



# the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 32, ISSUE 16 April 23, 2021 \$1.00

ISD 2142

## School board repeatedly violated Open Meeting Law

### Advisory opinion: Can't restrict public access while meeting in-person

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The St. Louis County School District repeatedly violated the state's Open Meeting Law in late 2020 and

earlier this year. That's according to an advisory opinion, issued by the Minnesota Commissioner of Administration this week, which could have statewide implications for public bodies that are con-

tinuing to meet remotely during the ongoing pandemic.

The Commissioner issued the opinion at the request of *Timberjay* Publisher Marshall HelMBERGER, who had

raised concerns about what appeared to be misuse of a state law that allows governing bodies to meet by electronic means when they determine that meeting in person is not "practical or prudent" due to an ongoing

pandemic.

The school board had approved a motion on March 24, 2020, stating that meetings would be held virtually for the foreseeable future, and that the public (including the media)

would not be allowed to attend. That restriction on public access has remained in effect since, although it was modified on Jan. 26, 2021, to provide for limited

See...2142 pg. 10

### BOIS FORTE BAND



## Gift of plenty

### Anonymous donor designates \$50,000 to food programs for Boys and Girls Club

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

BOIS FORTE RESERVATION - "He told me 'I want to make your day'... and then asked me if I was sitting down."

This wasn't one of those phone scams that pop up on your caller ID multiple times a day. Travis Vake, who manages the

Vermilion branch Boys and Girls Club members Reese, above, enjoys a pancake, while Lyla and Bessie, right, make bracelets. photos by J. Summit

Boys and Girls Club programs on Bois Forte Reservation, was talking with the regional

See...GRANT pg. 12



### EAGLES NEST

## Town Board approves new road

### Citing safety concerns and the public good

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

EAGLES NEST TWP- Citing public safety, fire department water access, and the public good, the Eagles Nest Town Board, here, voted 4-1 in favor of creating a new township road, Spruce Road, that will connect Bear Head State Park Road with Eagles Nest Lake One. The 700-foot-long gravel road will be built on a 66-foot wide corridor platted as Spruce Street back in 1928, which had never been built.

The road, once built, will provide easy water access for fire trucks to refill their tanks during a fire, as well as provide a water exit route for cabin owners to leave the area in case a wild-fire cuts off road access, a concern in the township which has many narrow dead-end roads leading to lakefront cabins.

This issue sparked a lot of public comment, both prior to and during the April 20 meeting, which was held via video conference.

"We got about 100 written responses," said Chairman Rich Floyd, "Most were signatures on a petition in favor."

"This is not an issue that will be solved by a popular vote," said Floyd. "But it bears pointing out that 78 responses were in favor and 19 were opposed. This tells me if we approve it, we are not grinding it down people's throats. We are not doing something that nobody wants."

See...ROAD pg. 11

### WATER WOES

## Ely official: Smelly tap water not a health hazard

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—In recent weeks, some city of Ely residents noticed a change in the taste and smell of water coming out of their taps. Social media is ripe with conspiracy theories and misinformation is flowing like, well, tap water.

### Cold snap, algae, water main breaks cited as contributing factors

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski attempted to close the spigot on the rumor mill Tuesday night at city council.

"I just want to set the record straight," he said. "We've seen some chatter on Facebook and

### MORE ELY COUNCIL

Enforcement OK'd for rental property licenses Page 9

received some calls. This is a system-wide issue. It is not iso-

lated to one area, one street or one block. We are experiencing some issues from the reservoir through the whole system."

He defined the "issue" as "an aesthetic change in the city's water since late winter."

Langowski described the condition of the city's water as having a "slight cucumber smell." The issue is being monitored by water plant staff, he assured council members and the public.

"We have been working with the (Minnesota) Department of

See...ELY pg. 9



**New Spring Clothing, New Books, New Gifts plus our excellent and updated selection of Canoe Camping Gear or come in today for a New Canoe or Kayak**  
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat. 9 - 6 Sunday 10 - 4  
piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950  
editor@timberjay.com



## Community notices

### Vermilion Dream Quilters cancel May meeting

TOWER- The May 6 meeting of the Vermilion Dream Quilters has been canceled. An outdoor meeting will be held on Thursday, June 3. Watch for information regarding location and program near that date.

### Orr Bog Walk closed for construction

ORR- The bog walk at Voyageurs National Park and Orr Area Tourist Information Center is currently closed for reconstruction. The project is expected to be completed by July 1. The City of Orr apologizes for any inconvenience. The City of Orr looks forward to welcoming visitors to the bog walk when construction is complete.

### Sisu Heritage Annual Meeting, May 2

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage, Inc. will hold its rescheduled annual meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 2 at the Embarrass Town Hall. There will be a short business meeting before the featured speaker, St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald. Members and non-members are all invited to come for updates, coffee and goodies, door prizes, museum merchandise sales, and more. Masks and social distancing will be observed.

### Co-op community connects online for Lake Country Power Annual Meeting

REGIONAL- A community of cooperative members "plugged in," to Lake Country Power for a virtual annual meeting held via Zoom on Thursday, April 15. More than 125 members and guests heard about working through the pandemic, favorable achievements in 2020, and the co-op's commitment to manage member resources wisely.

Director election results were announced. District 3 was a special election to fill a two-year vacancy. The other three districts will fill three-year terms. Candidates ran unopposed in Districts 1 and 5.

District 3: Steve Raukar of Hibbing with 494 votes won against LaTisha Gietzen of Mountain Iron with 351 votes.

District 9: Larry Anderson of Esko with 423 votes won against Kevin Maki of Saginaw with 313 votes and Paul Horgen of Sturgeon Lake with 246 votes.

District 1: Jason Long of Cook, 723 votes.

District 5: Robert Bruckbauer of Remer, 468 votes.

Immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting, the board of directors held a re-organizational meeting. Board officers are: Craig Olson from District 7, President; Daniel Kingsley from District 6, Vice President; Mike Forsman from District 2, Secretary; and Jason Long from District 1, Treasurer.

### Women's Business Alliance is recruiting new women business owners for a SOAR Success Circle

REGIONAL- Imagine the collective genius, innovation and power of six driven and big-thinking women business owners who are all there to help you cross your 2021 finish line victoriously. The SOAR Success Circle will run from June to December 2021 and meet virtually twice a month to brainstorm, problem solve, understand and apply your CliftonStrengths and develop impactful relationships.

To be selected you must identify as a woman business owner, be in business for two years or less, be available and committed to attend all sessions (10 sessions minimum), be interested in networking with and supporting fellow women entrepreneurs, have the technology available to participate in Zoom meetings, and be located in Women's Business Alliance - North Region.

For more information or to apply, contact Sandi Larson, Women's Business Alliance North Director at 218-623-5741 or sandil@entrepreneurfund.org. Deadline is April 30.

## UNITED WAY

# Local man 'pays it back' to thank UWNEMN for COVID assistance

### Financial assistance is available for those impacted by pandemic

REGIONAL- Craig Roberts has worked for 30 years as a handyman and as a self-employed contractor he never thought he'd be out of work.

"Things might slow down every now and then, but never for more than a week or two," he said. "Nothing like this."

Roberts is one of many individuals across the nation whose livelihood has been uniquely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. His work was not up-ended due to government mandates or a lack of demand, but rather the heightened safety concerns due to the pandemic.

"People don't really want anyone coming in and out of their houses right now," he said.

Over a year into the pandemic, work has still not picked up for Roberts and while he misses the sense of purpose and satisfaction working gave him, the growing financial impacts have become his biggest stressor.

Roberts is sleeping a little easier now, with help from United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN)'s COVID-19 Crisis Fund. Roberts learned about the fund from a flyer Chisholm Public Utilities sent with their latest billing; the utility is one of many local utilities sending messages about UWNEMN's funds with their bills to alert customers experiencing income loss

of the potential assistance.

He applied for the Crisis Fund last month and UWNEMN was able to pay his utility bills. Roberts was so grateful for the assistance, he has been volunteering at UWNEMN for the last few weeks, mainly assembling boxes for the organization's Buddy Backpacks program which delivers weekend meal kits to more than 1,000 local students at risk of hunger each week.

"I wanted to pay it back," he said. "I might not be able to donate money right now, but I can donate my time."

\$48,765 remains to be distributed to agencies and individuals across the region.

To qualify for funding, applicants must live and/or work in UWNEMN's service territory and currently be out of work or working reduced hours due to the pandemic. UWNEMN COVID-19 Crisis Funds will not be available to individuals who were not working prior to the pandemic, have long been back to work since the pandemic began, and/or lost work for non-pandemic-related matters.

People who live and/or work on the Iron Range can apply for up to \$1,000 in assistance, and people who live and/or work in Koochiching County can apply for up to \$350. The application and distribution process is similar to other



Craig Roberts volunteers at the UWNEMN facility packing up supplies for Buddy Backpacks. submitted photo

crisis funds UWNEMN has operated.

Individuals create online accounts at [www.unitedwaynemn.org/covid-19-assistance-individuals](http://www.unitedwaynemn.org/covid-19-assistance-individuals) to apply for assistance with their basic living expenses. They will be asked to provide documentation of the expenses as well as other financial documentation. UWNEMN will review applications, and if an application is approved, UWNEMN will directly pay the bills submitted for assistance; funds will not be distributed directly to individuals.

Those who qualify for UWNEMN's COVID-19 Crisis Fund can apply at [www.unitedwaynemn.org/covid-19-assistance-individuals](http://www.unitedwaynemn.org/covid-19-assistance-individuals)

viduals or call 218-254-3329 to request a paper application. Iron Range non-profit agencies in need of COVID-19 Crisis Funding can request an application by calling 218-254-3329 or emailing [erin@unitedwaynemn.org](mailto:erin@unitedwaynemn.org).

To donate to support the UWNEMN COVID-19 Crisis Fund, visit <https://give.unitedwaynemn.org/covid-19-crisis-fund>. Donations can also be mailed directly to 608 East Drive, Chisholm, MN 55719. Donors can specify which region their donation should be designated to online or in the memo of their check.

# MSO digital season begins May 1

REGIONAL- The last time the full Mesabi Symphony Orchestra performed for a live audience was over a year ago, in February 2020. Like all performing arts organizations, after a complete pause in activities in spring 2020, the MSO was forced to significantly alter and scale back its 2020-2021 season due to the continuing COVID-19 health crisis.

After a successful inaugural digital performance in November, the MSO will cap off its first-ever fully-digital season with a concert titled "A Little Night Music" on Saturday, May 1. The concert will



feature music from two composers, Peter Warlock and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Warlock's Capriol Suite and Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik will take center stage in an

evening of delightful string music. The concert will premiere, free of charge, at 7 p.m. on the orchestra's YouTube channel and on their website, [www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org).

Looking ahead, in lieu of its annual fund-raising gala, North of Broadway, this summer the MSO will instead join the SpringForwardMN campaign taking place May 1-11 through GiveMN. MSO also expects and is planning for the return of the full orchestra and performances for live audiences in the fall.

Operating support and support for this performance is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to legislative appropriations from the general and arts and cultural heritage funds.



## WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Air Source Heat Pump	Rebates Up To
Ducted	\$1,250
Ductless (mini-split)	\$700

ENERGY WISE MN

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UP TO \$1,250 IN REBATES WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING, ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!**

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and heating**, using **less electricity** than standard air conditioners and furnaces.

Visit [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) to learn more!

Or contact a member service representative at 800-421-9959 (press 6)

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

**Call 753-2950**

to subscribe to the **Timberjay!**



## BUSINESS

# Cook couple opens new office center

## North Office caters to those needing short and long-term options

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**COOK-** What do you get when you combine longing for one's hometown, time, a little luck and a lot of patience, the vision of a dynamic duo, and COVID-19?

In the case of Tiffany and Brandon McCormick, of Cook, you get North Office, a brand-new office center both rustic and modern that has seven furnished offices ready to meet the needs of summer vacationers and year-round residents who need a business 'home' equipped with high-speed fiber optic internet.

The tale begins with Brandon, a Cook High School graduate who went off to earn a degree in construction management at Minnesota State—Mankato and then moved on to a job in the Twin Cities.

It took about two to three years, Brandon said, before he felt the pull of the North Country calling him back home in 2004.

"I decided to move up here full time and start my own business," he said. "I worked with another company that was doing excavating and then I bought one piece of equipment and expanded from there."

Northern Waters Construction was born in 2007, and six years ago Brandon bought a local barging company to add to the varied mix of his services.

Tiffany was raised in Mankato, but she was no stranger to the area. Her

family vacationed at Crane Lake in a cabin owned by her grandparents, and she moved to the area about 15 years ago to help out with a resort her family owned.

"And that's where I met him," Tiffany said, turning to grin at Brandon. The couple recently celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary, and they have two children, McKenna, 15, and Brexton, 7. Tiffany has an online marketing business, and together the couple homeschools their children. Their occupations allow travel to be an integral part of their curriculum, both domestic and foreign. Two years ago, the family spent three months in South Africa.

But how did a couple with flourishing careers end up as owners of an office center?

That adventure began in October 2019 when they discovered St. Louis County was putting a building and large garage adjacent to Lakes Gas on Highway 53 up for public auction.

Luck was on their side the day of the auction, as Tiffany was the only one to show up and bid on the property.

"So then, we're like 'Hey, what are we going to do with it?'" Tiffany laughed.

Then came the coronavirus pandemic, and along with it a titanic shift in how a huge swath of businesses had to operate. Instead of bringing employees into a central location, businesses started operating remotely. Also, people in metro areas began migrating to the

North Country as a place to get away from the confines of the city, and as the summer season approached last year, the couple finally saw a viable opening. Their building happened to have high-speed fiber optic cable running to it, perfect for the data demands of the new age of Zoom meetings and large file transfers.

"I'd say 95 percent of the business I do is on Lake Vermilion," Brandon said. "Working with customers, one of their big struggles is that they want to spend more time up here, but they can't because they don't have the internet in order for them to work. Some do get by, but the majority of them now need better internet." The couple's idea for an office center got a dry run last summer before they even started building out the interior, as a single office already existed in the building.

"We actually had a renter in here from the lake, before we even made a final decision on what we were going to do," Brandon said. "They were one of my customers and they rented this. He did a lot of work here and when he wasn't using it his daughter was. He had numerous other friends who worked for him who came up and used it. There was a guy doing Zoom in a fold-out chair with just an old table we had in here. We just figured from that experience that there was a need for not only private offices, but also a place where you can just come in and use the internet for a day if you need to."

### North Office layout

When the McCormicks set about designing the center, they wanted to accommodate varied needs while providing a welcoming and hospitable environment.

"I wanted modern, something new that still has that 'up north' feel," Tiffany said. "I loved all the different greens and the blues and everything, but I wanted barnboard and wood trim to still give it that feel."

Seven private offices are furnished with contemporary desks and shelves that reinforce the rustic wood theme, and the walls are adorned with the work of local and area artists. Each office has its own dedicated 100mbps internet connection, ensuring data and communications privacy for occupants who provide their own computers.

The McCormicks have earmarked six of the offices for long-term monthly and annual leases, and those occupants can make the space "theirs" by bringing in their own office furniture and wall art if they wish. Each office is slightly different in size and configuration to accommodate varied needs.

One business has already signed on. "Clarity Hearing has 27 offices across Minnesota and northern Wisconsin, and they were looking to have one here in Cook," Tiffany said. "They wanted a great location right off the highway, and something exciting, too, and they jumped on it right away."



Tiffany McCormick stands in one of seven private offices available for rental at North Office in Cook. photo by D. Colburn

Businesses like Clarity will be able to advertise their presence with signs placed on a billboard along the highway.

The seventh office will be for weekly and monthly renters, as the McCormicks continue to assess the need for various services.

Daily users can take advantage of one of four spaces at a bar-level counter near the front entrance and have the option of using Wi-Fi or direct connections. The McCormicks are also considering adding a shared printer to the area.

While the building will have standard operating hours, customers will also have access to their offices any time they want.

Making their customers feel at home comes naturally to Tiffany, and a good example of that is the kitchenette. A refrigerator, microwave and hotplate will accommodate those who want to bring in meals and snacks while they work. A well-stocked beverage cooler, coffee and a variety of teas are complimentary.

The McCormicks also anticipate tenants will

enjoy taking advantage of the six-acre property surrounding the building, and plan to add a patio to accommodate both work and relaxation.

