could be seen in the east arena stands. While many colorful and extreme suggestions had been posted on Facebook, most posters at the rodeo were in keeping with rodeo's family-friendly culture. Numerous signs sported some variation on the theme of "Rodeo Matters." More took aim at Gov. Tim Walz, something Stutzman picked up on quickly to get the crowd revved up.

Noting that the governor's name sounded like some kind of dance, Stutzman called out over the loudspeaker, "Let's call him Governor Hokey Pokey tonight — that's some kind of dance." The jab was met with an approving roar from the crowd.

"This is the best protest ever," Stutzman proclaimed. "I've never done a Minnesota protest so I'm highly excited."

At one point between events, Stutzman had everyone stand, wave their signs, and chant "Hell no, we won't go."

"This was a pretty new type of deal, so we just kind of ad libbed everything and threw in a bunch of stuff about the protest," Stutzman said on Tuesday. "We made sure especially with all the TV

there that people knew it was a protest."

Stutzman said it was "the best crowd at a rodeo I've had all year" while noting there hadn't been as many crowds to entertain this year because of the coronavirus.

"Everybody was there just to stand together and it turned out great," Stutzman said. "They were there to have fun, and it was packed all three days. It's about time people stood up and do what they want to do."

Slack time

In stark contrast to the main weekend sessions, Thursday afternoon's preliminary slack event, a term used to describe the overflow of contestants who do calf roping, barrel racing, and other events, was jammed with competitors but not spectators.

Social distancing came naturally to the few fans scattered about the stands, and there was little evidence of any protest.

However, participants welcomed the rare opportunity to compete and socialize with each other. Barrel riders Kennedy Wardas and Laura Julkowski were among them. Their comments suggest why the Effie rodeo enjoys such strong support, even in the face of the threat of COVID-19.

"It's the hometown of everybody around here," Wardas said. "It's one of the biggest open rodeos in

the area. You know everybody. It's a great rodeo community up here."

Julkowski, a five-time barrel racing champion at the North Star Stampede, was even more emphatic as she weighed in about the 65th annual event.

"If they didn't have the Effie rodeo, that means the world is ending and everybody else should be scared," she said.

Wardas noted that it's been a tough season due to all the canceled events.

"I've only gone to four or five runs," she said. "Usually I get one every weekend and some during the week, too. This is our summer; this is what we do, and it's put a damper on a lot of things for a lot of people."

Julkowski is a district director for regional barrel races, and she said scheduling races and ensuring all health and safety precautions are followed has been difficult. And with fewer races, the field of competitors at each event has been bigger.

"The races are super huge," she said. "They're three times, four times the size right now, because nobody is rodeoing. They're itching to get out so bad." But Julkowski noted a benefit to having more than 70 entries in barrel racing at Effie.

"The barrel racing payout is going to be insane," she said.

BWCAW...Continued from page 1

on rescuers, even in cases where the need for rescue is questionable.

Take the incident this past Saturday on Fourtown Lake, north of Ely, where members of the rescue squad evacuated a group of nine paddlers from the BWCAW who had abandoned their canoes on a weed-choked river while out on a day trip from their base camp on Fourtown.

The group, who hailed from St. Louis Park, included two dads, a mom, and six kids. They had decided to canoe what appeared on their map to be a convenient circle route of lakes and a connecting stream, known as the Moosecamp River, as a way to explore more of the wilderness.

But the day was hot and humid and the bugs were out in force. And after a day trip that had already included several portages, they discovered that the Moosecamp River, which was to have been the final leg of their journey, was choked with weeds and beaver dams. Low water levels didn't help matters and as the group grew increasingly frustrated, they made the decision to abandon their canoes and walk the rest of the way back to Fourtown.

Once on Fourtown, they managed to flag down passing canoeists,

who agreed to ferry them back to their campsite where most of their gear was stored. The next morning, they called their outfitter to report what had happened.

Their outfitter suggested they hitch a ride with passing canoeists to recover their watercraft. Instead, the group called for rescuers to come and get them.

Kristian Jankofsky, a volunteer with the county's rescue squad, said he got the page about 6:30 a.m. this past Saturday and headed toward Ely from his house in Angora. He had no idea that the incident would consume an entire day for the five rescuers who responded to the call.

By the time they arrived, they found the group relatively relaxed at their campsite, with no member of the party reporting any medical issues. But with their canoes now miles away, they wanted a lift out of the wilderness. The rescue squad volunteers obliged, although the situation was complicated by the fact that the members of the group had apparently left their life vests with their canoes. Because the rescue squad wasn't willing to violate state law by ferrying the group without life vests, it meant the squad had to

make multiple trips back and forth, leaving some volunteers behind while letting members of the group use the life vests the rescuers had brought for themselves.

The rescue squad, as its name suggests, only rescues people, not gear, which left it to the local outfitter to figure out how to recover all the gear as well as the group's canoes now abandoned miles up a weed-choked stream.

"It was one of the crazier things that's ever happened," said Steve Piragis, who had outfitted the group. The group had not indicated where they planned to go, or Piragis's staff would have advised them not to attempt to travel on the Moosecamp River, which is known to be "pretty thick" this time of year, particularly in a drier summer.

Jankofsky said he didn't want to dwell on the mistakes made by the group, but all involved agreed that abandoning their canoes was the biggest mistake the group could have made.

It's part of a trend that Jankofsky said has become apparent in recent years. With expanded cell coverage into many parts of the wilderness, more people with minimal experience are venturing into the Boundary Waters with the expectation that

they can be rescued if they run into trouble. That's not a good idea, notes Jankofsky. "People need to understand that help isn't necessarily just a phone call away." He noted that if the rescue squad had gotten another call last Saturday morning, they likely wouldn't have had anyone available to respond to the group on Fourtown—for hours, or possibly for days. "Folks should realize that wilderness areas are remote, and that people need to be prepared to have a successful trip," Jankofsky added.

While wilderness users are typically required to watch orientation videos as part of their permitting process, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted changes in that process and now allows wilderness users to print their own permit confirmations at home without necessarily watching any videos. While those videos probably can't instill common sense, they do provide a substantial amount of useful advice on how users can limit their impact as well as ways to avoid situations that might require rescue.

Jankofsky said he's been shocked to see how busy the Boundary Waters has been this summer. "I have never seen the portages so packed. And people are carrying a ton

of stuff in their canoes." More people, and more inexperienced people, carrying too much gear in many cases, has proven to be a problematic combination for the rescue squad.

And despite some recent rain, the region remains in varying levels of drought depending on location—and that's another factor that can impact travelers in the Boundary Waters. "It gets harder to navigate later in the season," said Adam Macht, assistant outfitting manager with Piragis Northwoods Company. "With the low water this year, it's even tougher than normal."

It's all part of the challenge of wilderness travel, notes Jankofsky. "It's a complicated thing. There are weather vari-

ables, unpredictable water levels. We've had a lot of people who are inexperienced going out in the wilderness this year." And that's translated into the busiest summer ever for the rescue squad.

About the rescue squad

The St. Louis County Rescue Squad is a volunteer organization operating under the auspices of the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, which provides highly-trained individuals who engage in wilderness search and rescue, first aid and public safety, and boat and water rescues. They operate almost entirely through donations from the public.

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Ely-Winton Historical Society

Reopening

Tuesday, August 11

The Ely-Winton Historical Society will reopen for tours beginning on Tuesday, August 11. Masks must be worn and social distancing must be followed. A maximum of four people will be allowed into the museum at one time unless it is a family group.

Museum Hours:
Tuesday through Friday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.
Call 218-365-3226 for more information.
1900 E Camp St., Ely
(at Vermilion Community College)

Sincerely yours,
The Ely-Winton Historical Society Board of Directors

Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union
• 78th Annual Meeting •

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

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JASON...Continued from page 1

On Aug. 25, 1990, 17-year old Jason was the quarterback on the Golden Eagles football team coached by his father, Tom Goulet. During a scrimmage against a neighboring school, Jason took a hit, immediately hit the ground, and realized he couldn't feel his legs. His father was on the field in an instant. Jason was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Duluth. His father, who was also the Tower-Soudan High School principal, would not coach the football team again.

Jason was a student athlete, playing football, basketball, and baseball, and excelling in each. His life since he was a young child had revolved around sports.

"I felt like it was etched in my DNA," he said.

Jason was told that the injury, broken vertebrae in his neck, meant he would never walk. But not one to take defeat easily, Jason took this as a challenge, and by Christmas he was taking his first steps.

The community also stepped up with fundraisers and long-term support for Jason and his family.

By the time his high school graduation came around, he walked slowly and steadily from one end of the stage to the other to collect his diploma, with the entire audience holding their breath. His father was on stage with a smile as wide "as if he had just won the state football championship," Jason said.

Jason's journey then led him to New Jersey, where he did intensive rehabilitation work, and eventually out to California, first to San

The Easter Seals Disability Film Challenge

This is the sixth year that Easter Seals has sponsored this documentary challenge, focusing on people with disabilities, their challenges, and their victories. Films can only be five minutes long. Awards are given in three categories this year, including one for the film that gets the most exposure (views). You can view the film online at YouTube.com – search for Jason Goulet Easter Seals – or on Facebook by searching for Jason Goulet. Jason hopes people can share the video widely on social media between now and Aug. 2, when judging begins. You can find out more about the video challenge at www.disabilityfilmchallenge.com.