There's another section of the building that for the time being remains unfinished. True to form, Brandon and Tiffany don't know yet what will go in there. A small retail business could be an option, or they may find business is better suited to adding more offices. The nature of the office center business gives them ample time to assess possibilities before choosing a new direction.

To learn more about leasing options or to arrange a tour of North Office, call Tiffany at 218-750-3364, or send an email to northoffice.cook@gmail.com. Information is also available online at www.northofficecook.com and on the North Office Facebook page.

## COVID-19

# State number masks uneven vaccine rollout

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** More than half of eligible Minnesotans have now received at least one shot of COVID-19 vaccine, but disparities exist at the county level, and the number of weekly vaccinations fell off last week after a short surge due to increased eligibility.

More than 2.3 million Minnesotans, 52 percent of the eligible population, had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine as of this past Sunday, and the numbers were even better for counties in northeastern Minnesota. St. Louis and Lake counties had reached 58 percent of those eligible, while Carlton County was at 62 percent, and Cook County led all counties in the state at 76 percent.

But the top 20 counties appear to be faring far better than the 20 at the bottom in reaching residents with first doses. The combined average at the top was 58.1 percent, but the bottom 20 checked in at just 39.6 percent.

St. Louis County Public Health Director Amy Westbrook said the county's 12th-place ranking among the state's 87 counties is likely due to the diverse distribution network here.

"We're a really big county, but we have multiple different health systems working in different parts of the county," Westbrook said. "We also have a state-sponsored site in Duluth that's ongoing,

We had the Mt. Iron clinic that occurred in February. We have the tribes getting vaccine out, we have pharmacy systems, we have healthcare systems, we have local government. There's a lot of opportunity for us to get vaccine into people's arms."

An important factor Westbrook believes has played a role is the confidence people have in their health care providers, including in rural areas.

"In small communities, health care systems are more trusted or could be more trusted, and people who are connected to pharmacies are more trusted," she said. "One of the biggest factors that influences vaccine uptake is having positive, good relationships with healthcare."

### Vaccinations fall

After all Minnesotans age 16 and older became eligible to receive vaccines on March 30, weekly vaccinations statewide surged to their highest level yet—404,447 in the first full week of April. That number fell, however, by 13 percent last week, to 350,736. It's a pattern Westbrook has seen before.

"This is how pretty much all of our phases have gone," she said. "One week, you'll see clinics fill to the max and then the next week, there's just a hint of a few slots going unfilled, and then the next week, it'll be more dramatic. We

saw that with the 65-plus, and now we're seeing it with the general public." County-administered clinics last week had more available slots than they had patients, and registrations as of Wednesday morning for this week's clinics showed signs of a similar trend. Thrifty White pharmacies in Virginia and Hibbing had more than 200 openings available. Cook Hospital had a 60-dose clinic last Friday, and a social media post that same day indicated spaces were still available. "We've seen a saturation, I guess, of individuals who have been clamoring for vaccine, who want it, who are well informed, and who are coming into the clinics to get it because they're seeking it out," Westbrook said.

### Vaccine hesitancy

While vaccinations have been increasing, they are still well short of the 80-90 percent level state and national health experts have said is needed to achieve herd immunity, and a key to attaining that will be persuading some of those who have been hesitant to get the vaccine to do so. Minnesota may be in better shape than most states in that regard according to a survey conducted by the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Vaccine hesitancy in the state is estimated to be 11-12 percent in most Minnesota counties, and no

county is above 14 percent. By contrast, South Dakota counties range from 20 to 29 percent vaccine hesitant, and North Dakota counties from 27 to 31 percent. However, holdouts may be a hard sell. An Axios-Ipsos poll conducted early this week reported that two out of three Americans who haven't yet received the coronavirus vaccine are unlikely to get the shots. A Monmouth University poll released last week found that 21 percent of Americans are unwilling to get vaccinated, with a strong partisan divide—43 percent of Republicans said they want to avoid the vaccine altogether, while only five percent of Democrats responded that way. "I think we'll continue to see people see that their neighbors are getting vaccinated, see that their employer is promoting it, or their school is promoting it and get vaccinated," Westbrook said. "And there will be a percent of people who don't want to get vaccinated at all. We want to make sure that we reach as many people in the population as possible. We want to be more deliberate about education, outreach, and promotion."

### Local data

New COVID-19 cases were reported in four of the six North Country zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay*. Ely had seven new cases, which represents another positive step down

from its March spike. Four new cases were reported in Tower, three in Cook, and one in Embarrass. Soudan had no new cases for a third consecutive week, and Orr hasn't had a new case reported since Feb. 25.

County numbers also dropped in the three most recent days, but Westbrook was reluctant to call it a trend, and numbers remain close to the level associated with accelerated community spread. While hospitalizations have leveled off, Westbrook noted that the number of patients in intensive care has risen. Variant forms of the virus remain a primary concern. Westbrook stressed the overall need to press ahead with vaccinations.

"It's going to take more than a 16-plus vaccination rate of 56 percent," she said. "We're not going to get there, we're not going to get through this pandemic if we have that little of the population vaccinated. We're really looking to everybody to do their part to help control this pandemic so that we all can get back to the normal life that we really remember and want to get back to."

### Restaurant aid coming

Restaurants, bars, and similar food service establishments will soon be eligible to receive financial assistance through the \$28.6 billion Small Business Administration Restaurant Revitalization Program,



An empty bottle of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. photo by K. Vandervort

and the St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department wants to help people apply.

The county will host two virtual information sessions to provide information and answer questions about the program. The sessions will be Friday, April 23, at 11 a.m. and Wednesday, April 28, at 6 p.m. More information and links to join the meeting can be found on the county's COVID-19 Business Resources page at stlouiscountymn.gov/c19business.

According to the SBA's guidelines, grants will range from \$1,000 to \$5 million per location for applicants who meet eligibility requirements. Eligible uses include payroll, mortgage, rent, debt service, utilities, supplies, construction of outdoor seating, and similar business operating expenses.

# OPINION

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

*The First Amendment of the United States Constitution*

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Walter Mondale

An honest and decent man who made the country a better place

In many ways, former Vice President Walter Mondale, who died April 19 at the age of 93, was the ideal political leader. He was humble. He was honest. And he cared deeply about making life better for all Americans. Walter Mondale was an unapologetic liberal, who believed that government, in the right hands, could be a force for advancing this country toward its ideals of liberty and justice for all. He proved that time and again through his efforts in high office.

While representing Minnesota in the U.S. Senate, he passed legislation we know today as the Fair Housing Act, which was designed to end the legacy of discrimination in housing that had been rampant in the U.S. right into the 1970s. For decades, that legacy of discrimination had denied millions of people of color from accessing better quality housing, safer communities, and superior schools for their children. According to his family, it was one of his proudest accomplishments.

He was born the son of a Methodist preacher from southwestern Minnesota, and he incorporated solidly Midwestern values into his life and his service. In an era in which politicians seem to score points through vitriol, dishonesty, and disrespect of their opponents, Walter Mondale's kindness and basic decency harkens back to a time in America to which many of us long to return.

Mr. Mondale rose in the political ranks at a time when America still believed in itself and that reasonable people could find a path to progress for the country. It was the ideal environment for a hard-working politician who was willing to wield the levers of government to make that happen. During his time in the Senate, Mr. Mondale played key roles in advancing legislation to advance civil rights, protect the environment, and provide opportunity for those who needed a helping hand.

Mr. Mondale wasn't known for his powerful oratory, like his early mentor, Hubert Humphrey. He was known for his work ethic and his sound and careful judgment, qualities that undoubtedly appealed to Jimmy Carter when he selected Mondale to serve

as his Vice President.

In doing so, Mr. Mondale remade that office into a kind of co-presidency, a model that most subsequent presidents have followed since. Mr. Mondale was so engaged in the decision-making process of the Carter administration, that he was the Democrats' natural pick for president in 1984, to challenge incumbent Ronald Reagan. Mr. Mondale was eminently qualified for the office and would have made an outstanding president, but by then the country had changed. Ronald Reagan had made government the enemy, and a decent and honest man who lacked the pizzazz of a former movie star, had little chance to win the highest office in the land.

Mondale's honesty was on display during his 1984 convention speech, when he stated that he would raise taxes if elected. He said Reagan would do the same—which was true—but Reagan wouldn't admit it. The voters showed they preferred Reagan's happy talk to straight talk, and it sent Mr. Mondale back to Minnesota after his historic landslide loss.

President Reagan's two terms marked a turning point for American politics, in which both major parties moved for a time to the right. By the time Bill Clinton was elected in 1992, the Democrats had become a party that looked an awful lot like mainstream Republicans of the 1960s and 70s, with support for free trade, welfare reform, and a lock-'em-up and throw away the key attitude toward law enforcement that filled America's prisons to overflowing, destroying many families of color in process.

But Mr. Mondale remained true to his roots and never forgot the fight for justice and equality in America. He remained active and involved in political efforts throughout his remaining years and served as a mentor to many future leaders along the way, including both of Minnesota's current U.S. Senators.

Mr. Mondale made a tremendous mark on our country. It's a better place for the time he spent here. And that, ultimately, is the best thing that could be said of any political leader. He will be sorely missed.



## Letters from Readers

### Stauber's "way of life" talk is failing us

The April 16, 2021, editorial, Stauber's Cultural Divide, contained a lot of great information but the news that only 1.8 percent of people in Stauber's district work in mining should encourage us to work on diversification rather than trying to recreate a mythical past.

Mining promoters who believe that mining is important to Minnesota's economy at the state level should check out the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce. About this time of year, they publish the Gross Domestic Product for the United States and break it down by state and industry for the previous year.

We learn that for 2020 Minnesota had an economy that was a little over \$374 billion. Mining was responsible for less than \$2.8 billion of that total. Much less than one percent. Our mining history is littered with bankruptcies. Stauber's culture has a history that is failing a majority of our population.

We should also be aware of the failures of mining industry science. When you drive through Silver Bay, you see a billboard advertising Black Beach. The billboard doesn't inform us that Black Beach was formed by mining company tailings that industry scientists told us would go to the bottom of Lake Superior and stay there. Every grain of sand on that beach is a rebuke to the mining promoters that tell us we should "Do the science."

Mining is not the engine that is powering Minnesota's economy. Mining is the wet blanket that is smothering real progress in Minnesota.

**Bob Tammen**  
Soudan

### Thanks for two terrific stories

First, thank you so much for your fine coverage of an Eagles Nest issue on the front page of the *Timberjay* entitled "Proposed Road Access Roils Eagles Nest." It was well-researched and touched on all

the important points. As an Eagles Nest resident, I greatly appreciated your even-handed reporting on a small, but vexing situation.

Second, your story on, and pictures of, trumpeter swans was delightful. My daughter's favorite children's book was "The Trumpet of the Swan," by E.B. White. The entire family had it memorized by the fifth reading. We found the book charming and filled with a rich wisdom. It was my good fortune to see two trumpeter swans several weeks ago on a tiny bay on Eagles Nest Lake Two during an early morning run..... the first time I had ever seen one in the flesh. They are magnificent!

Thank you for both terrific stories. And finally, my husband, Frank Sherman and I thank you for all that you do for our community.

**Valerie Myntti**  
Eagles Nest

### "I'm Still Here" an excellent choice

I write in response to the news that a parent has requested the removal from Memorial High's 11th-grade English course of the book "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness."

According to your April 16 article, Chad Davis said he had read the book and that it is "filled with hate speech, racial division, anti-white rhetoric and cancel culture." The book was on my to-read list, so in the last week I read it cover-to-cover. I don't believe Mr. Davis was reading the same book.

The only hate speech in "I'm Still Here" is an occasional verbatim account of something a white person said to the black author, Austin Channing Brown. Ms. Brown's book is a memoir of her experience as a black person in the U.S., from childhood into young adulthood. She spends an entire chapter on the matter of reconciliation, quite the opposite of divisiveness. Overall, Ms. Brown focuses more on herself than on others: on how she learned to love her own racial and cultural identity and selfhood—something most parents hope their own kids will come to feel. What we as white people have never experienced, however, is the

challenge of growing into oneself while surrounded by voices saying we are inferior because of our skin color.

The point of reading books that challenge us is to learn about others' experiences. The best place to do so is in a classroom, where what we read can be discussed, questioned, pondered and critiqued, and where a teacher and classmates can help us understand it more fully. The point isn't that students must agree with the book. The point is to hear another person's viewpoint, to realize that your worldview isn't the only one, to develop empathy.

I applaud teacher Jim Lah for choosing this book for his class. It is not the role of the school board to approve or forbid individual pieces of a teacher's curriculum. Indeed, after decades of teaching experience, a professional educator such as Mr. Lah is the person best equipped to make that decision. I hope he makes the same or similar coursework decisions next year when my son is in 11th grade, to help my son develop greater empathy, practice critical thinking, listen deeply to others, and respect differences among people.

Finally, this: We are not an all-white school (thank goodness). Please consider that, once in a while, the students of color among us surely appreciate the opportunity to see themselves in the authors they read and the leaders they learn about.

**Heidi Mann**  
Parent of a Memorial student  
and former school board member  
Ely

## We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

# Let's work together to keep our habitat clean

People talk about saving the Earth or protecting our planet, but I imagine the Earth will always be here in some form or another. It's not the Earth itself that needs protecting. It's our habitat, our environment, our way of life (i.e. being able to enjoy fresh air, wild forests and uncontaminated water) that needs safeguarding. We need to work to



**STEPHANIE UKKOLA**

keep the Earth in a state that is comfortable for humans and our fellow creatures and plants to live and thrive. We also need to convey environmental values and shape sustainable habits.

I'm in awe of the companies, municipalities and organizations that have taken major strides. Minnesota Power is creating

half of its energy from renewable sources and plans to be 100 percent carbon free by 2050, the City of Duluth has declared a climate emergency and plans to reduce emissions by 80 percent by 2050, and General Motors is planning to produce all electric vehicles by 2035.

As individuals, we too can make small changes that collectively make a big impact.

I take my two young children for walks regularly and I'm always saddened by the amount of trash I see off the sides of roads and trails. How can people be so careless? Don't they want to enjoy

the trails they walk?

On Sunday morning I put my children in a stroller while I picked up 30 gallons of trash on a 500-foot section of trail between the Soudan Post Office and St. Paul's Lutheran Church. That wasn't how I wanted to spend my morning. But, I knew somebody needed to do it. Last fall my children helped me pick up almost as much trash just around our block.

By bringing the kids along with me and doing this regularly, I'm helping to instill the value of keeping our environment clean. I teach them other good habits

too, like turning off lights when we don't need them, recycling, and conserving water. We also like to watch Nature Cat on PBS Kids together, an awesome, fun-packed TV series that encourages children to adventure, ask questions about the environment and shows how our actions can impact nature.

When I think of Soudan, I like to think of it as a quaint, family-based community. There's always kids out running around and most everyone is neighbor-

See **HABITAT...pg. 5**

## Letters from Readers

### Thanks for the great writing

I just got to see my copy of this week's *Timberjay*.

What great writing. The flow, the exposition of the facts, the history of its use, all leading up to that explosive exposition of the reactions of the people who now say, "It's not fair," that they should get only what they have, instead of exclusive use of the public domain.

Regardless of how one might feel about the issues, what I'm congratulating, commending, and praising is the writing. Nothing extraneous, fully informative, and smoothly flowing facts. Just a great job.

Kudos.

**Dave Porter  
Minneapolis**

### We should all read "I'm Still Here"

Books are one of the most meaningful and powerful tools in understanding those "not like us."

I read that an Ely parent opposed the inclusion of a memoir, "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" by Austin Channing Brown in the required reading list for eleventh-grade students. He opposed the book because, in his opinion, it was "one person's jaded perspective about a specific race."

This powerful book is a memoir, meaning that the book is the author's personal story. A young black woman with experiences vastly different from any that the parent opposing the book would ever have. Her

perspective is not jaded. Her perspective is based on her experiences as a black woman.

Through books, we learn about the experiences of those "not like us." Through books, we develop compassion, understanding and empathy towards those whose lives differ dramatically from our own. Through books, we are able to view the world through a lens different from our own.

In the classroom, books such as this provide a powerful tool to examine issues. Books lead students to think, to consider, and to discuss and explore. Books develop critical thinking skills, and most importantly, books illuminate the similarities and differences in our human experiences.

I am a retired educator who taught courses in children's literature for many years. Many books have been eye openers for me, expanding my personal awareness of the struggles of black and brown people, the dynamics of racism, and experiences that I will never have.

"I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" by Austin Channing Brown is an excellent choice for the reading list and is one each of us should read.

**Ellie Larmouth  
Tower**

### Trust in science and faith, but not blind faith

Blind faith is not the same as good faith. God shows us what is good or bad. Global climate change, warming seas, loss of arctic ice and wildlife, higher CO2 levels than ever

recorded, even in ancient arctic ice. The rise in sea levels, extreme storms, dangerous and unpredictable weather caused by our use of and quest for more and more fossil fuel.

God put the sun in the sky and the winds on the surface of the Earth, but the carbon-loaded fossil fuels are buried deep in the earth... Figure that out.

He gave us the power to make decisions that can change Earth for good or bad. He gave us the ability to listen and learn; and he gave us science, which is true whether or not you believe it! Do not follow leaders blindly. Use knowledge of science and what is good for posterity to decide what is right.

Do not use monetary wealth to guide you toward your good choices—it will not. In fact, it usually leads to that which is self-gratifying.

He has given us all the clues and warnings, including a pandemic, to slap us in unmasked faces and point out how vulnerable we really are. Right decisions and listening to the scientists could have possibly cut the death toll in half or more, but love and control of money and power kept that from happening.

When people in power repeat lies enough times, their minions believe them and the cult grows and threatens democracy and our real rights. Why did people fight in WWI and WWII to rid fascism in Europe and the world? Now 35-plus percent of people ignorantly welcome fascism and autocracy, which is ruining that very democracy. Greed and racism are a large part of the reason why.

Try to find the truth that is in your heart, or

fact check maybe? Gather some money and share with those less fortunate, which does not mean that a billionaire should give to those poor millionaires. Trust in science and trust in faith, but not blind faith. Use your brain and make your own decisions, rather than being led around by a rope through that ring in your nose. The truth is there; you just have to be strong, kind, and empathetic enough to accept it and act appropriately.

**W. C. Pohl  
Cook**

### Hate groups are alive in Minnesota

Do you know someone who attended the Jan. 6 insurrection at the capitol in Washington, D.C.? Do you know a member of a hate group or a white nationalist group?

We Minnesotans tend to think of ourselves as peaceable, neighborly folks who treat others with respect. Yet, in Minnesota, hate and extremism are alive and gaining strength. In 2020, the anti-government and hate group movements leveraged the pandemic, the 2020 election, Black Lives Matters protests, and social media technology to increasingly become more visible and more violent.

White nationalist groups espouse white supremacist or white separatist ideologies. The "American Identity Movement", the "National Reformation Party", and the "Patriot Front" have members in Minnesota. Additionally, the statewide "Proud Boys" group

is gaining a lot of media attention as they have been implicated in organizing and preparing for armed violence at the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Fortunately, we do not have known members in the Ku Klux Klan. But we do have members of the racist skinhead group "Vinlanders Social Club".

Minnesota has two groups that believe white European people and cultures are dying out and need protection. The "Asatru Folk Assembly" (Murdock) is purchasing an abandoned Lutheran church for a regional meeting location. A chapter of the "Black Sun Tribe Project" resides in Princeton.

The "Remnant Press" (Forest Lake), "Israel United in Christ" (Minneapolis), "Israelite School of Universal Practical Knowledge" (Minneapolis), and the "Sons of Liberty Media" (Annandale) represent various hate themes and, in many cases, sell or provide a variety of hate-based materials.

The final group consists of antigovernment "patriot" groups, "We Are Change" (statewide), Central Minnesota Tea Party (Saint Cloud), Constitution Party (Redwood Falls), John Birch Society (Lake Benton), and the Oath Keepers (Hennepin County). Included in this group are various 3-Percent groups which follow the doctrine that a small number of armed citizens can resist the government and the military. This is based on the false belief that only 3-percent of American colonists fought the British in the Revolutionary War. These include "American Patriots Three Percent,"

"The Three Percenters" (Crow Wing County), the "III Percenters United Patriots" (Rice County).

But you might say that these are fringe groups, and they really don't represent very many people. Northern Minnesota polls may suggest otherwise.

In northern Minnesota when asked which is a bigger problem, 22-percent felt police violence against black people is a bigger problem while 65-percent felt civilian violence against people and property was a bigger problem (13-percent were not sure). Asked do you have a favorable opinion of the Black Lives Matter movement, 33-percent of northern Minnesotans viewed it favorably while 58-percent did not (9-percent were not sure).

You might now say we Minnesotans are nice people and wouldn't actually hurt anyone. The U.S. Department of Justice, providing data for 2019, shows Minnesota had 104 hate crimes of which 59 were specifically race or ethnicity related. In December 2020, in Mountain Iron, resisting arrest maybe due to fear, a young hispanic man carrying a small knife was shot and killed. Was it really necessary to shoot him? Would it have happened if he were white?

As Minnesotans, we need to look into the mirror and ask ourselves if we take responsibility for who we are. Are we who we think we are? Are we who we wish to be?

**Keith Steva  
Cook**

## HABITAT...Continued from page 4

ly; it's really a nice place to live.

But it's not always nice, and it's not always clean or safe. My children have tried eating cigarette butts off the road and there's often dog poop left on the sidewalks, especially by the park, dog poop that both my children as infants have tried to play in. My neighbor's cat likes to poop in my garden and children's sand box.

It's not safe for kids here

when there's broken glass bottles off the sidewalk. It's not safe for animals when there's plastic six-pack holders lying around. Yes, I've found both on multiple occasions.

If we really care, if we really want to take pride in our communities, we need to all look out for each other and do what we can to keep our communities safe and clean.

We all can create a better, safer, more beautiful

community by leashing our animals and cleaning up after them, by picking up trash or confronting someone when you see them littering. Teach the children in your life how to be a steward for the environment and why it's important. You don't have to be perfect, but if everyone cared a little more we would all benefit.

Here are some other ideas on how you can be more sustainable:

► Use reusable bags on shopping trips

► Stop buying bottled water and invest in a reusable water bottle

► Reduce the amount of things you buy

► Start a garden and a compost pile

► Choose to walk or bike, instead of drive, for short trips

► Find ways you can improve the energy efficiency of your home.

Celebrate Earth Day

with me this weekend and remember to treat every day like it's Earth Day.

*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**



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

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

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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

#### Official Newspaper:

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

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

#### Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$39 year Elsewhere: \$54 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com).

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

### NO NEED TO PANIC!

Both Federal and MN have extended the income tax deadline to May 17, 2021. However, the estimated payment deadline of April 15 remains the same.

**PESHEL  
ACCOUNTING**

1704 E Camp St. | PO Box 89 | Ely, MN 55731 | askjean.net



218-365-2424



**BIRD SEED**

HIBBING  
**FEED AND SEED**

**262-3049**

**RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS**

**DIAMOND EARRING SALE**

All Sizes • SAVE!

OPEN: Tues-Sat 9-5  
Closed Saturday, April 17  
218-827-2515  
Babbitt Shopping Center

## Congratulations, YOU did it!

**You raised over \$78,000 to feed your hungry friends and neighbors right here in the Ely area.**

Between March 1, 2021 and April 11, 2021 the Ely Area Food Shelf took part in the March Campaign, a grassroots effort to restock food shelves across Minnesota. We are proud to report we received cash donations totaling \$78,804.30, exceeding our goal of \$75,000. We received 1,405 pounds of donated food including a generous donation of fresh strawberries during the Nordic Wolves fundraiser. We all know how much home-town spirit our Ely graduates have and a Facebook and newsprint challenge to all Ely Memorial High School Graduates generated \$8,701 towards the goal. Donations of \$10 to \$1,000 came in from 86 graduates in 18 states. During the campaign memorials were received in honor of Bob Niskala, Erik Lindskog, Nola Sorenson and Loren (Lars) Larson, MD.

**On behalf of the hungry, we here at the Ely Area Food Shelf say....THANK YOU!!**



**ely area food shelf**

Week of April 26

**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 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 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.

**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](http://vermilioncountry.org).

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Students at Vermilion Country School spend time outdoors most days as part of their environmental education and physical education classes. This spring students searched for maple and birch trees in the woods surrounding the school to tap for syrup. They also practiced tree identification, and talked about traditional uses for local trees and plants. Students also took a little time to hang out on the big rock, a favorite spot in the school forest. photo by J. Summit



**St. James donates snacks for testing days**

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower has donated a nice assortment of snacks and water for elementary students during the statewide MCA test days, which start next week. Students will receive a couple of special kid-friendly snacks during morning and also during afternoon testing, along with bottled water. The church has been purchasing these snacks the past several years, hoping the extra treats will make test day a little less stressful for the young learners. Pictured are church members Terry Vagle (left) and JoAnne Connell (right), with school secretary Ilona Svedberg (center).

photo by J. Summit

**Conference on Alzheimer's and dementia diagnosis online event open to all concerned about the disease**

REGIONAL- The Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter, Dakota Geriatrics and the University of North Dakota Department of Geriatrics will join forces to present a free virtual conference on Alzheimer's and other dementia on Wednesday, April 28 from 3 to 6 p.m. Today, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and 50 million people worldwide have dementia.

Navigating the Journey to a Dementia Diagnosis is geared toward people concerned about Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

The conference will feature healthcare providers and caregivers who will share their perspectives on the disease. There are currently over 11 million unpaid dementia caregivers in the U.S., providing an estimated 15.3 billion hours in care, valued at nearly \$257 billion.

Attendees will also learn about the warning signs of Alzheimer's and hear from physicians experienced in diagnosing Alzheimer's disease and other dementia.

Alzheimer's is the third leading cause of death in North Dakota and the fourth leading cause of death in Minnesota. As cases of Alzheimer's and dementia continue to rise across the country, the importance of an accurate and early diagnosis is especially imperative.

Registration is required to attend the conference and is available at <http://bit.ly/navigatingdementia>. For questions or more information, contact Beth Olson at [bolson@alz.org](mailto:bolson@alz.org) or 701-952-0800.

**EVFCU annual meeting to be held on June 15**

REGIONAL- Due to COVID-19, the 79th Annual Meeting of the Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union will be a business only meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, June 15 at the Timber Hall in Embarrass. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and will be a business only meeting. Attendees will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing.

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



**Vermilion Country School announces honor roll**

**"A" Honor Roll**

- Caleb Ramponi
- Brody Anderson
- Talyn Hedin
- Emilie Wojcik
- Leah Anderson
- Jaicee Krings
- Mariah Mitchell

**"B" Honor Roll**

- Isaac Archambeau
- Annaeiah Chavez
- Alliyah Zapata

**Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!**



COMMUNITY NEWS

**Vermilion Lake Cemetery work day on April 24**

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township is hosting their annual Community Work Day at the Vermilion Lake Township Cemetery, 6499 Wahlsten Road, on Saturday, April 24 beginning at 1 p.m. Help is needed to straighten headstones and raise grave markers. Many hands will make quick work of the project. The township has only a few tools. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own shovels, etc. If you have any questions, please call Sarah Schmidt at 218-750-2425, Phil Anderson at 218-749-3462, or Frank Zobitz at 651-755-5946.

**Parade float registrations required by May 8 to see if there is enough interest to hold a parade**

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is hoping that there will be a parade on the Fourth of July this year. With the COVID-19 restrictions being loosened, and more citizens getting vaccinated, things are getting closer to "back to normal."

But for the parade to happen, the TSLVEB needs to get the public involved now!

The board needs to hear from all businesses, families, organizations, and individuals who plan

on having an entry in the parade. The level of interest shown by all of you will be the deciding factor on whether or not a parade will happen.

Sadly, due to many issues caused by the pandemic, the high school marching bands have not had the opportunity to practice. It is most likely that these bands will not be marching in the parade this year.

**Everyone who wants to participate in the parade this year should contact Julie Johnson at [tseventsboard@gmail.com](mailto:tseventsboard@gmail.com), or by phone/text at 218-750-7242 by May 8.** This is the deadline the board has set to allow time to get all the aspects of the parade in place for Sunday, July 4.

Fireworks are being planned for Saturday, July 3.

**Coaches needed for T-Ball and Coach Pitch Little League**

SOUDAN- Adult volunteer coaches are needed to lead this year's T-Ball and Coach Pitch Little League teams for local youth ages five to eight.

Longtime coach Nate Dostert, who has been working with these teams since he was a teenager, will be coaching the older Little League teams this year.

"We need some coaches to step up," he said, "and also need an adult willing to help organize the program." Doste-

rt said he will work with any volunteers who step forward and guide them through the season.

The teams practice in Soudan, but play games throughout the area as part of the East Range Little League Association. Each team plays between eight and ten games during the season, which starts mid-May and runs through the end of June.

Coach responsibilities include bringing equipment to the games, running practices (mostly just for the coach-pitch level), canceling games and notifying families in case of inclement weather (thunderstorms), filling out rosters on game day, and coaching during the games.

"Practices are most-

ly just held in May prior to the games starting," said Dostert. "And for the T-Ball team, no real practices are needed."

"I am looking for a parent of a player or any other willing adult to step up," said Dostert.

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from games and practices. Joan Dostert, Nate's mother, will be organizing the concession stand and will also be recruiting volunteers to help run the stand on game days.

Anyone interested in learning more about this fun and memorable volunteer opportunity should call Nate Dostert at 218-780-2242.

OUR COMMUNITY

# Desserts are back for Young Life Auction

ELY - This year The Young Life Auction can live up to its Sweet Spring Auction name again this year after a COVID-19-required detour to an online event in 2020.

Surprisingly, the organization found that challenge resulted in attracting numerous new bidders, even folks from Ely who had not attended before. "It was the organizations most successful auction yet in raising funds that go directly to programming and camp scholarships for area youth," said Ely Area Young Life Director, Mike Keller.

There was one criticism. No desserts.

For the 16th annual fundraiser, that problem has been rectified. With 18 bakers creating 21 gourmet desserts, this is a sweet auction indeed.

Erin Moravitz will be donating three different desserts, and favorites like Sharon Svatos and her Guinness Chocolate Cake will be back, but it will work a bit differently from in the past. Just as you might bid on a dinner donation and then schedule it at a later time, the dessert winners will receive a certificate that allows them to coordinate a time with the baker for their special treat to be created. No more putting



The 2021 Young Life Auction features a fishing outing with the Anglers Club. Previous participants Jacob Priebe and Peter Johnson, above, are shown on Shagawa Lake. Anna Thompson's Chocolate Malt Cake, below, is one of several desserts at this year's event. submitted photos



that luscious cheesecake in the freezer for an August family reunion.

The desserts will be accompanied by 175 donated items from generous businesses and individuals. There will be old favorites like Tom Wetzel and Larry Mischke's walleye dinner, as well as newcomers like Docks on Wheels. There will be unique experiences like rides in fire trucks, tow boats, zip lines, canoes, golf carts, cable cars, trains, dog sleds, and on stand-up paddle boards.

And of course, plenty of options for dining, outdoor adventures, and homeowners, just to name a few.

"Ely Young Life is still going strong and has throughout the pandemic, finding creative ways to connect with kids through remote activities," Keller said. This summer Ely kids will be returning to camp - often dubbed "the best week of their lives" and are signing up right now.

Approximately 75 percent of the middle school and high school youth in Ely participate in Young Life in some form (through camp, attending clubs, special events or small groups) by the time they graduate. And 30 volunteers work directly with kids through Young Life, Wyldlife and their Anglers Club.

Young Life is a non-denominational, international Christian youth organization. For more information about YL and the auction, go online to [ely.younglife.org](http://ely.younglife.org). Auction items are also posted on Ely Young Life Sweet Spring Auction's Facebook page.

Bidding will open Sunday, April 25, at 6 p.m. and end Sunday, May 2, at 6 p.m. Auction items will close at various times from 2-6 p.m. on May 2.

## Star Wars trivia at Ely Public Library

ELY - Get your blaster out and brush up on your Star Wars Trivia. The Ely Public Library will be hosting an online Kahoot! trivia game on the topic of the Star Wars movies on Tuesday, May 4. (May the Fourth be with you!)

Call the Ely library to register at 218-365-5140.

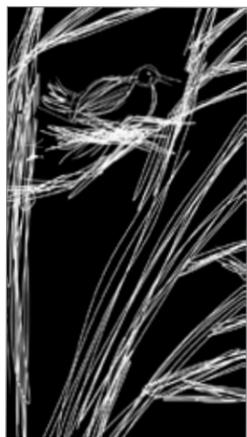
## Tuesday Group

ELY - All Tuesday Group presentations are administered in a virtual presence until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. Send email to [stevieschon@gmail.com](mailto:stevieschon@gmail.com) for more information.