Jason Goulet and father, Tom, are shown in a video from the Easter Seals Disability Film Challenge. submitted photo

Diego, and then to Los Angeles.

"I live in North Hollywood," he said, "right by Universal Studios."

Jason has dreamed about working in the entertainment business since he moved to California over 25 years ago.

"You never see people with disabilities on television or in films," he said. "My friends urged me to take acting classes."

But Jason liked the idea of working behind the scenes and has worked to get more representation of people with disabilities both on screen and on the production end.

"But the opportunities are few and far between," he said.

He does keep a close eye on the industry, works for an entertainment law firm, and has worked as a

writer, actor, and producer on short films.

With a friend, Pat Battistini, who has a host of credits both in front of and behind the camera, he has collaborated on projects including an entry in last year's Easter Seals challenge, which earned top-ten honors.

This year, with stay-at-home orders, the film challenge was, well, more of a technical challenge.

"My friend Pat said let's do your story," Jason said. "I told him that it was 30 years ago."

But after talking it over, Jason decided to put a film together focusing in the relationship between him and his father, and the accident that changed both of their lives in an instant.

"This year we had to do everything remotely," he said. "I never even met the film editor."

Jason, with the help of friends, wrote the script, and interviewed himself. His parents, who now live in Wyoming, Minn., filmed themselves using their phones, answering questions raised by Jason.

The film raised some old fears. Jason's mother, Kathy, has never seen the video of Jason's last run on the field, filmed on grainy, 30-year-old home video equipment. That clip was going to be part of the film.

"To this day, my mom has not seen the accident," he said.

"The editor did a good job," Jason said. "Technology is just crazy. We made the film without being in one place. We used Zoom meetings to discuss how to put it all together. It took five days."

Jason said he hopes his film, along with the 90 others entered in the film challenge this year, will help society understand the challenges faced by those with disabilities, and will also provide more opportunities for talented disabled people to get work in the television and film industries.

"One out of five people have a disability," he said, "you just don't always see it."

Jason would like to see more disabled characters being played by actors with disabilities.

"We are seeing a few

more," he said. "Some of my friends have made television appearances."

Life in the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy for those with disabilities.

"For almost 30 years, my life has been therapy, therapy, therapy," he said. "But right now, the risk it too high and all my therapy has been canceled."

The pandemic also closed down gyms and the pool at his apartment complex, leaving Jason to do the best he can at home.

"A therapist can really push you and help you stretch," he said. "But everyone is trying to be safe."

Life in LA has also become a bit boring. Jason said he is jealous of his parents, who can leave their house and go for a walk without having to worry about seeing other people. For him, the streets are still crowded, and not a safe place to be.

"Nothing is open," he said, "and our restaurants are all closed."

Southern California is now the worst hot spot for coronavirus in the country, which means Jason has to be extra careful. He works mostly from home, going into his office twice a week in the evenings when the office is empty, to take care of the work he can't do from home. But his job has also slowed down.

"There is no entertainment going on," he said. "Projects have all been pushed back."

COVID-19 has also meant no family visits or vacation trips.

"This is usually my

favorite time of year," he said, "I usually head back to Minnesota to visit family."

One of his sisters lives near his parents, and the other is near Tower, in Virginia. But Jason said while he has been to Virginia quite often, he hadn't made it back to Tower in quite a few years.

Summer is also a time when Jason likes to pack up his car and go on an adventure. Last year he visited the Grand Canyon.

"It reminds me how thankful I am that I can travel on my own," he said, "but also how challenging it is to be a person with a disability."

His trip two years ago to San Francisco was not nearly as fun.

"It was just miserable," he said. "The hills... I couldn't even push my wheelchair around."

The trips help him realize how much work still needs to be done to make the world more accessible to those with disabilities.

The ADA (American Disabilities Act) was passed in 1990, the same year he was injured.

"We are still fighting to be included 30 years later," he said.

"My local post office is not accessible," he said. "I can't get into the building. I have to go ring a bell in the back to get help."

The film has also been a way to reconnect with old high school friends, with many of his Tower-Soudan classmates reaching out to him this week.

"I've had nothing but positive feedback about the video," he said, "and I'm thinking about how to expand it into a movie."

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THE CORONAVIRUS

Even a mild case of COVID-19 can have long-term effects

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER/SOUDAN - Amy Heglin, of Soudan, is finding what many others across the country now know: Even a supposedly mild case of COVID-19 can lead to longer-lasting health problems.

Heglin tested positive for the virus on May 23 and tested negative on June 9. She said the worst of her symptoms had disappeared by June 5, but she is still not back to normal.

"I am still having fatigue and heart palpitations," she said.

The fatigue has meant that she needs to rest the day before working at her part-time job, and she usually feels tired the day after.

On a Facebook group for those who have "recovered" from the virus, Heglin said she is finding thousands of others dealing with similar and even more serious health complications.

"Everything is still so unknown," she said. "I am still wearing a mask and still being crazy vigilant about it."

Heglin wore a mask all spring, even before her diagnosis, because she was worried about infecting other family members. None of her coworkers at the two main places she works tested positive for the virus after her diagnosis, a sign that wearing a mask does make a difference.

"It is such a simple thing to do that might save a life," she said.

Tower begins to mask up

"A lot more people are wearing masks now than they were last week," said Jim "Chimpy" Tuominen, a manager at Zup's Grocery in Tower.

A quick survey at the store on Monday morning netted not a single non-



Jacqui Zupancich, at Sulu's, with mask and behind protective screen. photo by J. Summit

mask wearer.

Tuominen was really happy to see the shift, since he has asthma.

"I don't want to get sick," he said, "I know how hard it is when you can't breathe."

Tuominen said he was even seeing customers who had previously scoffed at the idea now wearing a mask inside the store.

"Yes, I know it is uncomfortable at times," he said. "But I am so glad to see it."

Tuominen himself was wearing a face mask covering his mouth and nose, along with a face shield to protect his eyes, and disposable gloves on both hands.

Zup's is still offering carryout service on Wednesdays where customers phone in their order for pickup in the parking lot, as well as at-home delivery, with help from the Breitung Police. Demand for both services is still strong, Tuominen said.

Most Tower retailers had signs posted on their entrances, as required by the new state mandate,

reminding customers that masks were required indoors.

Frandsen Bank, which had opened its lobby to customers not wearing masks, has again shifted to drive-through service only, and other visits by appointment.

The Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union has reopened its lobby to mask-wearing customers but reserves the right to ask customers to remove their masks to be identified. Anyone entering the lobby is asked to use hand sanitizer first and must read a health questionnaire to make sure they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms. Tellers said the vast majority of their customers are still opting to do their business via the drive-through, ATM, or online.

Sulu's, which had been providing window-only service, is now offering ordering indoors, but customers must be wearing a mask, unless eating. The patio offers an outdoors option for their customers, but reduced seating is available indoors.

Jacqui Zupancich,

the barista on Monday morning, said their customers are doing a good job of masking up.

"We are keeping each other safe," she said.

Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said while masking up when shopping is relatively easy, he is worried about possible exposure at area bars, where customers can be unmasked while drinking.

Bars present another issue altogether. Servers at bars need to be able to safely ID customers, comparing their face to their ID. D'Erick's Tower Liquors, on Monday, had a customer attempt to purchase alcohol in the off-sale shop, and then the customer refused to lower his mask to allow the bartender, Kim Anderson, to check his ID, as is the shop's policy.

The customer then challenged Anderson, who was not wearing a mask, saying that she was breaking the new law.

Anderson refused to sell alcohol, and the customer left the shop and called the police to report noncompliance with the new mask mandate.

Anderson noted she cannot wear a mask at all times because of an underlying health condition, though she tries to wear one as much as possible.

In the off-sale shop, she is working behind a plexiglass shield, so she had her mask hanging.

The new mask mandate specifically gives an exemption to those with underlying conditions that prevent safe mask wearing. It also does not give people the authority to question others.

Instead of listing their daily specials, Good Ol' Days has a sign outdoors with the rules that need to be followed.

"We are operating at 50-percent capacity," it reads. "If there is not a

chair already at a table or the bar, we are full." The sign reminds customers that there is no standing or congregating allowed at the bar. "We hear you," the sign reads. "We don't like it either."

On Monday, right before lunchtime, customers were doing a good job of complying. Two tables of Boy Scouts, most either wearing masks or with masks around their necks, were waiting for their food. Bar seats and tables were spaced out to limit capacity.



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THE CORONAVIRUS

City of Ely: Police Department can't afford to enforce face mask rules

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - A patron wearing a face mask entered the Ely Post Office Thursday morning made a remark to a departing customer, also donning a protective face mask, "Thank you for protecting me."

The exiting Post Office visitor responded that wearing a face mask would be the law all over the state starting Saturday.

A retirement-age woman on her way into the facility said she heard about Gov. Tim Walz's new mask mandate, announced last week, and indicated that since March she had been wearing a protective face covering to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"We'll see how that new law goes over here in Ely," she added.