► April 27 - Kathryn Hoffman- CEO of Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) with an Update on the PolyMet Mine.

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



the early morning returning bird song brings hope

light extended days

## WALK FOR WATER

# Memorial High School Key Club raises funds for water awareness

ELY - The Ely Memorial High School Key Club hosted their annual Walk for Water fundraiser last Saturday. More than 50 participants, including 10 youth and 16 dogs, raised \$460 that day for the Thirst Project.

An additional \$500 donated from local businesses and individuals boosted the total to \$960, according to Ely Community Resource staff member and walk organizer Jill Swanson. All of the money raised will go toward providing people with safe, clean drinking water.

"There was a Lutheran pastor who read about the event and before heading back to Minneapolis, he walked and made a donation," Swanson said. "He was talking to (ECR Coordinator) Julie Hignall and the kids about how their missionary is about to break ground this week on a well in Tanzania! It was super exciting. Thanks to all who participated."



John Hakala and Zach Robbins, Ely Memorial High School juniors and school Key Club members, participated in the Walk for Water fundraiser Saturday at Trezona Trail. photo by K. Vandervort

## Libraries

### Ely library

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

### Babbitt library

Monday	Noon-6 pm
Tuesday	Noon-6 pm
Wednesday	Noon-6 pm
Thursday	Noon-6 pm
Friday	Noon-5 pm

Phone: 827-3345

## Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

**OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

**ELY WOMEN'S OPEN**

AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely.

**BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.** Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church

**AL-ANON - Sundays** 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.

For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

**BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

**CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.

**ELY FOOD SHELF -** Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.

**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED**

- Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:** Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

## Our Community

### Just horsin' around at open house



Eava Smitherman, age 8, gets friendly with a horse at Echo Valley Stables during an open house last Saturday. She has been taking riding lessons for three years. photo by K. Vandervort

ELY - Hamilton Horsemanship and Echo Valley Stables hosted an open house last weekend for those interested to learn about what services are offered at the farm, including horse boarding and riding lessons.

Owner Terry Bailey boards many horses at the ranch, located west of Ely on Robich Road, and Karen Hamilton uses the facility for her Hamilton Horsemanship business. "I have three horses and a pony," Hamilton said, "and we offer rides and riding lessons for everyone, even children, with any kind of experience. We are tailored for riders with all kinds of abilities. We teach everything there is about horses."

The open house last Saturday attracted dozens of interested people. Hamilton hopes to host another open house later this summer.

For more information, call 406-223-6366.

### Senior Center hosts drive-up shoe drive

ELY - The shoe-wearing public is invited to participate in a drive-up shoe collection to close out the Shoe Drive Fundraiser sponsored by the Ely Area Senior Citizens. Donations of gently worn, used and new shoes, boots, and sandals will be accepted.

Load up your vehicle, drive to the Ely Senior Center, 27 S 1st Ave E, on Saturday, April 24 from noon to 3 p.m., pop the trunk, and volunteers will gratefully collect donations

### Dog obedience class offered in Ely

ELY - With COVID-19 public health restrictions easing, Ely Community Education is offering an in-person dog obedience class this spring. Paula McKenzie will focus on developing a connection between owner and dog, and positive reinforcement for both participants.

Designed for mature, three-month-old and older dogs, this class provides the foundation for a well-mannered pet. Beginner Obedience will help dog owners learn how to clearly communicate with their dog. "Find out how to clearly ask your dog to come when called, walk on a loose leash, sit, down, while developing a positive relationship between you and your dog," she said. "You and your dog will enhance success by practicing skills at home between classes."

All classes will be held outside, beginning Monday, May 17, and run seven Mondays from 6-7 p.m., concluding July 5. The cost is \$120.

Please wear clothing that is suitable for the weather. Due to construction, the Ely Ice Arena is not available, so all classes will be held in the arena parking lot.

For more information, go to [www.ely.k12.mn.us/community](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us/community), or call 218-235-7850.

### Holmstrom heads to state high school speech meet



Ely student Laura Holmstrom placed third in extemporaneous speaking at the Minnesota State High School League 7A section speech meet held virtually last week. Laura will represent Ely Memorial High School at the virtual state speech meet on Saturday, April 24. submitted photo

# Change is afoot at Cook's Country Connection

## Furry and feathered additions already here, with more on the way

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**COOK-** Although Cook's Country Connection isn't a typical farm, Lois Pajari knows all too well the old adage "a farmer's work is never done."

Sounds of work were evident the moment one arrived at the farm on Friday as workers were installing sheet rock in the main barn used for classes and corporate retreats. In the distance, the century-old granary appeared propped up on stilts and undergoing major reconstruction.

And behind a mountain of dirt, Al Hoover was ankle-deep in water in a hole about eight-feet deep working on a water line, with Lois standing on the rim above him, vigorously shaking water out of a long pipe and faucet. "Oh, it's that late already?" Pajari said when she noticed the waiting reporter. Opening day, May 1, is fast approaching, and Pajari was clearly in her element.

"We're excited to have people back," she said. "It's going to be fun to have people back at the farm."

As she strolled over to where three of her newest

animal inhabitants were playing, Pajari talked about some of the work being done, starting with the granary.

"When I talked to a gentleman about putting siding on it, he pointed out that the whole building was sinking," she said. "So now the building has been lifted. It's getting new foundation footings. I use the building as my wintering barn. I'm hoping to turn the upstairs into a farm stay, like possibly an Airbnb space. We had a lot of campers come stay at the farm last year, so this seemed like a good time to bite the bullet and do something with the granary."

Returning visitors will see a number of differences, Pajari said.

"We've got a feed shed now. It's not done, but we're getting there," she said. "The inside of the barn is being finished. It will be insulated and sheet-rocked and hopefully have a ceiling, which will make it a little bit more comfortable in the spring and fall months when it's a little chilly outside. We've started doing corporate trainings in the offseason."

Day camps for kids, farm yoga and monthly happy hours and music

events are again on tap for the summer, but children and families flock to the farm for the animals, and there are some new additions there, too, with more on the way.

Rupert, a black Olde English 'Babydoll' Southdown sheep, was small enough to fit in a bucket when he arrived at the farm in late March, and while he's gotten bigger, he's still a child-sized bundle of fun and energy. He also has two little playmates, Juniper and Ivy, but they're not sheep. They're goats, a cross between Nigerian dwarf and pygmy varieties.

"Rupert was a bottle baby, and I couldn't find another bottle baby companion for him, so I've got two goats," Pajari said. "I don't know that I want a sheep that knows how to be a goat. Sheep tend to be better behaved."

As the trio dashed and hopped around and took turns scaling a large pile of hay, Pajari pointed toward the bird section.

"All of these birds over here have been adopted, they are all new," she said. "I now have geese. I was never going to have geese. I have three more ducks. I was never going to have any ducks, and now I'm up to eight



**Cook's Country Connection's new baby goat Juniper takes a brief break in the arms of Lois Pajari before getting back to cavorting with pals Ivy, another goat, and Rupert, a Babydoll Southdown sheep.** Photo by D. Colburn

ducks. And three more turkeys."

And with the calendar solidly into springtime, more babies will be arriving soon.

"The cow is due to have a baby the first weekend of May," Pajari said. "Trixie the goat is due to have babies closer to the end of May and a pig is due to have babies, maybe Penelope pig. There will be baby bunnies. So, there'll be all kinds of new life."

There might even be a new bounding bundle

of joy among one of visitors' favorite animals, the alpacas.

"I know Stetson jumped the fence in May to get to the girls, and he jumped the fence in June to get to the girls, and he jumped the fence in July to get to the girls, but we took care of that in August and there will be no more," Pajari said. "But yeah, I have a couple of them that have gained 20-some pounds over the course of the winter and that's not normal." Weighing the furry alpaca-

as is a typical way to monitor their health, as all that fur could mask a tell-tale weight loss. But with two of the girls having gained weight, and with the gestation period for alpacas being about 13 months, a couple of little surprises could possibly be appearing this summer.

Complete information about Cook's Country Connection can be found online at [www.cooks-countryconnection.com](http://www.cooks-countryconnection.com), and regular updates are posted on Facebook.

# Artists sought for city project

**COOK-** It's finally time to take the brakes off and move full steam ahead on a project that will bring visual and performing arts to Cook's downtown, "It stARTS on River Street."

The cultural enhancement initiative isn't only intended to showcase the arts. A more vibrant and visible arts project should also enhance economic development, providing attractions that will draw people to town who will also patronize local merchants.

The first step takes

place on Saturday, May 1 with a virtual meeting for potential artists from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Facebook Live. Attendance is required for project funding consideration of up to \$1,000. Participants will have one month after the workshop to propose creative project ideas for review.

Proposals will be accepted for permanent art installations, temporary works of art, programs, interactive demonstrations, and classes, all to take place on River Street from

Highway 53 to the Veterans Bridge between June and December. Projects can take place in parks, in other public areas, or in private spaces with owner approval.

Artists should preregister for the May 1 meeting by contacting Crystal Phillips at 218-666-2210 or [crystal.phillips@alslib.info](mailto:crystal.phillips@alslib.info).

This project is part of Artists on Main Street, a partnership between the City of Cook and Re-thos, with support from the Bush Foundation.

## ORR BOG WALK

# Construction to begin soon

**ORR-** The Mickey Elverum Bog Walk in Orr is officially closed, and the countdown to the opening of its replacement has begun.

In poor condition heading into the winter, the walk emerged into the spring rains and intermittent snow in even worse shape. City clerk Cheri Carter said that it made sense to close the walk now, given safety considerations.

City officials met last week with Pember Companies, Inc., of Menominee, Wis., the project

contractor, to review plans and discuss modifications that would bring costs within the available budget. Pember's bid of \$421,360 was \$29,000 more than the city has available, but the council decided to accept it rather than rebid it with no guarantee of a lower offer and further delaying the project.

"We just reviewed the plans/specs and asked them what they need as far as parking, barriers, etc.," Carter said. "It was a good meeting. Both parties recognized the need

to be flexible as there are always unknowns in this type of project."

One unknown they were able to whittle down is when work will get underway. Carter said Pember's plan is to start work the first week of May, although it could be the last week of April if they complete the job they're currently working on early.

If all proceeds as planned, the new bog walk should be substantially completed by mid-June, with a final completion target of July 1.

## NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# Old school or new school, education essentials endure

by JOHN VUKMANICH  
North Woods Principal

Last week, I filled in for one of our high school teachers for a class period, and one of the students asked, "What was school like when you were a kid?" I explained a little bit of it to him, but I'm not sure that he really understood that school was the same, but different, too.

Back in the 1970s, the community of Virginia had several elementary schools in different locations. Living in Britt, we were bussed to different elementary schools that had nothing to do with where we actually lived. My best friend across the road went to Washington, and I went to James Madison. It must have been a random draw.

James Madison was an impressive school with a huge courtyard that was at least the size of a football field, a large, paved area with basketball hoops, and some excellent hiding places.

My Kindergarten room was huge. It had a tiled floor with a huge green rug in the middle. There were little tables that we sat at on one side,

and an area on the other side was set up for kids to play house.

Our teacher sat on a little stool on the rug to read to us, and we would sit there cross-legged and listen. Mike, one of my best friends, and I used to play together with blocks that were kept in a huge wooden chest. The blocks were 2x4s cut to different lengths, ranging in size from 4" all the way up to 12" and maybe larger, and there were lots of them!

One day a new student arrived in class, and as cruel as it sounds, he looked like trouble. Adults, never forget that even five-year-olds can read you like a book. They know what's going on! One day, the new student took one of the biggest blocks and threw it across the tile. Sliding like a torpedo, it hit Mike, who was kneeling, right in the leg. He was in pain.

The teacher didn't see it and the new boy knew it. When the teacher asked loudly, "Who did it?," the new student pointed right at me. Before I could even plead my case the teacher had me over her knee on

the same stool she read from and spanked me in front of the whole class. I didn't tell my parents until years later because I was afraid that I would still be in trouble at home.

I had some excellent elementary teachers and some I did not like as much, but that's how it goes. I loved Mrs. Dunstan in first grade. She was upbeat, kind, and inspired confidence. My fourth-grade teacher, Bill McCormick, was an old school disciplinarian. On Fridays, if we were good, we could listen to records in class. My parents had one record, ABBA, that I took to class. It didn't get as much air play that Friday as REO Speedwagon.

My favorite was my fifth-grade teacher, Leroy Gerchman. He was like Bill Nye the Science Guy. Not a day went by that Mr. Gerchman didn't blow off a bottle top with baking soda and vinegar or light something on fire with a Bunsen burner or do something else exciting. We made model rockets, the kind that actually used an engine with a little fuel cell. I had a blast! He was en-

gaging, kind, and ran a tight ship. We didn't mess with him! We loved him but respected him at the same time.

In the winter of fifth grade I began having bad stomach pains, but I had Boy Scout camp in Twig, and I went, stomach pain and all. Upon arriving back home, mom took me straight to the clinic and the next day I had my appendix removed. After spending the night at the hospital, I begged to go visit my class and Mr. Gerchman. I wanted to see my teacher and

classmates, and I remember walking up the steps holding my incision.

School was different, but also the same. There were bullies, there were teachers we liked more than others, but almost all of them were kind and professional. There was no technology, no computers, no cell phones.

Today, math is still math, history still happens, scientific principles still exist as they did, and the English language is still close to what it was 100 years ago, except for words like "YouTuber."

The comparison could easily fill the pages of an entire book, and maybe has.

Our opinions about school are shaped by our experiences in school, for good or bad. When it comes down to it, I hope our kids feel the way I did about my favorite teachers - that we took the best care of them we could, held them accountable, and gave them the skills they need to get to the next level. That part of education should always stay the same.

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

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

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th

## MINING

# EPA inspector finds failure to follow policy in PolyMet case

Report a follow-up to allegations that the EPA helped MPCA suppress concerns about PolyMet's water discharge permit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General (OIG) on Wednesday has confirmed that officials with the EPA's Region 5 (Upper Midwest) office failed to follow federal policy and procedures when they withheld written comments on a draft water discharge permit that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency intended to issue to PolyMet Mining.

The MPCA subsequently issued the NPDES permit for PolyMet's proposed copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes in late 2018, but that permit has since been suspended by the state's Court of Appeals.

The EPA's Inspector General, which is an independent, internal federal investigative agency, also found that the Region 5 office failed to make a determination whether the Fond du Lac Band should have been allowed to object to the permit as a potentially affected downstream water user. That same concern recently led to the withdrawal of the wetlands permit issued to PolyMet by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Inspector General noted that EPA reviewers of the NPDES permit proposed by the MPCA

had determined that it did not address all of the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

"Despite the concerns about the draft PolyMet NPDES permit, Region 5 management did not transparently exercise its oversight authority, choosing instead to not provide written comments summarizing those concerns," wrote the OIG in a 59-page report that included related findings on a separate complaint from West Virginia.

The OIG investigation into the PolyMet case stemmed from an EPA whistleblower who raised concerns about the agency's decision, during the period of the Trump administration, to suppress concerns that professional EPA had about the MPCA's proposed permit. Rather than issue written comments, which would have garnered media coverage, EPA staff officials agreed to read their comments over the phone to MPCA officials. Those comments were never made public until word of the unusual action leaked out. At the same time, the action meant that the MPCA was not required to respond to the concerns raised by EPA officials, since they weren't in writing.

By not submitting written comments, the EPA also helped the MPCA keep the federal agency's concerns hidden from both the public and any courts



that would eventually hear a legal challenge to the permit. But the revelations surrounding the action foiled that effort and shed an unflattering light on the conduct of both agencies.

"This isn't earth-shaking, but it's an important step toward accountability," said Paula Maccabee, head legal counsel for Water Legacy. "The OIG agreed with all of the facts that Water Legacy and the Fond du Lac laid out, including the failure to comment, and the failure to give notice to the Fond du Lac Band."

Maccabee played a key role in uncovering the failures in the case when she obtained emails through a records request that showed that MPCA officials had discouraged the EPA from submitting written comments at the usual stage in the process. A state

district court judge in St. Paul, in a separate review of the MPCA's actions in the case, determined last fall that the agency had not engaged in an effort to suppress EPA comments. That decision is under appeal.

## EPA agrees to recommendations

As part of the OIG's process, the EPA office under question has the opportunity to review the findings and agree to any recommended steps to address those concerns. In the case of the Region 5 office, EPA staff have agreed to issue written comments on PolyMet's NPDES permit in the event that courts involved in its review ultimately remand it back to the MPCA for changes.