Entering a local gas station/convenience store that same day, a visitor observed a bicycle rider parking his two-wheeler to enter the store. Without prompting, the 20-something bearded man looked at the masked patron, and said, "I'm doing my laundry and my face mask. I should get another one."

Reaction to the state face mask mandate in the Ely area has been mixed. While many residents and visitors have seemed to support the accept-



An Ely rummage sale shopper adjusts her face mask while looking for bargains on Boundary Street last Saturday.
photo by K. Vandervort

ed community-wide behavior aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19, a decidedly anti-mask population exists here.

Browsing around Facebook, a group of "patriotic" people continues to speak out against any public health protocols put in place to help slow the spread of the pandemic.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak noted that Gov. Walz had considered a regional approach in issuing protective face-mask guidelines.

"When I look at what's going on up here compared to down in the Twin Cities and the

metro area, most people up here respect that we need to either mask up or social distance, and I don't think we get any recognition for that," he said.

"I don't know what the motive is to do the full (mask) mandate across the whole state," Novak said. "I've talked to other mayors in greater Minnesota and they are just blown away by this, and some are downright mad."

As far as enforcement of the mask mandate in Ely, Novak simply stated, "The Ely Police Department will not be the enforcement agency in the city of Ely if I have anything to say about it."

Novak said in discussions with Ely Police Chief Chad Houde they have determined the city can't afford to enforce the new public health law.

"We are one active officer short right now and they are pretty busy as it is," he said.

The mayor confirmed that Ely Police officers will not be distributing face masks either. "Who's going to pay for them?" he asked. When reminded that the city of Ely just received approximately \$250,000 in federal CARES Act funding to help pay for COVID-19 expenses, Novak added, "Well, we're going to buy masks, but they may not arrive in any reasonable amount of time."

Novak added, "We're in a difficult situation because we are one of the lowest levels of government. If anything is going to happen here for enforcement, it going to have to come from outside of the city, whether the (St. Louis County) Sheriff or (Minnesota) State Patrol."

He added that reaction to the state mask mandate runs the gamut in Ely.

"There are those who take it very seriously and are scared silly, and those on the other end who don't care. I think the vast majority of people here are right in the middle," he said.

Random observations of shoppers in Ely's downtown corridor on Saturday, the first day of the mandate, revealed a surprising number of people, both visitors and residents, who were donning face masks on the street.

Frandsen Bank and Trust has issued a notice that their lobby in Ely is now closed because of the state mask mandate. Customers are asked to call the business for assistance. Another Ely bank, Wells Fargo, abruptly closed in March and just recently reopened their lobby.

Over at the Dorothy Molter Museum, Executive Director Jess Edberg said that facility chose the most conservative interpretation of the guidelines,

such as requiring face masks for staff and visitors.

"With our inability to hire additional seasonal staff, it was imperative that we did everything we could to keep our staff and visitors as healthy as possible while still being able to reopen," she said.

"The majority of our visitors have been very cooperative. As with any change in operations, there have been a few that have expressed frustration directly to staff," Edberg said. "It's easy to be frustrated or angry about the situation we are all in, but, the reality of it is we will be in this situation for the foreseeable future."

Peter Schamber, manager of Ely's Historic State Theater, said most everyone has been very receptive to the face mask protocols.

"We have only had one or two people who didn't bring a mask, and we supplied them with a disposable one," he said.

"Everyone seems to understand that they need to wear them while moving around, but that it is okay to remove it to eat and drink. The mandate doesn't seem to have impacted our attendance. I have been pleased with the support of our patrons as we adopt this new policy," Schamber said.

Cook residents generally in compliance with new face mask mandate

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK - The dining room of the Montana Café in Cook felt light and airy on Tuesday, due in part to recent remodeling, but also because seating has been reduced to just six tables to accommodate social distancing guidelines.

Most of the tables

were filled at lunchtime, and all the customers had masks, some being worn while waiting on meals, others off to drink and eat.

A middle-aged man without a mask walked in, passed by a small table with hand sanitizer, and sat down at the lone empty table. He looked around briefly, then got up and left. He returned almost

immediately, now wearing a mask.

Across the street at the laundromat, a woman sorted clothes while a man sat waiting - both wore masks.

Up and down River St., people getting out of cars reached for their masks, while others coming out of stores appeared relieved to shed theirs. Wherever

one looked, the citizens of Cook were complying with Gov. Walz's mask order.

Few, however, wanted to talk about it, be they store owners or customers. When asked for an interview, they politely declined. A generally expressed sentiment ran along the lines of, "It is what it is." Some expressed reservations about getting

involved in the politics of it all.

However, at the Comet Theater Mercantile and Exchange, owner Carol Carlson said it's now just part of doing business.

"It's what we pay for staying open," she said. "It's not an issue for me. I know it is for some people."

Carlson said she

believes that some of the controversy over the mask mandate stems from a sense of entitlement, and that some have lost sight of a sense of civic duty. She suggested that some sort of community service requirement for young adults could help to change that.

"I think public service is a good thing,"

MASKS...Continued from page 1

better way to demonstrate our Minnesotan values than by wearing a mask," Walz said in his July 22 announcement. "By combating the spread of COVID-19, masking will help protect our neighbors, and get us on track to return to the activities we love. This is the least intrusive, the best cost-effective measure, and probably could be the most impactful of anything we could do."

More than a dozen Minnesota cities, including Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Rochester had already imposed local mandates requiring face coverings in all or some indoor businesses and venues. Major retailers including Walmart, Target, Costco, Best Buy, Menards, Home Depot, and McDonald's were requiring customers to

wear face coverings or had announced plans to do so by Aug. 1. Walz's order made those requirements uniform and applicable statewide.

During a Monday press conference, state health commissioner Jan Malcolm reinforced the urgency of implementing a mask mandate to control the spread of the coronavirus.

"I think it's important to note that we added over 2,300 cases from Friday to Sunday alone," she said. "Saturday's case count of 875 was the highest reported since the beginning of the pandemic."

Malcolm noted that a recent Fox News poll released last week indicated 85 percent of Minnesotans have a favorable view of people who wear face masks, while only nine percent hold

unfavorable views.

While stopping short of a mandate, both the Centers for Disease Control and President Donald Trump had previously urged all Americans to wear masks.

Requirements

Anyone over the age of five years is required to wear a mask covering their mouth and nose in any indoor business or public indoor space, including when waiting outdoors to enter an indoor business or public indoor space. Indoor space includes buses, taxis, and other forms of public transportation.

There are some exceptions to the mandate, including:

- People are not required to wear masks while eating or drinking.

- Children under age 2 should not wear masks. Those ages 2 through 5 are

encouraged to wear masks if they can do so without frequently touching or removing the mask.

- People with physical or mental health conditions for whom wearing a mask is not reasonable are exempt.

- Workers are not required to wear face masks if it creates a safety hazard on-the-job.

Businesses are required to comply with the mask mandate by, among other things, posting signs regarding face mask requirements, informing employees, updating COVID-19 preparedness plans, and taking "reasonable efforts" to enforce the requirement.

DEED Commissioner Steve Grove said the idea is not for businesses to get confrontational with customers. He said if a customer says they are not wearing a mask for health reasons, that's where the discussion should end.

Individuals who violate the order are subject to a misdemeanor citation and a \$100 fine. Businesses are subject to fines from \$1,000 to \$25,000, possible jail time, and regulatory enforcement if they fail to comply.





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PUBLIC RESPONSE

Ely's Harvest Moon Festival canceled for 2020

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Decision comes as COVID-19 numbers increase in Minnesota

ELY – As anticipated, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors here officially canceled the 2020 Harvest Moon Festival. The “no-go” decision was made Monday morning during a special meeting.

“Board members shared existing concerns and restrictions that made moving forward with the event impossible,” said Executive Director Eva Sebesta.

“Current guidelines for events limit gathering size to 250 people. With the event drawing approximately 5,000 people per day in previous years, there is no feasible way to restrict attendee numbers within Whiteside Park.”

When the Blueberry/Art Festival was canceled back in April, Chamber Event Director Ellen Cashman pivoted to

create the virtual Blueberry/Art Festival as well as “Operation Blueberry.” The chamber is moving forward with similar events for the Harvest Moon.

Artists, crafters, and makers currently registered for the Harvest Moon Festival will have the option to participate in the virtual festival, which will run from Sept. 10-30. The chamber has notified vendors of

the cancellation and is working with them to create the virtual festival, according to Sebesta.

A second component of the revamped fall festival, “Business Harvest Days,” will run from Sept. 10-15.

“Similar to ‘Operation Blueberry,’ businesses can create their own sales, activities, or promotions,” Sebesta said.

The Chamber will organize

the business event, create a map and participant list, and share posts to social media.

“Businesses may choose to partner with other businesses to create a unique fall get-away package, host a music event, offer themed beverages or menu items, sales or discounts, or host a nonprofit at their location,” she

See **FESTIVAL...**pg. 2B



Above: Opera performers in “The Medium” participate in a seance that purportedly makes contact with the deceased children of distraught parents.

Left: Mezzo soprano Barbara Dever performs as Madame Flora, who claims to be a medium.

Below: Two other performers play their parts as Monica and Toby

Bottom: Conductor Gavriel Heine and members of the orchestra fine tune their pieces two days ahead of showtime.

photos by K. Vandervort

MINING

High Court: Underground seepage from Minntac subject to regulation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Polluted seepage from the Minntac tailings basin, north of Virginia, may now need to be regulated by the state’s Pollution Control Agency, or MPCA. The Minnesota Supreme Court made that possibility far more likely following an order issued late last week.

The six-page ruling, signed by Associate Justice G. Barry Anderson, came in response to multiple appeals of a Court of Appeals decision issued earlier this year, which had invalidated a water discharge permit issued by the MPCA to US Steel. In a mixed ruling that touched on several issues, the appellate court had found that pollution from the Minntac tailings basin that seeps underneath the basin’s dam and then enters surface waters, was not subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act, since the water seeps up from the ground.

But the U.S. Supreme Court, in April, found that pollution discharges into groundwater may be subject to the Clean Water Act if those discharges are the “functional equivalent” of a direct discharge to surface water.

The Minnesota Supreme Court, citing the April case, known as *County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*, determined that the state’s Court of Appeals had erred when it rejected the claim of environmental groups that the polluted groundwater emanating from the tailings basin was not subject to regulation. The high court also rejected a request by the MPCA for a voluntary remand, which would have allowed the agency to rewrite its permit to account for the Maui decision. While the issue will likely go back to the MPCA eventually, Justice Anderson said the case will remain in the hands of the state’s Supreme Court until all the outstanding issues are resolved.

Environmental litigants in the case had opposed a voluntary remand and Paula Maccabee, attorney for the group Water Legacy, said she was pleased that the court has officially recognized in a decision that the Maui case is controlling.

“Maui is having an immediate effect on Minnesota and

See **RULING...**pg. 2B

Ely's State Theater hosts “The Medium”

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY –The Northern Lights Music Festival opened its 17th season this year with many challenges and obstacles. Organizers were faced with how to provide the popular events, including concerts and operas, across northern Minnesota while adhering to the public health protocols surrounding the coronavirus.

Coming off a successful outdoor event last weekend at the Minnesota Discovery Center amphitheater, where Puccini’s “Tosca” was performed before a properly socially-distanced audience, and plexiglass screens and face masks were in use by everyone, the trick here was to present a normal indoor opera in not so normal times.

“As far as we can determine, we are the first theater in the entire country to have a live opera during the COVID-19 period,” said David Wigdahl, president of the Ely State Theater board of directors. “This same opera company just performed in an outdoor arena, thus we are hosting the first indoor performances.”

He added, “This came about as (NLMF) was scheduled to perform at Mesabi East High School in

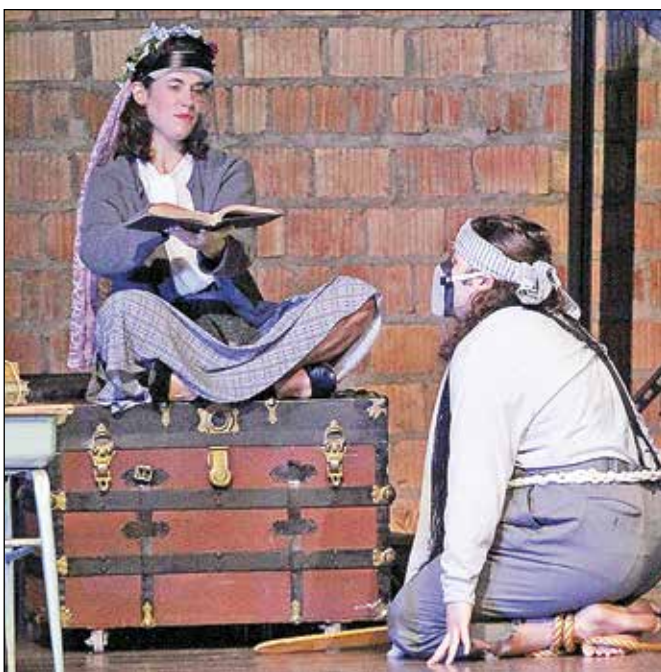
Aurora, but as the building was not open this summer, they came to the State Theater looking for a performance venue. We are happy to host as it fulfills part of our mission to support the performing arts and be a community entertainment hub for the area.”

The opera company moved into the State Theater last Monday and rehearsed all week. Just six actors and a 12-piece orchestra made up the small company because of space constraints on and in front of the stage.

A visitor to the one of the final rehearsals last Friday got a first-hand look at the challenges the company faced in preparing for the Sunday afternoon and Monday night performances.

Orchestra members not required to use their mouth to play their instruments donned light blue face masks. The area in front of the stage allowed for proper social distancing.

Gavriel Heine, resident conductor at the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia, as well as music director of Northern Light Festival Opera here in Minnesota, seemed right at home giving an orchestra member an elbow bump (rather than a handshake or high five) as he took his conducting station.



EDUCATION

In the classroom, at home, or both?

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Ely school officials plan for a unique school year

ELY — In anticipation of the release of new state guidelines concerning how K-12 education will be delivered here this fall, the ISD 696 administration team updated school board members during a study session Monday night.

Following Minnesota Department of Education directives, school districts across the state are tasked with devising a three-pronged plan of distance learning, returning to in-school learning, or a combination of the two, as public health caution over the coronavirus ramps up ahead of the start of the new school year.

At Ely Public Schools, Superintendent Erik Erie, K-5 Principal Anne Oelke, and 6-16 Principal Megan Anderson are spending the summer studying the various scenarios, taking into account the experiences of the abrupt closing of school last March when COVID-19 shut down the entire community. They hope to formulate a workable plan for the 2020-2021 school year once state guidelines are revealed.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and MDE officials were scheduled to release the education guidelines this week.

Erie said school administrators have been meeting with faculty teams and support and facilities staff to solicit input and ideas. "We surveyed families about distance learning and received feedback on how well things went last spring and how things didn't go so well," he said. "We know there were problems with distance learning. Many of our families had difficulty with that." That feedback is being incorporated into the planning for the new school year.

A survey conducted just last week asked families for their opinions on possible learning scenarios heading into the new school year, transportation issues, child care needs, and

their comfort level with various educational changes.

"Clearly, we don't have all the information to tell (families) exactly what our plans are, but we are starting to collect some good data. We are getting some good feedback," Erie said.

He admitted, "Many families are not comfortable with sending their students back to school this fall, but it is less than I expected. That was nice to see, that they are putting some faith in our school."

More personal protective equipment has been ordered, including face masks and face shields, along with more cleaning supplies. Erie said a local community group has offered to help provide face masks for students.

"We are posting for additional temporary custodial positions and for an extra nurse," he said. "If we go with a hybrid model (both in-school and at-home learning scenarios), we will need extra cleaning in the two buildings. We need nurses in both buildings for temperature checks and other health and safety protocols. We want to make sure we are doing everything and show the community that if families decide to send their students here to school, we are taking every precaution possible to make sure the students are safe."

All hiring recommendations would be approved by the school board.

Erie described some changes already implemented to the school buildings and classrooms. "We are having to limit the furniture in our classrooms, remove rugs and other items, and structure our class for social distancing," he said.

Consultants from The Institute for Environmental Assessment are set to visit the ISD 696 campus this week and meet with various school leaders to continue to make changes

across the campus that pertain to COVID-19 protocols.

Erie noted that new state school transportation guidelines released last week will allow for more student passenger capacity on school buses. Restrictions put in place by the Department of Health were deemed too restrictive by the Department of Education.

"We are now looking at a 50-percent capacity, so that is moving us from 13 students on a 77-passenger bus to about 36 passengers," he said. "That is going to make a big difference for us."

Computer connectivity and access to the Internet for many Ely-area families during the distance learning protocol last spring was one of the most limiting educational factors expressed by many students and teachers.

As reported in the July 17 issue of the *Timberjay*, a state-wide MDE survey indicated that Ely-area parents reported nearly three times as much difficulty with internet access, 21.9 percent, versus just 7.5 percent statewide.

"(Internet) connectivity was a huge issue for many of our parents," Oelke said.

Erie added, "When I read that only seven and a half percent of people had internet problems, I asked, 'Where do they live?'"

Education delivery plans continue to evolve as more information is received. More family and faculty surveys will be conducted once the 2020-2021 school year plan is established. The school year is set to begin on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

1:1 Initiative

School board members reviewed and acted on a proposal to implement a district-wide program to distribute and support individual digital learning devices for all students. Dubbed the 1:1 Initiative,

the program is part of ISD 696's 21st Century Learning programming and allows for technology tools to be implemented into the classroom to provide updated learning opportunities and engagement for all students, whether or not distance learning protocols are in place.

As many as 130 such devices were distributed to Ely students last spring during the mandated distance learning period to address the district's inequalities in education delivery, Erie said.

The 1:1 Initiative for the 2020-2021 school year calls for the distribution, teacher training and technical support of 540 Chromebook computers, at a cost of \$350 each, for students in grades 2-12, as well as necessary network infrastructure improvements to integrate the new technology.