The NPDES permit remains in the courts for now. Environmental

groups and the Fond du Lac Band are challenging the permit over its merits as well as the tainted process. They claim that the permit fails to comply with the federal Clean Water Act.

At the same time, the Region 5 office had already agreed to call for a public hearing on the Fond du Lac Band's rights as an affected downstream party. The EPA had agreed to that last month after the Army Corps pulled its wetlands permit for the project over the failure to notify Fond du Lac.

With the OIG report now public, environmental groups are calling on Gov. Tim Walz to take action against the MPCA for its role in the matter. "Legislators, led by Senator John Marty, sent a letter to the MPCA in July 2019 regarding the revelations about EPA's concerns," noted Aaron Klemz, with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. "This report is a clear repudiation of MPCA's response to these legislators, which was that all EPA staff concerns about the water permit were resolved before it was issued and that proper procedures were followed. Gov. Walz needs to hold his agency staff accountable for misleading legislators who raised the alarm about the violations of policy and process around this permit."

## CITY OF ELY

# Ely council OKs enforcement on rental unit license delinquents

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

Rental property owners can expect fines of \$100 per week

ELY — City Council members here this week were initially reluctant, for a second time, to enforce the civil citation processes on expired rental dwelling licenses. Only after a call by the interim mayor to rescind the ordinance did they realize they were required to act on the issue.

Earlier this month, the city's building official, Doug Whitney, presented a list of 21 properties in the city where the owner is delinquent in paying required license fees. As reported last week in the *Timberjay*, when asked by Interim Mayor Chuck Novak for a motion to act on the issue, council members sat on their hands and refused to call for civil enforcement.

This week, the issue came before the council again, and initially, the council lacked the courage to call for enforcement of

the city code.

The portion of the code related to Licensing of Rental Dwellings has been in effect for a decade. It states, "No person may operate a rental unit or rental dwelling unit in the city without a license for each building, subject to limited exceptions."

In his letter to the city council, dated March 30, 2021, Whitney said, "We know of about 200 long-term rentals." He attached a list of 21 letters sent to owners with no response received.

"We have sent two letters this year and have sent letters every three to six months in past years," he said.

Failure to respond within 30 days of the date of the letter may result in civil penalties of up to \$100 per week.

The code also states,

"Failure to obtain either a provisional license as required, or an operating license, will subject the owner of a dwelling unit to an administrative service charge up to \$250. Continuing violation of the Civil Enforcement Citation process could result in charges being assessed to the property.

Novak asked for a motion from council members Tuesday night to act on the civil enforcement. Again, all he heard was crickets.

"Well, if we're not going to enforce the ordinance, how about a motion to rescind and repeal the ordinance?" he asked. "If we're not going to enforce this ordinance then let's repeal it."

Council member Paul Kess, coming off a primary loss in his bid for mayor, reluctantly agreed to

proceed with enforcement.

"I thought we were hoping we could push a little bit to get (compliance), so I think we need to proceed with the next step," he said.

Council member Al Forsman followed Kess's lead and agreed to call for the enforcement of the city code.

"If we are going to get no response, we are going to have to start enforcement," he said.

Council member Angela Campbell, also coming off a primary election loss for mayor, made the motion to enforce the expired rental dwelling permit penalties. The motion was supported by Forsman.

Novak called for an improved reporting structure. "If rental licenses are due at the beginning of the year, we should know by the end of March whether

there is compliance or not," he said.

The list of expired rental licenses in Whitney's March 30 letter includes the owner, rental unit address(es), amount due, and years in arrears:

► David A. Smrekar, 224 S 2nd Ave E, \$250, 203 E White St., \$250, two years.

► Rachel L. Vandenberghe, 915 E White St., \$650, six years.

► Dale Rever, 143 E Harvey St., \$310, 25 S 2nd Ave E, \$250, two years.

► Michael T. Loe, 428 E Camp St., \$350, three years, 239 W Harvey St., \$550, five years.

► Ryan Quick, 726 E Camp St., \$510, four years.

► Rae Bentz, 105 W Conan St., #1-4, \$510 (paid \$400 on 3-31-21), four years, 319 E Camp St., \$470 (paid \$400 on 3-31-21) four years.

► Neil Lepisto, 538 E Washington St., \$550, five years.

► Eric C. Urbas, 647 E James St., #1-3, \$590, five years, 558 E Washington St., #1-2, \$570, five years, 11 E Conan St., \$550, five years.

► G.I. Property Group, 614/618 E Pattison St., #1-2, \$570, five years.

► Steve Anderson, 1347 E Washington St., \$350, three years, 44 W Chapman St., #1-2, \$370, three years.

► Shane M. Belehar, 36 E White St., \$370, three years.

► Bryan Rusco, 1406 E Camp St., \$250, two years, 305 S Central Ave., \$250, two years.

► LuAnne Bialik, 626 S 6th Ave E, #1-2, \$570, two years, 634 S 6th Ave E, #1-2, \$570, five years.

"Some of these people think they're above the law," Whitney said after the meeting.

## ELY...Continued from page 1

Health. We consult with them on a regular basis about all water issues," he said.

He described a possible timeline on the recent changes to the water supply.

"As you are all aware,

in the middle of February we had an extended cold snap, as many as 12 days below zero," he said. At the same time city crews began flushing hydrants to keep the water flowing and to maintain fire protection.

A large water main break around March 5 resulted in almost 250,000 gallons of water being flushed through the city's water system, according to Langowski.

"Following that was when we started to receive some complaints about discolored water, which isn't unusual when you have a water main break," he said. "At the time, we felt that was causing the issue."

A couple of weeks later, there was a large water service break on the west end of town, and after that came the complaints of an "odd taste" in the water, Langowski noted.

"Everyone is so accustomed to Ely's drinking

water, which is some of the best tasting water of any municipality that I've been to," he said. "Complaints received from city water customers started to focus more on the off taste of the water."

Over the past several weeks, the issue has become more widespread.

"Working with the Department of Health and our consultants, we became aware of similar situations in other communities in cold weather climates," he said. "The cause of the change in the water taste in those communities was an algae that occurs in surface water areas such as Burntside Lake, where we get our water."

He went on to explain that in the extreme cold weather the algae may have come loose under the ice sheet and was then drawn into the city's water system.

"We treat our water with chlorine, and when

mixed with the algae, a cucumber smell was released," Langowski said. "There are no health concerns and it is safe to drink. It is solely an aesthetic issue."

Longtime lake water drinkers here are aware of an annual "change-over" in the water that temporarily changes the look and taste of the water.

"The ice is off the lake now and with the weather change, we hope the problem will be resolved," he said. "Our water plant crews adjusted the chlorine levels, but in Ely we try to keep the chlorine level on the low side. Hopefully, in the coming weeks we will see an improvement. The bottom line is the water is safe to drink."

## Other business

In other business, the council:

► Rescinded calendar parking on city streets effective immediately.

► Approved a recommendation from the Library Board to implement an "express browsing model"

at the library beginning Monday, May 24 as the facility prepares to re-open following the coronavirus pandemic.

► Approved a Trailhead Commissioning Agreement with IEA for \$12,000.

► Approved the hiring of David Marshall as the city's new fire chief, pending revised job description and salary negotiation.

► Approved Police Chief Chad Houde to attend Leadership Academy, Sept. 21-24 in New Brighton.

► OK'd a residential rehab loan for Ryan and Michale Callen, 905 E. Conan Street, to replace water and sewer mains to the house, extend drain tile around the house, and electrical panel work.

► Approved a raffle permit for the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation.

► Approved a temporary liquor license for the Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club for an event on June 12 at Miner's Dry.

FREE DATE CHANGES ON 2021 TOURS\*

FROM  
\$1,749  
\$1,499

CRIMSON CANYONS & MESAS NATIONAL PARKS TOUR

10 days, departs June - September 2021

Las Vegas • Grand Canyon • Bryce Canyon • Zion • Capitol Reef • Arches & Canyonlands • and more —

Experience the red rocks of these 6 iconic national parks. Travel through deserts, forests, mountains, and to the very edge of the Grand Canyon in this tour.

promo code N7017  
1-877-949-3864

\*Free date changes anytime up to 45 days prior to departure for land tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$39 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 6/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

Read Us Online at  
[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)

## COVID-19

# Facilities loosen restrictions but remain cautious

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Few groups have been hit harder by the coronavirus pandemic than residents of long-term care facilities. As the

pandemic ramped up last year, they experienced the highest infection and death rates, and in response they were isolated from their families and friends, fellow residents, and the outside world for their protection.

Now, as the country slowly emerges from the most dangerous phase of the pandemic, that's beginning to change, but change isn't coming without trepidation.

Targeted for the initial wave of vaccinations that

began in December, the uptake among long-term care residents was good enough by February that state and federal health officials started planning for better days.

But there are rules,

and there is reality. Ever cautious for their residents' well-being, each individual facility has had to assess internal and community conditions to determine what they are and aren't ready to implement.

"In some respects, it's kind of scary," said Michelle Erickson, director of nursing at Cook Care Center. "We've protected our residents for so long."

After the massive statewide spike in November and December, new cases in the Cook area have stayed in the range of two to three per week, allowing Cook Care Center residents to avail themselves of the new opportunities.

"Those who have been vaccinated can go out to lunch with their family members, which is nice, because they haven't been able to do that for a while," Erickson said. "It's nice for some of them to get out. New residents used to need a 14-day quarantine in their room when they were admitted. Now, if they have received both of their vaccinations, that is no longer required. Most of them are able to eat out in the main dining room if they choose to do so,

keeping them six feet apart." The changed routines have also benefited staff morale.

"It's great to see them be able to reunite with family and get back to living a normal life, to be able to go out and shop or wherever they want to go."

Conditions in Ely have been more challenging in recent weeks, as the area experienced a March spike in COVID-19 infections that accounted for 40 percent of all cases there since the beginning of the pandemic. Boundary Waters Care Center Executive Director Adam Masloski and his team have been working to strike the balance between meticulously adhering to their COVID-19 response plan and procedures while embracing the new relaxed regulations.

"We are simply overjoyed that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services supports indoor visitation for residents with families and friends residing outside our care community," Masloski said. "This revised guidance is a refreshing, much needed step towards safely opening our organization to normal operations, including visitations."

## 2142...Continued from page 1

in-person public comment, allowing just one member of the public into the board room at a time. Despite such restrictions on the public, several members of the school board and staff continued to attend meetings in person.

That's a misuse of the law, argued HelMBERGER in the brief he submitted to the Commissioner in early March. The Commissioner agreed, noting: "When a quorum of the members gathered in person to discuss, decide, or receive information as a group relating to official business, the school board contradicted its prior determination that in-person meetings are not practical or prudent."

The *Timberjay* had argued much the same in a Feb. 26, 2021, editorial which advised that some local public bodies were likely running afoul of state law, by meeting primarily in person while restricting public access. The city of Tower amended its procedures shortly after, allowing public access to its meetings, which were being held in the city's civic center to allow for social distancing.

But the school district continued to hold its meetings primarily in-person, while continuing to deny the public physical access to its meetings. In his submission to the Department of Administration, HelMBERGER provided school board minutes documenting that a quorum of the board met in-person for school board meetings on Sept. 22, 2020, Nov. 24, 2020, Jan. 5, 2021, and Jan. 26, 2021.

And while the approved minutes from later dates were not available at the time of HelMBERGER's submission, the school board minutes from the board's regular meeting, held Feb. 23, 2021, also indicate that five of the seven members of the board met in-person, providing evidence of a fifth violation of the Open Meeting Law.

HelMBERGER had sought the opinion in hopes of bringing a halt to practices that had become too common in Minnesota as a result of the pandemic, where public bodies used Minn. Stat. 13D.021 in a way that restricted public access to their meetings,

even though some continued to meet in-person.

In the case of the St. Louis County School District, HelMBERGER noted in his brief to the commissioner that the school district could easily accommodate the public at its board meetings by holding them in larger venues, like school lunchrooms or gymnasiums, which would easily provide for social distancing. Some area governing bodies have moved to larger venues since the pandemic, to better accommodate public attendance at meetings. The school district has, for years, held board meetings at its various schools, so moving board meeting to such locations was clearly practical.

"I think there was some complacency at play here," said HelMBERGER. "It was simply convenient to keep the public out, but doing so isn't legal under the Open Meeting Law, except under circumstances that didn't apply in the case of the school district."

In response to the opinion, school district superintendent Reggie Engebriksen contended that the school district had reopened its meetings to the public back in January. "At our board meeting on Jan. 26, 2021, we approved to have the public attend our board meetings starting in February 2021," said Engebriksen. "The public has been able to attend in person since January 26, 2021."

Engebriksen's claim, however, does not match the district's official minutes, which state that the board was solely allowing public comment, not attendance, with only one member of the public allowed in the board meeting room at a time. Anyone wishing to comment would need to make pre-arrangements with the district's executive secretary, Jeanne Sopp, prior to the meeting. When challenged on her claim of public access, and provided the text of the actual minutes, Engebriksen said she "would review it and get back to you."

But Engebriksen did not provide any further comment as of the *Timberjay's* weekly press time.

## ALL OUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET

The *New York Times* headlines declared, "Auto Industry Bets its Future on Batteries." The newspaper could have accurately said, "The Biden Administration Bets its Future on Batteries." According to recent reports, the Administration's multi-trillion dollar proposed infrastructure bill has extensive incentives for consumers and manufacturers to market battery-powered forms of transportation. Has the administration given consideration of the danger of having our transport system dependent on a national electricity grid? Has it considered the detrimental impact on our environment? Has it considered the possible increase in unemployment? Has it considered the impact on our military logistics? Has it realistically considered alternative power sources?

### DEPENDENCE ON THE GRID

Encouraged by the Administration, manufacturers are taking action to convert their power products from using fossil fuels to plug-in electricity power. This massive transfer of energy requirement will be solely dependent on our national electric grid network. The system will need upgrading and significant additional power plant capacity to supply electricity to the 250 million vehicles (re NYT) in the U.S. plus trucks, buses, trains, equipment for farming, mining, road building and industrial operations.

The grid system will always be vulnerable to breakdowns in part or in whole due to severe weather conditions, equipment failure, or sabotage which will expose a large number of people to a variety of risks when, not if, blackouts occur. When a large area of the country is blacked out for a few days or more, cars, buses, ambulances, fire equipment, delivery trucks, heavy equipment will be helpful only to the extent of what electricity is left from their last battery charge. The half million new charging stations which the legislation proposes (almost four times the present number of U.S. gas stations) will not have electricity to recharge their batteries in those areas of a blackout.

The United States should not put all of its "eggs" in one basket i.e., transportation, lighting, heating and electric power systems all of which would depend on the grid.

### HYDROGEN ALTERNATIVE

Hydrogen fuel power is a viable alternative to the overloading of the national electrical grid and appears to get only token funding from the legislation. Its viability is not a theory. It is a reality. California already has 7,500 hydrogen vehicles on the road. Other applications of hydrogen power are in use or in testing stage for school and municipal buses, trucks of all sizes, light and heavy equipment, trains, and ships. *The Economist* reported that Airbus anticipates new large passenger jets will be powered by hydrogen fuel. Stationary hydrogen fuel power is used for buildings and factories.

Hydrogen is limitless. It is the most abundant resource in the universe. Hydrogen cells can store immense amounts of energy, far more than today's batteries can hold and it's scalable. Proton exchange electrolysis can economically separate water into hydrogen and oxygen and it does not emit harmful emissions. Green hydrogen is developed using renewable power sources such as wind, solar, hydro power and geothermal to produce green hydrogen.

Saudi Arabia is building a huge green hydrogen plant on the banks of the Red Sea. The plant will be powered solely by wind and solar to make green fuel for export and reduce its country's dependence on petrodollars. The plant will operate without polluting.

### DISADVANTAGES OF BATTERIES

The raw materials for batteries include components that are mined from the earth and require a smelting process to extract metals. The process uses heat and a chemical reducing agent to decompose the ore and leave the metal.

Smelting has serious detrimental effects on the environment, producing wastewater, slag and vapors discharged into the atmosphere. The gases released are from copper, silver, iron, cobalt, selenium and sulfur. The impact of these detrimental emissions is of worldwide concern, not just local. All the venting becomes part of the Earth's canopy of greenhouse gases.

The manufacturing of batteries is dependent on minerals primarily mined in China, and consequently, is subject to the vicissitudes of trade uncertainties. Since the electrical energy in batteries continuously deteriorate, it limits the ability to stockpile them which is a critical concern for military preparedness. Moreover, "dead" batteries are not fully recyclable.