"Equity issues with access to technology have created a class of 'haves' and 'have nots' for our students," Erie said. "We have a responsibility to address these issues so our students are on a level playing field when it comes to learning opportunities."

He added that the opportunity for funding and school budget transfers, precipitated by COVID-19 and the federal CARES Act, is available now. ISD 696 received more than \$87,500 in federal funding to help address technology needs to aid in distance learning.

"State guidelines have allowed for fund balance transfers from district funds normally reserved for very specific purposes to be used instead for the purchase of technology needs," Erie said.

Distance learning, while not the most advantageous of educational delivery systems, is the new reality in the age of COVID-19 and updated technology is necessary, he added.

Erie proposed one-time

reserve fund balance transfers totaling as much as \$375,000 to fund the initiative.

"These fund balance transfers and use of CARES Act money still will allow the district to maintain an unreserved fund balance goal of more than 20 percent (as required by board policy), and have other reserved fund balances (nearly \$149,000) to support future program needs," he said.

A district technology team has been meeting for the past several months to discuss device specifications, network infrastructure requirements, future growth scenarios, and review bid proposals in developing the 1:1 Initiative, according to Erie.

"The number of devices recommended for purchase is based on student enrollment projections, teacher numbers, and a limited supply of back-up devices," he said. He noted that the new Chromebooks will be used by students in grades 2-12. Students in Kindergarten and first-grade students will have access to the district's repurposed existing iPads. Other existing devices will be repurposed as needed, Erie added.

During a special meeting following the study session, school board members voted 6-1 to approve the 1:1 Initiative. James Pointer voted against the motion.

In other action, the board accepted the resignation of elementary teacher Amanda Vanderbeek, following seven years at ISD 696. In her resignation letter, Vanderbeek indicated that she will remain in Ely, having accepted a position as the Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry at St. Anthony Catholic Church.

"I plan to keep up on my teaching licensure so that I can hopefully do some substitute teaching and remain a presence here at the school," she wrote.

RULING...Continued from page 1B

how the state regulates mining," Maccabee said. "What this means is that Minnesota is going to be able to start protecting surface water from polluted groundwater dis-

charges."

The Minnesota Supreme Court will still hear arguments on a second issue, of whether contaminated groundwater in the vicinity of the Minntac


tailings facility is subject to the federal drinking water standard for sulfate, of 250 milligrams per liter. Sulfate levels in water in the tailings facility are well above 250 mg/l, and those

pollutants have worked their way into the aquifer that lies underneath. US Steel contends that the drinking water standard does not apply under its tailings facility and the

Court of Appeals agreed, handing a victory to the mining company. That issue will now be the sole focus of arguments before the Supreme Court since the Maui case has since

resolved the other issue.

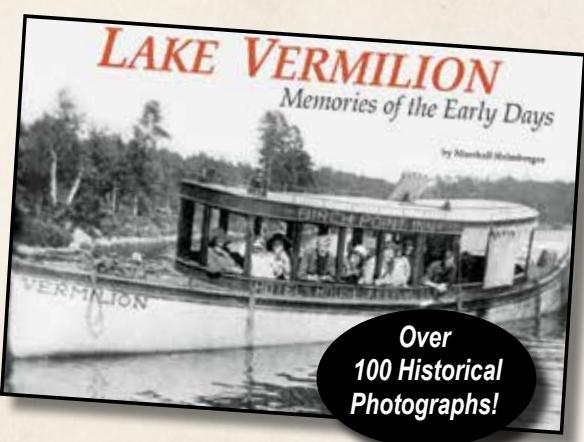
Oral arguments in the case are expected this fall, with a decision to follow.



Memories of the Early Days

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Written by Marshall Helmlinger • Published by the Timberjay



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FESTIVAL...Continued from page 1B

said. Registration is open until Friday, Aug. 21.

Businesses that create a harvest-themed window banner for the event are eligible to win a Chamber membership. The first-place winner will receive a one-year Chamber of

Commerce membership, second place receives \$150 off a membership, and the third-place prize is \$100 off a membership.

For more information, contact Cashman, at events@ely.org, or call 218-365-6123.

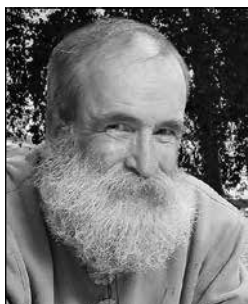


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Obituaries and Death Notices



John M. Morin

John Michael Morin, 63, of Tower, passed away on Sunday, July 26, 2020, at Vermilion Senior Living surrounded by his family. A celebration of life for John was held at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower on Thursday, July 30 with Rev. Fr. Brandon Moravitz as celebrant. An outdoor gathering of family and friends was held on the ramp of St. Martin's church. Burial was in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

John was born in the Soudan Hospital on Oct. 28, 1956, the son of John and Janice (Carlson) Morin. He grew up in Tower, graduating

from Tower-Soudan High School in 1974. After graduation, John proudly served in the United States Air Force for 13 years. He also held other technical positions throughout his career. John adored his family; he saved and treasured every letter and memento from family and friends, showing his deep love for all of them.

He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer (Neal) McNabb of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; mother, Janice Morin (Tony Petrick) of Virginia; siblings, Mona Shanks of Virginia, Cathy (Doug) Anderson of Tower, Julie (Marty) Toole of Sartell, Joe Morin of Tower, Mary (Dan) Banks of Proctor and Mark (Patty) Morin of Eveleth; 20 nieces and nephews; 26 great-nieces and great-nephews; one great-great-niece; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; former wife, Vicki Witte; and his beloved dog, Buster, all of whom he loved dearly.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Morin, on Nov. 24, 1999; sister, Sheila Morin, on March 6, 1977; maternal and paternal grandparents; and in-laws, John and Ann Carlisle.



Bernard O. Lawrence

Bernard Owen Lawrence, 84, of Stewartville, died of natural causes on Sunday, July 19, 2020, at the Stewartville Care Center, where he had resided for the past four months. In keeping with Bernard's wishes, no services or visitation are planned at this time. A celebration of life will take place at a later date. Arrangements are with Griffin-Gray

Funeral Home in Stewartville.

Bernard was born on April 22, 1936, in Duluth, to Walter and Elsie (Harder) Lawrence. He attended high school in Hermantown, where he received his GED. Bernard was married in Tower in 1958 to Beverly Desannoy. They lived in Tower, where they began their family and also lived in Virginia and Embarrass. They were later divorced. Bernie was employed at Erie Mining/LTV for many years as a production truck driver. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Tower and was a cook in the Minnesota Army National Guard for a number of years.

After retiring in 1989, Bernie moved to Yuma, Ariz., where he met Norma Mapes, his longtime and loving companion. Together they traveled cross-country, pulling their fifth-wheel camper; they lived in Washington state, Oregon, and spent their winters in

Arizona. They moved for a short time to Kenai, Alaska, where Bernie was employed part-time on a commercial fishing boat. Following Norma's death in 2013, he moved to Stewartville in 2016 due to declining health and to live near family.

Bernie was an avid golfer, followed NASCAR, enjoyed the occasional trip to the casino, and enjoyed time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed mowing the lawn at his son and daughter-in-law's home.

Bernard is survived by his daughter, Kim (Randy) Waldron of Rochester; son, Bob (Linda) Lawrence of rural Stewartville; four grandchildren, Christopher (Sara) Waldron of Haugen, Wis., Daniel (Emily) Lawrence of Cornelius, N.C., Ashley (Ben) Roche of Rochester and Brittany Lawrence of Rollingstone; and six great-grandchildren,

Mylee, Tahlia, Quinn, Theo, Samantha and Joseph.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Warren Lawrence, Rod Lawrence and Gary Lawrence; and loving companion, Norma Mapes.

Adrienne A. Fowler

Adrienne Ann Fowler, 81, of Embarrass, passed away on Monday, July 13, 2020, at Waterview Pines in Virginia. The family would like to thank the staff at Waterview Pines for the care and love they showed her. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Timber Hall in Embarrass. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Adrienne was born on Jan. 11, 1939, in Grand Rapids, to Chester and Lucille (Lyons) Siltman. She graduated from Backus High School in 1958. On May 20, 1958, she was united

in marriage to Roland Fowler in Grand Rapids. Adrienne attended beauty school in Grand Rapids in 1959. She also did a Blandin Leadership Course. Adrienne was very involved in the Embarrass community. She was an election judge, founder of the Sisu Tori Craft Shop, and served on the Embarrass Fair Board for 37 years.

Adrienne was a member of Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass. She loved to can, read, attend rummage sales and craft shows. She organized a yearly Christmas craft show. Adrienne loved to be a mother best of all.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Roland of Embarrass; children, Michelle Fowler (Daryl Benson), Roland Fowler Jr. and Randy Fowler, all of Embarrass; grandson, Roland Fowler III of Eveleth; sisters, R'Milla (Daniel) Meyer of Embarrass and Lanaya Siltman of Pequot Lakes; nephew, Sean Meyer of Winnebago; niece, Cari Meyer of Embarrass; sister-in-law, Mary Brazinski of Chicago, Ill.; brother-in-law, Robert (Cathy) Fowler of La Crescent; nieces and nephews; and special friend, Kim Bennett of Embarrass.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and son-in-law, Tony Morsching.

Jim A. LaValley

Jim A. LaValley, 65, of Tower, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at home surrounded by family. A celebration of life honoring Jim will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8 at the Timber Hall, 4855 Hwy. 21 in Embarrass.

EMPLOYMENT

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EEO/AA

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Temporary Full-Time Custodian

Qualifications include:
 > High school diploma, with post-secondary training in facility maintenance preferred
 > Ability to read basic operating instructions and write reports
 > Demonstrate aptitude for successful completion of the tasks assigned
 > Such alternatives to the above qualifications as the supervisor, administration, and board finds appropriate and acceptable
 > Prior work experience demonstrating positive and effective interpersonal skills in the work place
 > Demonstrated ability to perform assigned tasks without direct supervision

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONAL CAPACITIES:
 > Ability to lift a minimum of 50 pounds
 > Ability to climb ladders (at least 10 feet)
 > Ability to withstand heights (up to 30 feet)
 > Ability to climb 3 flights of stairs in 1 minute
 > Pass physical exam per doctor's statement
 > Visual and auditory acuity, corrected or non-corrected, at standard levels as established by appropriate medical standards
 > Any other qualifications as deemed appropriate by the school board

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Application
 > Resume
 > College Transcripts
 > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$19.63/hour
 Hours: 8 hours per day/40 hours per week
 Deadline to apply: August 10, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, July 31 & Aug. 7, 2020

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 33 Central Blvd. Suite 200
 Babbitt Shopping Center

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Media Center Clerk

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Media Center Clerk starting in the 2020-2021 school year; Background check required.

Qualifications include:
 > High School diploma, college degree preferred
 > Preferred experience working with school age children
 > Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.
 > Preferred experience working in a media/library and computer applications
 > Preferred experience in the following skills: familiar with Internet, E-mail, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point)
 > Knowledge of Microsoft, Apple and Google Suites
 > Typing skills of 55 w.p.m.
 > Two years of secretarial experience preferred

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Application
 > Resume
 > College Transcripts
 > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.37/hour
 Hours: 6.5 hours/day
 Deadline to apply: August 10, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, July 31 & Aug. 7, 2020

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools K-5 Elementary Teacher 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is looking for a K-5 Elementary Teacher beginning the 2020-2021 school year; 1.0 FTE; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check required.

Qualifications include:
 > Current Minnesota teaching license in K-6 Elementary Education
 > Previous teaching experience preferred
 > Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Licensed Application
 > Resume
 > Copy of official transcripts
 > Current Minnesota teaching license
 > 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent Erik Erie, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Washington Elementary Principal Anne Oelke at 218-365-6166 ext. 1724 or aoelke@ely.k12.mn.us with any questions.

Start date: September 1, 2020.
 Deadline to apply: August 3, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, July 24 & 31, 2020

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Temporary Nurse

Qualifications include:
 > Valid RN or LPN License
 > Experience preferred
 > Experience in working with school health services preferred

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Application
 > Resume
 > College Transcripts
 > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$28.95/hour
 Hours: 6-8 hours/day
 Deadline to apply: August 10, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, July 31 & Aug. 7, 2020

FOR BID

CALL FOR PROPANE BIDS CITY OF ORR 2020-2021 HEATING SEASON

The City of Orr is calling for sealed bids on a contract price for 13,000 gallons of propane for the upcoming heating season September 1, 2020, through May 31, 2021. Cost per gallon should reflect any additional fees or charges.

Please submit your bid to the City of Orr, PO Box 237, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN 55771. Sealed bids must be received no later than 3:00 PM, Thursday, August 6, 2020, to be considered at the Orr City Council Meeting on August 10, 2020, at 5:00 PM at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN.

Cheri Carter
 Clerk/Treasurer
 218-757-3288

Published in the Timberjay, July 24 & 31, 2020



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

WILDERNESS TRAVEL

Pandemic brings new visitors to the Boundary Waters

Some less-experienced wilderness travelers bringing bad habits along for the trip

by DAN KRAKER
Minnesota Public Radio News

REGIONAL — Steve Eisenmenger has guided people on Boundary Waters canoe trips for Piragis Northwoods Co. in Ely for 25 years.

He's seen a lot. But he wasn't prepared for what he saw at a campsite on Big Lake earlier this summer, just

outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

"[There were] beer cans in the water, a live tree chopped down and hacked into pieces, toilet paper strewn around," he said. "A friend of mine and her sons have camped there historically in the past. It was one of their favorite campsites. They were literally in tears when they saw it."

Eisenmenger doesn't think the kind of damage he saw was caused by negligence, or someone making an honest mistake.

"I just think it's a group of people coming that don't usually use that type of area, and they just don't have any respect for it," he said.

The BWCA and the surrounding Superior National Forest in far northern

Minnesota are seeing a surge in visitors this summer.

With kids' activities canceled and other trips on hold, people are flocking to the area for the kinds of outdoor activities that naturally allow for social distancing.

That's good news for the outfitters who rent equipment and lead trips into the area

See **BUSY BW...** pg. 5B



A U.S. Forest Service photo documenting recent destruction at a BWCAW campsite. photo courtesy U.S. Forest Service



PATTERNS IN NATURE

A study in orange and black

Details help distinguish the North Country's many species of butterflies



Top: The distinctive pattern of the monarch butterfly wing.

Above and left: See if you can see the differences between the Aphrodite Fritillary (above) and the Atlantis Fritillary on the left. Hint: Note the outer edges of the wings.

all photos/M. Helmberger



Left and right: Two other North Country butterflies, including the Green Comma (left) and the Compton's Tortoiseshell. Both of these species overwinter as adults and are among the first to emerge in the spring.



Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
HEDGE BINDWEED



While the name and rampant growth of the **Hedge Bindweed**, *Calystegia sepium*, probably makes this native wildflower less than popular with some, its prominent white-to-pale pink blossom, in bloom right now, is certainly worth a closer look. It's sometimes also known as Wild Morning Glory, given its similarity to the large trumpet-like flowers that have long been traditional in many home gardens. It also lives up to the second half of its name as its prolific vine-like growth is famous for creating a bound-up mass of vegetation wherever it's found. It was blooming in profusion along the banks of the Little Fork River this past weekend.

Outdoors in brief

Sign up for deer virtual open house

REGIONAL — Anyone interested in discussing deer and deer management can tune in to a virtual open house from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, hosted by the DNR. Registration for the event is required and available on the deer open house webpage. Attendees are encouraged to submit questions in advance on their registration form.

Statewide youth deer hunt set for Oct. 15-18

REGIONAL — The popular youth deer hunting season continues and will happen statewide Oct. 15-18. During last year's inaugural statewide youth season, nearly 5,700 young deer hunters harvested a deer, which represented a 77-percent increase from the previous season when it was limited to fewer areas.

New deer hunting regulations are out

REGIONAL — Hunters are now set to plan ahead for the fall. The DNR has released the 2020 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping regulations handbook, now available on the DNR website.

Deer hunters this season will generally see more harvest opportunities. Deer hunting regulations and permit area maps are on the DNR deer hunting page.

HUNTING

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
Ely					Emb.					Cook					Orr					Tower				
Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.		Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.		Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.		Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.		Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	
81	58				74	52				71	49				73	49				74	52			
07/20	73	42	0.03		07/20	73	41	0.00		07/20	72	50	0.01		07/20	70	45	0.00		07/13	72	43	0.02	
07/21	73	45	0.06		07/21	72	41	0.02		07/21	70	50	0.12		07/21	61	54	0.83		07/14	71	46	0.15	
07/22	58	54	0.79		07/22	57	53	0.00		07/22	60	55	0.37		07/22	73	54	0.00		07/15	58	53	0.52	
07/23	76	47	0.01		07/23	75	46	0.02		07/23	75	53	0.00		07/23	79	48	0.37		07/16	76	46	0.00	
07/24	79	50	0.00		07/24	77	47	0.00		07/24	78	54	0.00		07/24	88	57	0.00		07/17	78	50	0.00	
07/25	86	62	0.00		07/25	87	59	0.00		07/25	88	58	0.00		07/25	82	68	0.00		07/18	87	60	0.00	
07/26	82	64	0.10		07/26	82	61	0.15		07/26	82	69	0.35		07/26	79	61	0.00		07/19	81	61	0.28	
Total			11.61		YTD Total			11.35		YTD Total			15.51		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				11.78

Waterfowl regs now available for fall season

REGIONAL — Hunters looking for duck and goose season dates and regulations can find the information they need in the 2020 Minnesota Waterfowl Hunting Regulations handbook, available on the Department of Natural Resources website at mndnr.gov/hunting/waterfowl. The handbooks will also be available beginning in August wherever DNR licenses are sold. The early Canada goose season begins Saturday, Sept. 5, and the regular duck and goose

season opens Saturday, Sept. 26. The new waterfowl hunting regulations for this year are: The sandhill crane bag limit has increased to two per day in the northwest zone. The bag limit on scaup will be one per day through Oct. 22 and two per day the remainder of the season. Waterfowl hunting licenses are on sale and are available at any DNR license agent, by telephone at 888-665-4236, or online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense.