Charging batteries can take a long time, sometimes longer than an hour depending on the "level" of the charging rate and cannot be serviced in gasoline stations due to lack of space. So, the proposed legislation plan is to financially support an estimated half million charging stations. (That is almost four times the present number of gas stations.) The country's total proposed charging stations will require a minimum of one million acres of concrete or asphalt to accommodate cars plus buses, RVs, and trucks many of which will have large batteries requiring increased time in the charging stations to recharge their batteries. Batteries are heavy and can weigh as much as 12,000 to 15,000 pounds for a long-haul Class 8 truck representing a lot of environmental degradation.

Batteries generally have shorter driving range than hydrogen fuels and performance is affected by extreme temperature changes. Their capacity deteriorates over varying periods of time whether the battery is used or not.

### ADVANTAGES OF HYDROGEN

A fuel cell system running on hydrogen is compact and, having no major moving parts or combustion, results in an extremely high reliability and experiences little or no downtime. Hydrogen fuel does not emit harmful pollution, zero, only pure water vapor.

In addition to supplying power to transportation components, hydrogen facilities can "store" its electricity in a tank, unlike storing wind and solar energy that accommodate peak demands using mega batteries. Battery power degrades over time whether or not the battery is being used. In addition, battery performance is further eroded when subjected to severe weather changes and has a terminal life.

### TRANSPORTING HYDROGEN

Bulk hydrogen can be transported by trucks, ships, rail or pipelines, according to *The Wall Street Journal* (which is important for military usage.) The United States has three million miles of pipelines some of which can be retrofitted to carry hydrogen. With expectation of a decline of fossil fuels, pipeline companies would welcome an alternative. With 128,000 gas retail service stations looking to replace declining gasoline consumption, hydrogen dispensing pumps could be substituted. This hydrogen will have storage tanks to meet their regular service needs and the pumps can be operated by hydrogen in periods of blackouts. The pumps are about the same size as the current gasoline pumps and take the same amount or time to fill a tank as gasoline.

### SAFETY OF HYDROGEN

Hydrogen is contained in liquid form in thick-walled tanks. According to auto manufacturer BMW, "Hydrogen is flammable, but an uncontrolled reaction of hydrogen and oxygen in the operation of a fuel is virtually impossible. Numerous crash tests have confirmed the safety of hydrogen cars. We should not forget hydrogen technology is not new but is tried and tested in a range of fields. Hydrogen pipelines and storage facilities have been in operation for decades." Other car manufacturers that have hydrogen test cars on the road, not in the lab, are Toyota, Renault, Honda, Mercedes and Hyundai.

### HYDROGEN FUEL CELLS

Hydrogen fuel cell cars produce electricity themselves. In essence, they have their efficient power plant and electric motor on board. The fuel cell technology is reverse electrolysis by which the hydrogen from vehicles' tanks reacts with oxygen coming from an ambient air intake to create electrical energy. The energy is transferred by electric wire to an electric motor that powers the wheels. The only emission takes the form of pure water vapor. The vehicles can also recapture braking energy which converts into electrical energy.

The bottom line is that it appears that the Biden Administration is allocating a disproportion of its resources to battery-driven transportation to the detriment of the advantages of hydrogen transportation and does not address the issue of the major increased dependence on the national grid.

### CONCLUSION

1. The United States should not be entirely dependent on our national electric grid with no alternative form of energy.
2. Hydrogen electricity should be developed.
3. The 128,000 gasoline stations will be deprived of their prime source of revenue, creating unemployment and triggering bankruptcies.
4. If the national grid is partly or entirely shut down, the lack of electricity after local batteries die may cause civil unrest.
5. The United States military cannot stockpile batteries because their energy deteriorates over time and the uncertainties of China being the predominate source of raw materials for manufacturing batteries.
6. The mining of raw materials for batteries is detrimental to our world's environment.

*Gerry Snyder*

Ely, MN

## GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

## Town board to begin in-person meetings in May

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOODTWP- The Greenwood Town Board will begin meeting in person effective with their regular May 11 meeting. Attendance at the meeting in the town hall will be limited to between 30 and 35 people to meet social distancing requirements, and the option to listen in on meetings via teleconference will be provided. Masks will be required.

The in-person meetings, Chairman Mike Ralston said, would be continued "as long as guidance allows it."

Greenwood is one of the last area governmental bodies to go back to in-person meetings.

At their regular meeting on April 13, the board also discussed adding public comment back to the agenda. Public comment had been discontinued when the township started meeting virtually last year.

A motion by newly-elected Supervisor Sue Drobac to add public comment back on the beginning of the monthly agenda failed, with Ralston, Supervisor Carmen DeLuca, and Supervisor Paul Skubic voting against.

"People feel left out of the process," said Drobac.

A motion to add back public comment at the end of the meeting and to limit such comment only to matters already on the meeting agenda passed 3-2, with Drobac and the second newly-elected Supervisor Barb Lofquist

voting against.

Julie Horihan, who had been listening in on the telemeeting, asked how residents can see the agenda in advance.

"Can't it be put on the website?" she asked.

The township does email the agenda to interested parties, and anyone can email the clerk to be put on the notification list, they said. Clerk Debby Spicer said she would try to get it posted on the website but said she couldn't guarantee she would always have time.

The board discussed setting guidelines for supervisors to notify the clerk of requested agenda additions so the clerk could get the agenda prepared by the Thursday prior to each meeting. The clerk's regular hours are only on Tuesday through Thursday.

Drobac also asked if a policy could be set for a timeframe for the clerk to respond to requests by board members.

"There was something simple I wanted to look at," Drobac said. "It would have taken half a minute to pull it from the drawer."

Drobac said that in the time Spicer argued with her about not having the time to get the info, she could have simply gotten the file for her.

Spicer said she would attempt to fill such requests within five working days, though with the clerk only working three days a week, this could mean a long delay.

Drobac said the issue goes back to the town board

limiting the clerk's hours. "She can't do all the work with the hours she can put in," Drobac said. "That's the big thing."

Ralston said the clerk should attempt to do such duties in a "timely fashion. If not, we will deal with it."

Lofquist asked the town board to look into installing a security system, with a call button for emergencies, instead of the existing surveillance system in the clerk's office.

"The system right now is only spying on people," she said, adding that the existing system could be moved to the fire hall as a deterrent for theft.

Spicer said she did not have an issue with the system in place.

"I don't feel like I am being spied on," she said.

Lofquist also questioned why the exterior door to the clerk's office is being kept locked, noting the clerk does not always hear when the doorbell is sounded.

Spicer said the door is being locked for her security and also to insure that anyone entering is wearing a mask.

"The door was locked by the prior clerk with board approval," said Ralston. "But I don't have a problem with having that door open during office hours, and the clerk's [interior office] door closed. People can knock if they need her."

Spicer said she feels more secure with the door locked.

No action was taken on the issue.

## Tower Ambulance Commission

The board also heard an update of the latest Tower Ambulance Commission meeting. DeLuca, who is the township's representative on the commission, said the subsidy agreement still hasn't been revised to the township's satisfaction.

Drobac asked how much the township had paid their attorney to look over and make suggested revisions to the contract and wondered why the board hadn't been asked to approve such spending.

"I was trying to protect Greenwood Township on this," said DeLuca.

Greenwood has objected to the city's previous use of ambulance department proceeds to fund non-ambulance projects. They are seeking to restrict the city's ambulance fund so it can only be used for ambulance-related expenses.

"How much of our money did they take that was supposed to go to the fund?" asked Lofquist.

Resident Lee Peterson said the per capita subsidy payments from the townships are secure, but that the service fund is different.

"That's the money the city made doing calls," he said. Peterson said the ambulance replacement fund was never meant to be the sole provider of replacing ambulances, and that the city should have been using ambulance service proceeds for some of the costs.

"The missing money is kind of a lever," said

Peterson, "so we don't end up with a problem in the future. The current council might not touch it, but how about a future council?"

Ralston said the township would hold out on the issue of requiring the city to create a separate ambulance service fund.

Peterson told the board the city was doing a new study on the ambulance service that should help stabilize the service in the future.

"The problem is when they went into the transfer business," he said.

Peterson added that everyone wants a strong ambulance service.

"That is the goal," Peterson said.

In other business, the board:

► Heard that the small discrepancy that had been found during the Board of Audit had been accounted for and was due to an interest payment not properly being recorded.

► Discussed clerk hours/wages. Drobac noted that the clerk salary recorded in the March financials was higher than the approved wage. Ralston responded that the position was still the "interim clerk" until after the election and was paid on an hourly basis. Ralston said the clerk needed additional time for training on the job.

"No one ever asked me to help train her," said Drobac, who was the elected clerk until resigning late last summer. "I would have done that."

Ralsaton told Drobac she wouldn't give out the

passwords to her computer when asked. Drobac told Ralston that the treasurer had asked for the password to the clerk's computer, and that wasn't permitted due to separation of duties.

Ralston said the established clerk salary of \$1,392 per month would start in April.

► Heard that treasurer Belinda Fazio has appointed Tammy Mortaloni as deputy treasurer.

► Formed a committee to work on broadband issues. Lofquist will chair the committee and interested residents and summer residents will be invited to take part.

► Approved a resolution in support of the township's Local Road Improvement Program grant request for improvements to the Birch Point Road Extension. Ralston said he is not sure if the LIRP request will be successful, but if not, the township can apply next year. The grant would pay to mill and repave the township road.

► Approved liquor licenses for Gruben's, Vermilion Club, BayView Bar and Grill, Timbuktu, and Shamrock Landing.

► Amended the rules for town hall and pavilion rental to state that helium balloons are not permitted. Lofquist said they are bad for the environment and the lake. Spicer asked how the township would enforce the rule. The motion passed 3-2 with Paul Skubic, Drobac, and Lofquist voting in favor.

## ROAD...Continued from page 1

Supervisor Skip Carlson was the lone vote against the measure.

"We have lawyers weighing in on both sides," he said. "Who do we believe?"

Carlson expressed concerns with the cost of potential litigation. "We do have opinions from both lawyers," he said, "ours and from the property owners, and they differ completely."

Carlson also said, as a retired fire department member, he did not agree that the access was needed for the fire department.

But other board members lent their support to the idea.

"This is clearly a good proposal," said Kurt Soderberg, who noted the board needs to believe the attorney who represents the township. "This is something we are within our rights to do," he said.

Supervisor Frank Sherman said, "I have read the attorney's letters, and the other letters. The majority of the opposition is from two property owners who bought property next to a platted road as well as parkland, and as a secondary matter they've been improperly using it for themselves."

Sherman said the township was talking about increasing the number of water-access spots for the fire department.

"That's the primary point," he said, "and as far as cost, it won't break the township's bank."

## Correction:

Our April 16 story on the Eagles Nest road controversy stated (based on a statement from a township official) that Donna Carlson had suggested at a board meeting last year that the project could cost upwards of one million dollars. Carlson denies that she ever made such a claim.

Litigation is a choice of people who are unhappy," Sherman said. "It has nothing to do with the validity of their arguments legally."

Supervisor DeAnne Schatz said her support was anchored behind her support of the fire department.

"This is a safety thing," she said. "I know we don't all have to play well in the sandbox, but this is 700 feet."

Fire Chief Larry McCray weighed in on questions of the need for easy water supply access. He said the department's engine and tender can hold a total of 2,800 gallons of water. "We need 400 gallons a minute to fight a fire in a cabin that is 30 by 40 feet in size," he said. "Anything less than that means you can't overcome the fire." The department's tender, at 1,800

gallons, gives them less than a five-minute supply of water. The department does maintain three static tanks of 10,000 gallons each and can set up drop tanks at a fire scene but needs time to ferry the water back and forth. Mutual aid also brings more water to a scene.

"The driving time to water is an issue," he said, "the more options the better."

McCray said the department has been working to develop more water access points throughout the township, contacting private lakeshore owners who may have suitable access for fire trucks. The town hall water supply is fed by a well, which cannot quickly refill a truck.

## Public comments

The board also heard public comment from 10 residents during the

meeting, but limited speakers to one minute, with an additional 30 seconds allowed for a rebuttal after all speakers had their turn. Six residents spoke in favor of the proposal, citing safety concerns. Dave and Diane Kromer, who own the property adjacent to Spruce Road, asked why the board refused to set up a meeting with the property owners, something they had said they would do.

"It was a promise and it wasn't done," said Dave Kromer. He added that "anyone on the lake is going to let you land at their dock [in case of emergency]."

Diane Kromer said that the township possibly taking some of the parkland for a turnaround area does not fit into the original concept for use of that land.

"There are other sites that can be looked at," she said.

A couple of residents questioned the cost of the project and asked where the money would come from. Ellie Fuller asked why the township wasn't considering putting in more static hydrants or underground storage areas, wondering if that would be more economical.

## Road details

The road, at approximately .12 miles, would add to the township's existing 8.3 miles of locally-maintained roads. Estimated average annual maintenance costs, based on current township road spending, would be an additional \$650 a year, said

Floyd, though he noted the new road will be relatively flat and easy to maintain.

Estimated construction costs are \$33,000 plus an estimated \$3,000 in costs for attorney fees, permits, and surveying fees. The quote includes construction of a longer turnaround area than the town board ultimately approved. While the road area is already platted, the township will need to access some of the land designated as public "parkland" in the original plat to use as a T-turnaround area at the lakeshore that would extend 20 feet in both directions from the end of the roadway.

## Scenic Rivers Clinics

## COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available

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

**Cook Medical**  
Vaccine Scheduling  
20 5th St SE  
(218) 361-3297



**Tower Medical**  
Vaccine Scheduling  
415 N 2nd St, Suite 2  
(218) 753-2405



1-877-541-2817

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

## SAVE BIG! Buy Local!

## 2021 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT AWD

MSRP \$41,770  
Customer Cash -\$4,177Sale Price  
\$37,593

SAVE \$4,177 and NO PAYMENTS FOR 120 DAYS\* or CHOOSE 0% APR UP TO 72 MOS\*\*

## 2021 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD

MSRP \$32,840  
Customer Cash -\$4,926Sale Price  
\$27,914

SAVE \$4,926 and NO PAYMENTS FOR 120 DAYS\* or CHOOSE 0% APR AND \$2,150 CASH ALLOWANCE\*\*

DISCLOSURES... \*120 Day payment deferral AND 3.29% APR up to 72 months with GM Financial on approved credit. \*\*0% APR up to 72 months with GM Financial on approved credit. Not compatible with some other incentives, offers and vehicles. See dealer for details. Tax and title extra. Must take delivery from dealer stock by 05/03/2021.

## PREOWNED VALUES!

2020 Chevrolet Suburban Premier 4x4...Only 15K Miles!...	\$60,990
2020 Chevrolet Malibu LT.....GM Certified!.....	\$19,990
2020 Jeep Compass Latitude 4x4.....Only 1,985 Miles.....	\$23,990
2018 Chevrolet Silverado LT 4x4 Crew.....Local Trade-in!.....	\$30,990
2018 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD.....Just Arrived!.....	\$21,990
2017 Jeep Renegade 4x4.....Only 14K Miles!.....	\$19,990
2017 Mitsubishi Outlander 4x4.....Only 27K Miles!.....	\$17,990
2017 Ford C-Max Hybrid.....Loaded and 38 MPG!.....	\$17,990
2016 Jeep Cherokee Limited 4x4.....Just Reduced!.....	\$18,990
2016 Chevrolet Traverse LTZ AWD.....Well Equipped!.....	\$18,990
2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SE.....Clean Trade-in!.....	\$8,990
2013 GMC Sierra SLT 4x4 Short Box.....Fresh Trade-in!.....	\$22,990
2012 Chevrolet Silverado LT 4x4.....Clean Trade-In!.....	\$17,990

WASCHKE FAMILY  
CHEVROLET • COOK

Les Hujanen



Lorn Koski



Calvin Jolly

HOURS: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm

126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN • 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545

**GRANT...**Continued from page 1

director of the Boys and Girls Club that oversees his program. He called to tell Vake that an anonymous donor had given \$50,000 to the Bois Forte Boys and Girls Club.

The donation, received earlier this month, was designated for the food program.

"Apparently the donor had heard about what we were doing and appreciated it," Vake said.

Last fall, using money from the CARES Act, the Boys and Girls Club of Bois Forte had created a supplemental food program for the children who use the club, their families, and others in the Nett Lake and Vermilion communities.