BUSY BW...Continued from page 4B

— but some of those campers are wreaking havoc on the pristine, protected region. The U.S. Forest Service is seeing a spike in visitors across its lands, including the Boundary Waters, said Trent Wickman, spokesperson for the Forest Service's Superior National Forest. The agency doesn't have data yet on visitation numbers this summer, but Wickman said many of the visitors are new to these woods — and to outdoors activities like hiking, camping and canoeing. That's a great thing, Wickman said. "We're happy to have people come and experience the outdoors — potentially have some more folks interested in continuing this, even after the pandemic," he said. But Wickman said that the increase in visitors has brought more problems: "Garbage left at sites, burning garbage, fish guts and that kind of stuff, not being taken care of. Having campfires not in the grate." The BWCA is wilderness — a place where visitors bring out what they take in, store food where bears can't reach it, and build fires only in designated grates. Ideally, they leave no trace. But all this month, the Forest Service has been posting photos on Facebook of trees cut down, trash on trails and leftover bait containers abandoned at campsites. It's prompted a series of posts illustrating what *not* to do while in the Boundary Waters. Part of the issue, several outfitters say, is that, because of the coronavirus pandemic, the process for getting permission to enter the protected area has changed. Visitors still must register for permits to

enter the area, but can now print them out at home. Under normal circumstances, campers or canoeists would pick up their reserved permit at a ranger station or an outfitter, where they would be required to watch a video and pass a quiz on BWCA rules. Because of the change, outfitters have tried to focus more on educating visitors this summer, especially those with less experience. Clare Shirley, who runs Sawbill Outfitters outside Tofte, said that there are always a few bad actors who may trash a campsite. "But I really believe that those are few and far between," she said, "and that a lot of this just stems from people not understanding what a wilderness area is, and what it really means to leave no trace, and not being prepared when they go out for how to pack everything back out again." It's been a roller coaster of a summer for Shirley and other outfitters. The Boundary Waters was closed to overnight canoe trips in early May because of the pandemic. But as soon as restrictions were lifted, canoeists started coming — in droves. "It is the busiest season that I could ever, ever have even imagined," Shirley said. Andy McDonnell, co-owner of Tuscarora Lodge and Outfitters, 50 miles down the Gunflint Trail, has also spent extra time educating families and first-time visitors on wilderness etiquette. He's focused a lot on how to properly store food in bear country. In June, several black bears raided campsites on lakes near the end of the Gunflint Trail. "They weren't being terribly

aggressive, but they were scaring people away, they were getting their food, they were coming into people's campsites when they were out fishing, ripping up the campsite," McDonnell said. "They got a lot of food packs." He said a lot of that stemmed from people not knowing how to deal with trash — like extra food. "And instead of forcing it down or packing it out, they would dump it behind the campsite," McDonnell said. "And you get one group that does that, and then you get another group that does that, and all of a sudden ... you've got a bear realizing that there's this awesome food source. Pretty soon, he's going to connect the dots that it is coming from the people. So he's going to go straight to the source." On Thursday, the Forest Service issued an order requiring, not just recommending, that campers on five lakes — Alpine, Jasper, Seagull, Red Rock, and Rog — in the Superior National Forest's Gunflint District hang food properly from trees, or use bear-proof containers. The Forest Service is encouraging new visitors to the Boundary Waters to read up, prepare well, talk to people who have visited the area before, and plan to pack out what they bring in. "Because, remember," Wickman said. "Somebody else is going to be coming behind you. And you want to leave it better than you found it. It's a bummer to show up to a site and have some garbage there. You want to leave it nice for whoever else. The use is very high, so there's going to be a lot of people using these sites all summer long."

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye: The walleyes continue to settle into their summer patterns. Anglers continue to report the best bites are occurring somewhat shallow, in 12-18 feet of water. Jigging raps, lindy rigs and half a crawler on a jig, worked around sunken islands and main lake points, have accounted for the majority of walleyes being caught. On lakes where ciscos are present, anglers have been catching walleyes trolling large crankbaits over deep water during the evening hours. Walleyes are suspending 15-20 feet down, over 40-70 feet of water.

over the tops of weedbeds early in the day was very popular this last week. Spoons and a sucker, fished under a bobber, were also very effective. Larger pike (30" or better) continue to be picked off here and there, out around sunken islands. Anglers trolling large minnow baits over these areas have been catching these fish. Stream Trout: Shore anglers have been catching some large trout while slip bobbering night crawlers. These anglers have been finding trout 15-20 feet down. Anglers fishing from a boat have been catching trout while trolling over deep water with small crankbaits or spoons. Courtesy Arrowhead Outdoors, of Ely.

Bass: Both smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing continues to be excellent for many anglers. Topwater bite, early and late in the day has been excellent. Whopper Ploppers, frogs and spooks have been the hottest baits. As the sun gets up, the topwater bite cools off and anglers adjust by throwing spinnerbaits, soft plastics or jerk baits. Smallmouth are being found on rocky shoreline and near river mouths in 5-10 feet of water.

Northern: Pike anglers continue to report catching good numbers of smaller pike this last week. Buzzbaits burned

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

- Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

DRY

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

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

Ritchie Automatic
Livestock Waterers and Parts
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262-3049

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

**CITY OF TOWER
CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD**

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

GENERAL ELECTION

TWO City Councilors (4 year term)

SPECIAL ELECTION

VACATED POSITIONS
TWO City Councilors (2 year term)

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

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

**NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION
FIELD TOWNSHIP**
State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in all election precincts in Field Township

at the FIELD TOWN HALL
On Tuesday, August 11, 2020.
Polling places will be open
from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

FEDERAL OFFICES
United States Senator
United States Representative, District 8
STATE OFFICES
State Senator for Districts 6 and 7
COUNTY OFFICES
County Commissioner for District 3 (office will appear on ballots only in applicable district)

NOTE: Local city, town, and school district offices/questions may also appear on ballots within their respective jurisdictions.

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 24 & 31, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

Mail Carrier

- Hiring for full-time and part-time positions for Tower-Soudan area routes.
 - Starting pay is \$18/hr
 - Must be reliable and have a dependable vehicle.
 - Mandatory background check, drug test and clean driving record required.
- Send resume to**
ross.routes790@gmail.com
or contact the Tower Post Office
at 218-753-5797 724

**Ely Police Department
Full-time Patrol Officer**

Deadline: Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5 pm

The Ely Police Department is accepting applications for the position of a full-time Patrol Officer. The City of Ely provides unique opportunities for recreation, culture, and work not often seen in a city of its size. Ely continues to offer an excellent quality of life to residents of the region. We strive to maintain our outstanding educational opportunities, a full range of medical services, exceptional outdoor experiences, and unequalled sense of community spirit. Ely provides a safe and friendly atmosphere, in affordable neighborhoods that complement their natural surroundings. The City of Ely is committed to being a community that welcomes and values diversity. We work to be a place where all people, citizens and visitors alike, will feel safe and confident that the City of Ely respects the rights and dignity of all people.

The Ely Police Department is a 7-person department consisting of 4 patrolmen, 2 sergeants, and a chief. The majority of officers work four consecutive twelve-hour shifts, followed by four days off. Starting base salary as of 2020 LELS Contract is \$27.41, with pay increases at 6 months, 1 year, and reaching top pay at year 2 (\$28.97). Longevity steps on top of base pay at years 3 (1.2%), 4 (1.6%), 5 (2%), 10 (3%), 15 (4%), 20 (5%), 25 (6%), and 30 (7%). Employees also shall receive 4% wage shift differential for all hours worked between 3:00 pm and 7:00 am. Benefits include, health, dental, health savings, uniform allowance, 13 paid holidays, 2 personal days, vacation and sick leave.

Applicants must be P.O.S.T. licensed or eligible for licensing by Oct 1, 2020. Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen, possess a valid MN driver's license, pass a background check, physical fitness exam, and psychologic examination prior to appointment. To be considered, you must submit a City of Ely application and resume by Monday, August 10, 2020. Active licensed peace officers are encouraged to apply. Contact Sandy at Ely Police Department at 218-365-3222 to obtain an application or go to the City of Ely website at www.ely.mn.us. The City of Ely is an equal opportunity employer.

Ely Police Department
209 E. Chapman Street, Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3222

Published in the Timberjay, July 24 & 31, 2020

**NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION
MORCOM TOWNSHIP**

State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in all election precincts in Morcom Township

BEAR RIVER COMMUNITY CENTER
12512 HWY 22, COOK, MN 55723
On Tuesday, August 11, 2020.
Polling places will be open
from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

FEDERAL OFFICES
United States Senator
United States Representative, District 8
STATE OFFICES
State Senator for Districts 6 and 7
COUNTY OFFICES
County Commissioner for District 3 (office will appear on ballots only in applicable district)

NOTE: Local city, town, and school district offices/questions may also appear on ballots within their respective jurisdictions.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk.

Published in the Timberjay, July 24 & 31, 2020

**CITY OF ORR NOTICE OF
PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Orr will conduct a public accuracy test as required by law to test the AutoMark Assistive Voting Device on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 3:00 P.M. Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN 55771.

Cheri Carter, Clerk/Treasurer,
City of Orr, 218-757-3288
Published in the Timberjay, July 31, 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 31, 2020

FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Public Accuracy Test for the Auto Mark voting machine will be August 5, 2020 at 7 pm at the Field Town Hall.

The regular Field Township Board meeting will be held August 18, 2020 at 7 pm at the Field Town Hall.

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 31, 2020

LEIDING TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Public Accuracy Test for the Auto Mark voting machine will be August 5, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Leiding Town Hall.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 31 2020

**EVERETT BAY
BOAT RAMP ACCESS
TEMPORARY CLOSURE**

Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails, Tower Area
650 Hwy 169, Tower, MN 55790 • July 27, 2020

From August 3-6, 2020, the Everett Bay Public Water Access on Lake Vermilion will be closed while the ramp is being re-built. During this time, carry-in access (i.e. canoes, portage boats) may be allowed before/after ramp work begins and ends for the day, generally before 7:00 am and 4:00 pm. DNR Parks and Trails staff will put signs up at the Public Water Access notifying anyone visiting the ramp of this.

If there are any questions, please call Tower Area DNR Parks and Trails at 218-300-7843.

Published in the Timberjay, July 31, 2020

**MORCOM TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The Morcom Township Annual Meeting will reconvene on Thursday, August 6, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. at the Bear River School. Please be advised to wear a mask if attending, and social distancing seating will apply. The Township Board Regular Meeting will follow at 6:00 p.m.

Published in the Timberjay, July 24 and 31, 2020

**NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION
LEIDING TOWNSHIP**
State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in all election precincts in Field Township

at the LEIDING TOWN HALL
On Tuesday, August 11, 2020.
Polling places will be open
from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

FEDERAL OFFICES
United States Senator
United States Representative, District 8
STATE OFFICES
State Senator for Districts 6 and 7
COUNTY OFFICES
County Commissioner for District 3 (office will appear on ballots only in applicable district)

NOTE: Local city, town, and school district offices/questions may also appear on ballots within their respective jurisdictions.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk.

Published in the Timberjay, July 24 & 31, 2020

**Legal notices online
at timberjay.com**

EMPLOYMENT



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Care Center
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Activities
Casual Activities Assistant

Dietary
FT Certified Dietary Manager
Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

Housekeeping
PT Housekeeper

Adult Day Services
Casual RN/LPN

Radiology
FT Radiology Tech

Hospital/ER
PT Registered Nurse

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More Info? Contact Human Resources
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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

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FOR BID

**CITY OF ORR
CALL FOR BIDS
ELECTRIC DEEP
FRYERS**

The City of Orr solicits bids for two used, electric, commercial deep fryers. Manufacturer: (1) Hot Point; and (2) Star

The City of Orr is selling the fryers "as is" and makes no warranties, express or implied. The fryers may be inspected by contacting the Orr City Hall at 218-757-3288, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

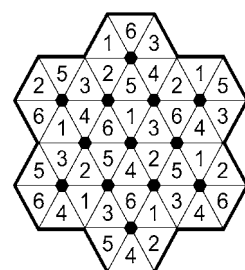
Minimum Bid: \$250.00 for each fryer.

Please indicate on your envelope which fryer you are bidding on. Sealed bids will be accepted by the City of Orr, Clerk's Office, 4429 Highway 53, PO Box 237, Orr, MN 55771, until 3:00 p.m., on Thursday, August 6, 2020. Bids will be opened at the Orr City Council Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

The City of Orr reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

Published in the Timberjay, July 24 & 31, 2020

SNOWFLAKES
solution



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& Real Estate Rates
One Low Price
3 Timberjay Editions
218-753-2950**

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

HAIR CARE

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

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

HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their 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

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-ship@frontiernet.net.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



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

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

TRACKER TARGA 16WT with 90hp Mercury, custom trailer, and many extras. Great for fishing and pleasure. Call 218-235-1777. 7/31p

HELP WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED: Part-time, 15-20 hours per week, Mon-Fri, competitive wage, responsible for cleaning Scenic Rivers in Tower. 218-235-7502. 7/31p

SELL IT HERE

EMPLOYMENT

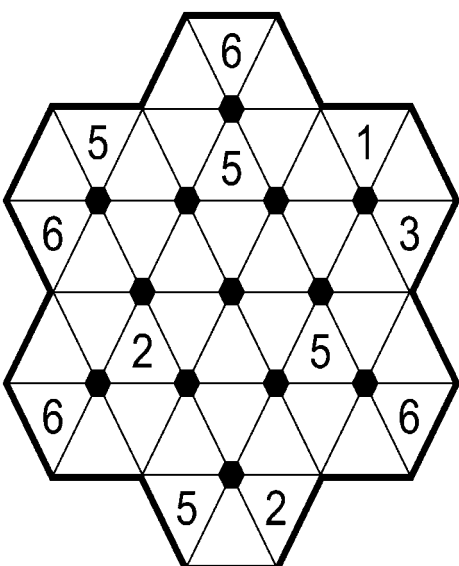
Experienced AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN
Full-time, M-F, benefits. Contact Lee Phillips. Waschke Family Chevrolet in Cook, 126 N Hwy 53, PO Box 549, Cook, MN 55723; 218-666-5901 or 800-238-4545. tfn

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

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

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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Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Ranger Premier
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Super Crossword

GOOD-LOOKING BEGINNERS

ACROSS

1 Farm output
5 Mosey along
10 Father
14 Verbal tests
19 Despise
20 Slow — (Asian primate)
21 Spoil
22 Bo of "Bolero"
23 Magnetic pull
26 Certain Arab
27 Place for online small talk
28 Author Dinesen
29 One of Nixon's daughters
30 Hack down
31 Crow cry
32 Clear skies and 70 degrees, say
35 Smell — (suspect something)
37 Novelist Zora — Hurston
39 Stovover site
40 Santa Fe-to-Denver dir.
41 Horned viper
44 Annex
45 Sanctify with oil
48 SFO posting

49 What a happy couple makes together
54 Suffix with journal
56 Liberal arts subj.
57 With 90-Down, totally mistaken
58 Creepy quality
60 Rented living spaces: Abbr.
64 Screening airport org.
65 Appear to be
67 Fit snugly
68 Target rival
69 Notions that an imp might get
72 Habanero, for one
74 Pays mind to
75 Infant bed
79 Brand of nonstick cookware
80 Org. for drs.
81 Admin. aide
82 Like rhythmic verse
84 Mag bigwigs
85 Thither
86 Victory sign

88 Big sum given for finding a lost pet, perhaps
91 Conan's TV home
94 Understood by very few
96 Roth —
97 Uvea's organ
98 Granola tidbit
99 "Law & Order" spinoff, informally
100 Italian port
102 Low pair in poker
106 It's painted to make something seem better than it is
111 A Stooge
114 Inclined (to)
115 Oscar winner Helen
116 Emu relative
117 Food symbolizing America
119 Ed with Emmys practices
123 Thief
124 News bit
125 Brother, in Paris

126 Slaving away
127 Not on time
128 Shot callers
129 Mended
130 Pot tops

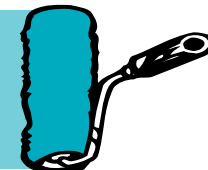
DOWN

1 Ballroom dance
2 Quite
3 Ontario city
4 Saucy
5 Big maker of food cans
6 Label for the Jackson 5
7 Hat's edge
8 Actress Tyler
9 Suffix with journal
10 Non-poetry
11 Of hearing
12 Finicky
13 Ending for meth-
14 Scenting substances
15 Send, as payment
16 Weaver of mythology
17 Lax
18 Place for downhillers
24 Oval part
25 Bill depicting Lincoln
29 Lendl's sport
32 Soup scoop
33 Fathers, informally
34 Nintendo console
36 Greek "T"
38 Water, to Yves
42 Condition of equilibrium
43 Heaped up
45 Sale proviso
46 Fraction of about 11%
47 Forest cat
49 "You —!" ("Oh yeah!")
50 Comes after as a result
51 Swirly marbles
52 Shorn wool
53 Suffix with script
55 Pack tightly
59 Fixed price
61 Tropical fruit
62 Aftershock
63 Hair bit
66 Actress Plimpton
68 Actor Grammer
70 1999 Ron Howard satire
71 Clear kitchen wrap
73 Father, in Madrid
76 Have supper of a sort
78 Not as tough
82 "Quo Vadis" director — LeRoy
83 TV producer Michaels
87 Like trade winds
89 China's — Zedong
90 See 57-Across
91 Certain rigging support
92 Coffee shop employee
93 Less lax
95 Quart fourth
100 Avocado dip, for short
101 Measure of current flow
103 American elk
104 Sedating substance
105 Blood vessel openers
107 Walk (on)
108 Furious
109 Part of CEO
110 Tenures
112 Decided
113 Part of REO
117 Highest point
118 Plus others: Abbr.
120 Pine relative
121 A bit askew
122 Hosp. body scan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19				20					21				22							
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81						82					83		84				85			
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91	92	93				94	95				96			97						
98						99					100				101		102	103	104	105
106						107				108	109	110			111	112	113		114	
115								116						117					118	
119													120		121	122				
123																				126
127																				130



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Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Licensed Closing Agent

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Answers

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

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