In addition to providing meals and snacks to children while they were at the club, staff was packing up bags with healthy snacks, easy-to-prepare meals, and other foods. These "food bags" were sent home with the children for the weekend, and also made available to others in the community.

The timing of the donation was perfect. Vake said they had run out of CARES funding for the food bags last month.

The money will be used to continue and supplement the community food bag program, as well as fund food costs over the summer when they are offering both lunch and dinner, and for a series of monthly community meals that will be hosted in alternate months at Vermilion and Nett Lake.

The Boys and Girls Club is funded by Bois Forte Tribal Government, along with some supplemental funding and grants for special programming.

"It is so unique to get a significant donation from a private donor," Vake said.



**Homework help, above, and a game of checkers are some of the activities at the Vermilion branch Boys and Girls Club.** photos by J. Summit



The Boys and Girls Club offers free afterschool and summer programming for school age children, both on and off the reservation. Children get help with homework, play games and sports, create arts and craft projects, do culturally relevant projects and activ-

ities, and also have a lot of fun. The program brings in outside teachers (this year via Zoom) to provide educational programming not available at local schools.

Vake is relatively new to running the program. He was a special education teacher in Chisholm,

serves on the Chisholm City Council, and also is a three-season referee for high school sports.

"I am very proud of my staff," he said. "They've been able to put together the new food program."

Wendy Deatherage, who manages the club

branch at Nett Lake, said the grant will allow them to do some amazing things.

"It's not just about food insecurity," she said. "It's also about educating and modeling healthy eating habits."

Deatherage said one of the goals of their food program is pre-diabetes prevention.

"We are really excited to be able to do more outreach to our community," she said, "not just for club members and their families, but to our elders."

Plans call for teaching club members about healthy grocery shopping, budgeting for food, as well as food preparation.

The staff is still working on a plan for organizing community meals that will be "COVID safe." Club members will help cook and serve the meals.

After a long winter of isolation, such community

gatherings, when allowed, are essential, she said.

The grant helped validate all the hard work their staff puts into the programming.

"What we did affected someone," she said. "Day-in and day-out you work and hope you are making a difference."

The fact that someone noticed and decided to help them continue their efforts was "a huge boost to our staff morale."

Jessi Lambert, who manages the Vermilion branch, said "This is a great opportunity to expand what we were trying to do."

"We get to benefit by helping our youth, but our community will benefit, too," she said.

The final plans for the food program are still being worked out, Vake said, noting they have been holding meetings with their staff and will be developing a monthly plan. They will be reporting their results back to the donor. The new food program will begin in May.

The Nett Lake branch averages 20-30 youth a weekday, and Vermilion averages 15-25. Vake said the program is looking for both afterschool and summer staff, and teenagers are encouraged to apply.

You can learn more about the Boys and Girls Club of Bois Forte on their Facebook page, which also posts updates on hours and special activities, or by calling 218-753-8934.

The clubs often host special activities. Last week the children had a Zoom class about medicinal plants with Shontel Michaud Isham, which included a hands-on time for making a healing herbal balm.

**REAL ESTATE**



**Edina Realty**  
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

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



**218-757-3233**  
[www.TheLakeCountry.com](http://www.TheLakeCountry.com)

**Orr-\$115,000** 2 BR mobile home on 3.75 acres with garage, pole barns, drilled well and new septic system. **MLS#140999**

**Pickerel Lake, Effie-\$69,900** 4.13 acres with 422 ft of shoreline on Pickerel Lake near Deer Lake. **MLS#141001**

**Ash River-\$235,000** 2 BR, 1 BA home in Bear Ridge CIC with access to 155 ft of shared shoreline, dock and boat slip. Gazebo near lake with grill and 1/10 share of all common areas. **MLS#140055**

**Ban Lake, Orr- \$89,000** 550 ft of shoreline and over 6 acres on Ban Lake. Remote and near Elbow Lake. **MLS#132788**

**Echo River, Crane Lake-\$84,900** 14.9 wooded acres on the Nelson Rd. Adjoins public land. **MLS#140886**

**#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX**  
"As measured by residential transaction sides"

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



**218-666-5352**  
[info@bicrealty.com](mailto:info@bicrealty.com) • [www.bicrealty.com](http://www.bicrealty.com)

**LAKE VERMILION** 7 acres on Anderson Isle in Frazer Bay. 1,990 ft lks ready for you to build dream home or cabin. **MLS #135079**  
**PRICE REDUCED! \$245,000**

**LAKE VERMILION** This Ely Island lot is 5.0 acres in size and has 295 ft of frontage. Electricity present on adjacent lot. Great fishing nearby. Water-access only. **MLS #141028**  
**NEW LISTING! \$149,900**

**COOK** 3.4 acres near Lake Vermilion. Property is wooded with mature timber. Electricity available along east side of property. Based on current zoning (Res 8), owners could develop up to 25 percent of parcel size for improvements (garage, cabin). **MLS #141107**  
**\$19,900**

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

**We sell the North!**



**VERMILION LAND OFFICE**  
Real Estate • Appraisals

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

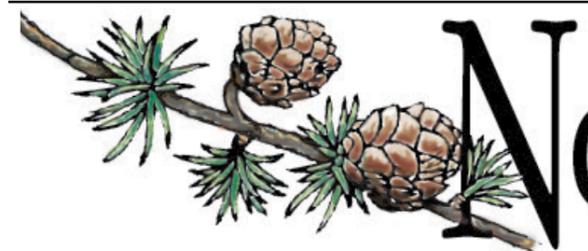
[www.vermilionland.com](http://www.vermilionland.com) • [info@vermilionland.com](mailto:info@vermilionland.com)  
**Tower: 218-753-8985**

**NEXT TIME COME HOME!**

**JANISCH REALTY** **218-780-6644**



**Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!**



# North Country

Serving northern  
St. Louis County  
since 1989

## INGENUITY

### Graft is good when it comes to trees

One tree becomes many in the hands of this Greaney man

by DAVID COLBURN  
Staff Writer

GREANEY- It could be said that Beryl Novak lives in a small house in the forest near Greaney, but that would be a half-truth.

While the forest obscures any view of his house from Sethers Rd., a trip down the driveway ends at an abode under open skies and surrounded by an orchard, one that's been tailored to Novak's whims and desires by the practice of tree

grafting.

With a casual glance, the bare trees don't look any different from most other orchards where apple and crabapple trees dominate. But upon closer inspection, and with a little guidance from Novak, slight bulges and different bark colors found in branches of a single tree reveal his grafting handiwork.

"That tree right there, when it was smaller, I had 25 varieties on that," Novak said. "I'm down to maybe ten or so – they die off or

break or something."

Novak said he first tried grafting "over 20 years ago, well over that."

"I'd read up on it," he said. "I purchased a couple of trees and I figured, well, I'll take cuttings out and put them on some wild ones and, my gosh, some of them grew."

Novak's engagement with grafting grew, too.

"I really went into it for a while – I would go around and do custom

See **GRAFTING...** pg. 2B



## SPORTS



### Little League baseball seeks players this year

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- After a COVID-marred 2020, BEST Golden Knights Little League is ramping up for a new season with new leadership at the top.

Amanda and Joseph Carter moved to the area last February from Fargo, N.D. Joseph is a nurse anesthetist at Essentia Health in Virginia, and the couple has three young children – two-month-old daughter Salem, daughter River, 6, and son Sterling, 9.

When Sterling said he wanted to play baseball this summer, the couple discovered that the BEST Golden Knights, which bases practices and games in Embarrass, was in need of new leadership. The Carters decided to step up to the plate.

Players are needed for the following teams: tee ball, ages 5-6, coach-pitch, 7-8, minors, 9-10, majors, 11-12, and Babe Ruth, 13-15.

Babe Ruth players must be 13-15 as of May 1. A minimum of ten players are needed to field a team.

Online registration is encouraged by going to <https://fs11.formsite.com/dKQZw9/lvudsewzqf/index.html>. If you are unable to register online, please give your child's school your contact information and someone will call to help you register.

Amanda Carter said that she's in the process of contacting coaches, and uniform distribution and practices could begin early in May. She's anticipating a season that will be a return to what families have experienced in the past, complete with concessions at home games and a possible tournament in July.

As plans solidify, more information will be posted to the BEST Golden Knights Little League page on Facebook. More information is available by calling Amanda at 320-282-2895 or by email at [bestgoldenknights@gmail.com](mailto:bestgoldenknights@gmail.com).

### Grizzlies softball off to a 2-1 start

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzlies got the girls softball season off to a resounding start and went 2-1 in games played through Monday, April 19.

The Grizzlies overpowered Floodwood in Thursday's season opener, 20-1. South Ridge proved to be a tougher test on Friday, with North Woods falling to the Panthers 11-3. The Grizzlies polished off Wrenshall 10-4 on Monday. All three games were on the road.

The Grizzlies' scheduled home opener on Tuesday against Chisholm was canceled. North Woods is scheduled for a road tilt on Friday at Mt. Iron/Buhl.



## THE ARTS

### Ely comes to life in glass

Grant funds allowing local artists to create new windows for Ely Library

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Area artists are working at Miner's Dry this spring to complete an extensive stained glass art project for the Public Library here.

As much as \$12,000 in funding for the project comes in part from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage fund in conjunction with the Arrowhead Library System, according to Library Director Rachel Heinrich.

"And through a Community Giving Grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, a specialized ring saw tool was purchased for the project," she said.

A dozen stained glass panels depicting various scenes from Ely's past and present will be installed, said artist Claire Taylor. The scenes showcase mining and logging industries, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, area resorts and tourism, dog sledding, and Native American heritage. A U.S. Forest Service float plane, the Ely water tower, a steam train, and other cultural and historical scenes will be included.

The 12 panels will eventually be hung in the top windows of the Chapman Street side of the library.

"Each of the panels measures 28 by 33 inches and is made of at least 200 pieces of cut stained glass," Taylor said. "We are looking to style the new pieces to resemble the existing six stained glass art pieces

**Top: Artists Sandy Bradley and Claire Taylor display one of the windows that's been created for the Ely Public Library. All of the windows feature themes from Ely's past and present.**

**Right: A window highlighting the area's connection to the timber industry.**

**Lower right: Jaymie Stocks works on her window featuring a sled dog team.**

photos by K. Vandervort

already on display in the library windows by the children's area."

The local artists involved in the project include Sandy Bradley, Claire Taylor, Scott King, Mary Ann Pinckney, Jaymie Stocks and John Weidemann. The group gathers several days a week at the Miner's Dry building. Jim Brandley is making the wood frames for the art pieces. Other local artists, including Shaun Chosa and Cecilia Rolando have been asked to submit patterns for project.

"We're trying to incorporate the creativity of as many local artists as possible, because we want this to be a truly community effort," Taylor added.

The artists have given themselves the goal of getting six of the 12 art pieces installed this spring, and the other six will be started and completed in the fall. The Ely Public Library is making plans to reopen to the public by this summer after closing in March 2020 due to public health concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.



HEALTH CARE

# Ely Community Health Center could re-open soon as COVID restrictions ease

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely Community Health Center hopes to reopen its weekly free medical clinic services by the end of the month.

“We had planned to reopen on April 8, however because of the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Ely we pushed the reopening back to Thursday, April 29 at the earliest,” Jon Erickson, ECHC executive director, told a virtual Tuesday Group gathering last week.

The fully-licensed free health clinic has operated here for ten years. Weekly free medical clinics have been held virtually for the past year because of the coronavirus pandemic. “We hope to open back up this month for actual physical examinations, assuming that Ely can get its act together on (COVID) case counts. Things are not looking pretty right now both in the state, Midwest and in the country in general,” he said.

“There will be a registration process as well as some specific COVID-

related procedures, including mask-wearing by both volunteers and patients, but we hope to finally have the clinic opening on the calendar as we start to exit this dark period that has existed over the past year,” Erickson said

ECHC continues to review the reopening timetable based on weekly COVID case counts in the Ely, Babbitt and Tower areas.

“About a month ago, I was starting to feel very optimistic, Erickson said. “We were starting to do a really good job of getting vaccinations out. People were social distancing and wearing (protective) masks, but somewhere in the last four weeks we lost our GPS. We reverted to where we were last Thanksgiving.”

In the middle of April, he said, the country is in the beginning stages of a fourth wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

“This wave has the potential to be the most devastating. We have the tools to deal with the virus, but we’re just not hanging on long enough. We are

doing extremely well in St. Louis County in getting the vaccinations out, but we need to do a better job with masking and social distancing and using common sense with interactions in larger groups,” he said.

Erickson said new variants of the coronavirus, especially the U.K. variant, are posing new problems for younger people.

“We run the risk of even more mutations,” he said. “The whole idea is to minimize the amount of transmission so the virus can go into a kind of hibernation.”

Those who are hesitant to get vaccinated will undoubtedly contribute to a failure to achieve herd immunity in this country and in the world, according to Erickson.

“That is a real problem. To the extent that those who have talked to friends and loved ones about getting the vaccine, try to engage them to look at the evidence that exists. We have vaccinated more than 100 million people in the U.S. so far and we are not seeing significant reactions or problems,” he said.

Despite local headlines that pronounce Ely’s spike in COVID cases is easing, Erickson said the local community remains at a high risk of the coronavirus virus remaining unchecked for the next several weeks.

“We need to temper this back down,” he said. “We were doing so well with one or two cases each week for a long time. We just got complacent.”

In the midst of closing the ranks, the Ely school community sent students home for a couple of weeks, but jumped right back into the high-risk category this week with not only sending kids back into the classroom, but going full bore with spring sports activities.

“To me, this is a very troubling time and I hope our community can rally around this, and get back ahead of the wave,” Erickson said.

He said the future could include periodic COVID-19 booster vaccinations, much like an annual flu shot.

“It could be incorporated into the same process,” he said. “We should accept

that masking, in certain situations, will continue for a long time.”

## 2021 Initiatives

In addition to the plan to reopen the Health Center on Thursday, April 29, semi-monthly vitals health checks will be available at the Ely Senior Center on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, beginning May 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on those days. No reservation is needed.

ECHC obtained a grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to provide innovative oral health care solutions for up to three years, according to Erickson.

“We have also received a significant in-kind donation of three modular dental offices,” he added.

The clinic, located at 111 S 4th Ave E, hired a recently retired hygienist, Peggy Stolley, as their Director of Dental Services.

“We are looking to open the Ely Community Dental Center on Wednesday, June 2. We will be confirming this date in the near future as well as the registration process and the location,” he said.

The monthly dental clinic, featuring basic oral health care services and procedures will be performed by a dental hygienist, under the supervision of local dentists, Dr. Frank Udovich and Dr. Crystal Chopp. It will begin in June, Erickson said.

“We are getting tremendous support from our dental community, and we will have the capacity to meet the needs of the uninsured and the medical assistance needs patient,” he said.

A healthy-eating-for-seniors program is slated to begin June 21.

“Cooking demonstrations, healthy eating advice, food budget planning and other information will be available in an in-person format,” he said. “All the participants will receive a bag of food at each of the classes so they can prepare their own meals at home.”

ECHC is working with local markets on how to develop the program, he said.

## GRAFTING...Continued from page 1B

grafting for people and I was selling trees and stuff. I don’t really do much of that custom grafting anymore.”

But it’s hard to turn down a neighbor, and Novak had spent the morning down the road at the home of Jim Prepodnik.

“At Jim’s today I put 16 grafts on that tree and they’re all different,” he said. Novak’s orchard has an international flair, as he’s ordered different varieties of tree scions (the pieces to be grafted onto a root-stock tree) from all over the world.

“I’ve probably put in several hundred orders over the years,” he said. “I ordered some stuff last fall, but nothing came this year. So, it’s either one, they didn’t cut anything because of that COVID stuff. Or two, it’s a government deal, and maybe they got tired of sending.”

Novak pulled a scion out of a wrapped packet, picked up his equipment,



Left: Novak displays a successful cleft graft.

photo by D. Colburn

piece from the end, and whittled the cut end down to a sharp wedge.

“You only want one bud,” he said. “You want all the energy you can to go into this one bud to grow.”

Next, he slipped the wedge into the notch. Ideally, the width of the two pieces being joined is the same.

“You want it so that it’s flush. That way the cambium layers line up,” Novak said. “If you get it too small you can still get one side to come together. You don’t want a fatter one going in there.”

Once properly aligned, Novak wrapped the splice with a wide rubber band and, using a whittled stick as a brush, covered it all with liquid wax. The band and wax are specialty grafting items that can be found in different varieties,

and walked over to a tall shoot to demonstrate a cleft graft.

“This is just a wild shoot that came on – it’s an apple,” he said.

Pulling out his knife, he trimmed off the shoot about three feet high and then cut a notch down the middle. Then he took the scion, trimmed a small

he said.

“And there you go,” he said, applying the final daub of wax. “In a few years you’ve got yourself a \$50 tree for nothing.”

While a decorative flowering pear tree grows in one corner of the orchard, Novak discovered that regular pear trees don’t do well in this region. While growing regions have been established for different varieties of trees, numerous factors come into play that may determine the viability of a particular graft, and Novak’s had numerous failures to go along with his obvious successes. Apples and crabapples are his primary fruit producers, and with grafting, a single tree will produce multiple varieties, including some that may ripen earlier or later than others.

Novak said grafting is also a good way to rejuvenate a faltering tree.

“Let’s say you have an old flowering crab or

something in the backyard and you’re thinking about cutting it down,” he said. “Well, you can top graft in eating varieties, and it will be worth something.”

Over the years, Novak said that the best crabapple variety for grafting in this area that he’s come across is Chestnut. Centennial, Dolgo, and Whitney varieties also do well, he said.

His list for grafting apples is longer, and includes the following varieties: Norland, State Fair, Goodland, Parkland, Haralson, Lodi, Redwell, Regent, and Zestar.

He’s obviously tried them all with good success, as a look around the orchard will tell. So, with all of those fruit trees and all those varieties, what does he do with the bountiful harvest?

“I just give the apples away when people show up in the fall. That’s the only time I see some of these people,” Novak chuckled.



## Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

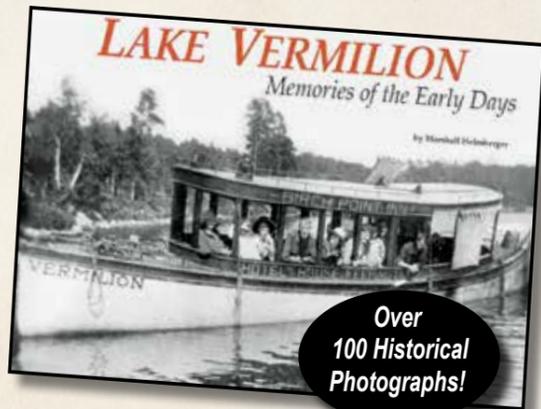
Written by Marshall Helmlinger • Published by the Timberjay

A Regional Favorite

STOP IN TODAY OR CALL...

Just \$29.95 + Tax

Don't miss your chance to own Lake Vermilion's most definitive history!



Over 100 Historical Photographs!

Pick up book(s) at Timberjay office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each.

### BOOK ORDER FORM

Quantity of Books \_\_\_\_\_

The Timberjay  
P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St  
Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16)

Book Total - Mail \$39.95

Total charged to credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid by check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up  Mail

**Free Estimates**  
**Basement and Crawl Space Problems Solved**

- Thousands of Satisfied Customers
- Transferable Warranty
- Licensed-Insured
- Providing Realistic Solutions

MN License BC542636  
ND License #38488  
**320-654-9900**  
www.safedrybasement.com

Leaky basements made dry  
Drain tile & baseboard systems  
Buckling walls corrected  
Foundation repair & wall crack repair  
Egress window installation

**Basement Water Controlled**  
Providing Service Since 1967

Safe Secure Dry  
HOLD-RIGHT™ WALL ANCHORS  
STABIL-LOC FOUNDATION PIERES

**INJURED AT WORK? DISABILITY DENIED?**

Contact Us Today For Free Advice

Workers' Compensation  
Long-Term Disability  
Social Security Disability

218-824-0093  
www.GetFields.com

Steve Fields  
Minnesota Attorney

FIELDS LAW FIRM

**NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF**

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

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

Call today:  
**1-844-205-5439**

ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

# Ely's Well Being Development program receives \$92,961 grant

## Grant will support peer-supported employment readiness programs

ELY – A local non-profit service provider recently received more than \$90,000 from the Minnesota Department of Human Resources to support people with disabilities.

Ely's Well Being Development (WBD) received \$92,961 to develop peer employment readiness programming with Northern Lights Clubhouse, where adults with mental health and other challenges can reach personal goals through meaningful activity.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services awarded a total of \$991,171 to ten service providers, supporting people with disabilities to live and engage with others in their communities and access improved employment opportunities.

"Providers that received innovation grants are doing critically important work every day," said Assistant Commissioner for Community Supports

Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa. "These grants empower them to go above and beyond, to find better ways to support Minnesotans with disabilities."

The grantees had to adapt their approaches for the COVID-19 pandemic for in-person services, but the delivery method needed to be modified in response to pandemic rules.

DHS distributes innovation grants in three groupings.

Northern Lights Clubhouse was part of the large grant program, which awards contracts up to \$500,000. There is also a small grant program which awards contracts between \$5,000 and \$50,000 per year to people and organizations working with Minnesotans with disabilities. Finally, there is a micro-grant program, administered by The Arc Minnesota, which offers funding directly to people with

disabilities to help them achieve their personal goals in employment, housing and community integration.

For more about innovation grants, visit <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/grants-rfps/disability-innovation-grants/> or email [DSD.Innovation@state.mn.us](mailto:DSD.Innovation@state.mn.us).

### Obituaries and Death Notices

#### Patricia A. Raj

Patricia Ann "Pat" Tekautz Raj, 72, of Tower, died on Jan. 13, 2021, at home. A celebration of life and burial will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 1 at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. A luncheon following the burial will be served at the Steve Raj residence, 709 N 2nd St. in Tower.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at the Cook Care Center. A celebration of life will be held at a later date and will be announced. A private interment will be held for the immediate family. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her sons, Keith (Dawn Nakata) Olson, Dale (Adrienne) Olson and Glen (Denise Erchul) Olson; daughters, Grace (William) Garrick and Nancy (Darrell) Field;

sisters, Elizabeth (Jerry) Maas and Sharon (Dale) Severson; brothers, Daniel (Kathy) Forsline and Phil (Jan) Forsline; grandchildren, Brian, John and David Olson, Derek (Barb) Olson, Erika Olson, Billy (Jen) Garrick, Kelly (Jeff) Torrel, Katie (Matt) Niskanen, Rachel Johnson and Eric Field; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

#### Estelle E. Harri

Estelle Eileen Kollin Harri, 90, of Ely, died at home on Friday, April 9, 2021. A private family burial in the Ely Cemetery will be held at a later time.

She is survived by her sons, Gene (Cecilia), Mike (Mary), Charles and Andy (Heather); and grandsons, Mikey and Lenny Harri.

#### Nancy A. Flynn

Nancy A. Tomsich Flynn, 79, originally of Ely, passed away peacefully at The Humming-

bird of Meadowlands on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Funeral services were held on Sunday, April 18 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. Those planning an expression of sympathy may donate to a local APA of their choosing. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her son, John Thomas (Kathy) Flynn Sr.; sister, Florence "Flossie" Strickland; grandson, John Thomas

Flynn II; sister-in-law, Judith C. Tomsich; daughter-in-law, Kathleen J. Flynn; niece, Kate Kalan; nephews, Frank (Christine) Tomsich Jr., Stephen (Debra) Tomsich and Michael (Lisa) Tomsich.

**Ely Community Health Center**  
 Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.  
 Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals  
 111 S 4th Ave E, Ely  
 Volunteer opportunities also available

**St. Louis County Solid Waste Facility**  
 Area site hours

<b>Northwoods Transfer Station</b> 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Summer Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: noon-6pm	<b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm
<b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Summer Hours Tues: 1-6pm Thurs: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm Sun: noon-6pm	<b>Soudan Canister Site</b> 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm
<b>Embarrass Canister Site</b> 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	<b>Aurora Transfer Station</b> 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
<b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	<b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th  
 For solid waste and recycling information go to [www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle)

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

**Subscribe Today**  
**(218) 753-2950**  
**timberjay.com**



**NORTHERN COMMUNITY RADIO**  
 KAXE 91.7 FM Grand Rapids  
 89.9 FM Brainerd  
 KBXE 90.5 FM Bagley/Bemidji  
 Independent, nonprofit community radio  
 serving Northern Minnesota.  
**NOW BROADCASTING IN ELY**  
**103.9FM**

**16th Annual Sweet Spring Auction**  
**ONLINE!**  
 Bidding Begins 6:00 pm Sunday, April 25  
 Ends 6:00 pm Sunday, May 2  
 Go to [ely.younglife.org](http://ely.younglife.org)  
 Click on Auction Items to view donations; Click on Sign Up in order to bid.  
 Items will end at various times from 2:30 - 6:00 on May 2.

All proceeds benefit Ely area youth!

- Ace Hardware - 104-piece tool set
- Anderson, Dawn - Beadwork jewelry & dream catcher
- Anderson, Scott - Sonic toothbrush
- Arrowhead Outdoors - Bait each month
- Arrowhead Outdoors - Humminbird Helix 5 depth finder
- Bader's Pheasant Run - Pheasant hunt for 10 birds
- Bina, Cindy - Fine silver jewelry
- Blomberg/Range - Propane tank refills
- Bloomers - Gift card
- Boes, Lori - Bucket of cleaning products & services
- Boundary Waters Septic - Residential septic pumping
- Britton's - Gift cards
- Breuhl, Tim & Judy - Gourmet dinner for 4
- Cache Lake - Camping food
- Campbell, Deb & Zupancich, Deb - 4-Course dinner for 4
- Canoe Country Outfitters - Kevlar canoe rental for 1 week
- Chernak, Sue - Pottery bowl
- Crapola - Variety pack of Crapola
- D & D Accounting - \$100 in services
- Daybreak Pottery - Mugs
- Dock on Wheels - Ladder & can crusher
- Dorothy Molter Museum - Case of root beer & membership
- Dunning, Bart - Wooden chip carved items
- Ely Chiropractic - Tri-Core pillow
- Ely Fire Department - Private ride
- Ely Flower and Seed - Succulent planter
- Ely Golf Club - Round of golf for 2
- Ely Memorial Senior High - Athletic passes
- Ely Vision - Nonprescription sunglasses
- Ely Young Life - Picnic blanket & cutting board
- Ely's Historic State Theater - Brew package & family package
- Erzar, Debbie - Quilt table runners
- Faltsek, Evan - Cutting board
- Fisher Maps - Maps covering the Ely area
- Forest Concrete - Class 5 gravel
- Fortune Bay The Wilderness - Round of golf for 4 & cart
- Front Porch - Gift card
- Gator's Emporium - Pizza party
- Gene Hicks - Coffee basket
- Gracie's Plant Works - Gift card \$50
- Grand Ely Lodge - Grand Fishing Package
- Great Lakes Aquarium - 4 Admission passes
- Gunflint Lodge - Zip line passes
- Hand-Done T-Shirts - Sweatshirts
- Hearthside Corner - Dimplex electric fireplace
- Hughes, Peter & Bina, Shawn - Custom knife & sheath
- Hunter, Anne - Cabi \$100 gift card
- Insula - Gift cards and bottles of wine
- International Wolf Center - 4 Admission tickets
- JD Mills - Terra Nova light-weight tarp
- Joe's Marine - Backpack of activities & \$50 gift card
- Kaetterhenry, Dennis - Birch coat racks
- Kahle, Sarah - Dog sitting
- Kidd, Kris - Comet metal print & greeting cards
- Kondos Outdoors - Pack
- Kottke, Carrie - Carrie-Mels
- L & M - Outdoor adventure package
- LaTourell's - Bent shaft paddles
- Legacy Toys - Numerous games & puzzles
- Lepisto, Andrea - jewelry
- Levar, Sarah - Private painting lessons
- Log Cabin Coffee - Gift card and pottery mug

- Low Impact Excavating - Class 5 gravel
- Lutsen Mountain - Lodging & activity passes
- Mealey's - Up North Minnesota Blanket
- Mischke, Larry & Wetzel, Tom - Fishing trip
- MN Vikings - Mini helmet with Anthony Harris autograph
- Norman, Chris - Beaver pelt wall hanging
- North American Bear Center - Admission passes
- North Shore Railroad - Admission for Duluth Zephyr
- Northern Grounds - Wine Society tastings for four
- Ohlhauser, Beth/Gypsy Bandanas - Poncho and headband
- Olson, Brenda - Hand-made soap
- Orcutt Guide Service - Guided fishing trip for 2
- Passananti, Stan & Joyce - Italian dinner for 6
- Pebble Spa - 60-minute massage
- Piragis - Paddle board rental, Chocolate Moose & \$100 gift card
- POTLUCK - Ice cream sundae package & \$50 gift card
- Razor Edge - Knife sharpening gift certificates
- Rock Country Masonry - \$500-\$1000 worth of work
- Rock Ridge - Complete 4-day outfitting package for 9
- Root River Photography - Matted prints
- Roots Salon - Pedicure & manicure
- Roots Salon - Haircut & foil
- Scott, Martha & Bill - All American steak BBQ for 8
- Semenick, Gary - Custom made hickory table
- Sir G's - Twelve large pizzas
- Soderberg, Barb & Kurt - Books (youth) by Erin Soderberg
- St. Paul Saints - Tickets
- Stony Ridge - \$100 Gift card
- Subway - Subs & sandwich platter
- Swanson Excavating - Class 5 gravel
- Tara Kay Photography - \$100 gift card for photo shoot
- Tony's Towing - Gift cards
- VanDusen, Bud - Airplane ride
- Vosburgh, Willy - Tow for 4 on Moose Lake chain
- Voyageur Brewing Company - Gift card
- Wetzel, Tom & Mischke, Larry - Walleye fry for 8
- White Wilderness - Sled dog trip for 2
- Wick, Chuck - Handcrafted wood trays & more
- Wilford, Larry & Linda - Noise cancelling headphones
- Zup's Ely - \$100 Gift card
- Zup's Babbitt - \$100 Brat package
- Anonymous donations:  
 Northern Rail Train Car Inn \$100 gift card  
 Thermopen meat thermometer  
 Wayfair \$100 gift card  
 Zappos \$100 gift card
- Gourmet desserts created by Joe Bianco, Pam Bulinski, Brianna Crawford, Janet Dunnom, Donna Gustafson, Beth Hartshorn, Marie Hren, Susan Laine, Sara MacCoy, Kristen Moran, Erin Moravitz, JoEllen Murphy, Justin Olson, JoAnn Rhoades, Jan Rue, Sharon Svatos, Anna Thompson, and Peggy York-Jesme.
- Financial and other support from the Ely Echo and Frandsen Bank.

**New to online bidding? Let us help you out!**  
**Contact Mike Keller at 218-235-7190**  
**if you have questions.**  
**& MANY MORE ITEMS!**



# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

## WINTER'S RETREAT

# Vermilion ice-free on April 15

A mild March and April prompted ice-out two weeks earlier than average

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**LAKE VERMILION**—The open water season here officially began Thursday, April 15, when the last of the pack ice cleared from Lake Vermilion's Big Bay. This year's ice-out day was a full 15 days ahead of the average date of April 30 and reflects

the exceptionally mild March and early April weather that the North Country experienced.

Local pilot John Burgess reported the lake free of ice as of Friday morning, April 16. According to barge operator T.J. Kladivo, sizable areas of ice still lingered on portions of Big Bay as of April 15, but that ice had all but disappeared

by Friday morning. Based on longstanding tradition, if the ice is declared out prior to noon on any date, the official ice-out is called for the day prior.

A report of a small area of ice floating in Big Bay, north of Ely Island, on Friday morning is not sufficient to prevent the ice-out call. The traditional definition of

ice-out on the lake is when boaters can navigate to any dock, which would not be prevented by small areas of floating ice.

Pilot reports indicated some areas of lingering ice remained on Trout Lake, north of Vermilion, as of April 16, and approximately half of Burntside was still ice covered as of last Friday.



Bring the boat. The open water season is now underway across the North Country, about two weeks ahead of schedule.



With increased fishing pressure on Lake Vermilion, local organizations are pushing voluntary "conservation limits."

Below: The front and back side of the new postcards that will be distributed in the area this year to promote the suggested new limits

## LAKE VERMILION

# Conservation limits proposed

Lake association, guides, and resorts propose tighter voluntary bag limits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**—Lake Vermilion's walleye population looks strong ahead of the 2021 fishing season. Yet key stakeholders on the lake see warning signs ahead, and they're proposing new voluntary limits this year to help reduce the increasingly intense fishing pressure the lake is experiencing.

While one year ago, Vermilion resort owners and fishing guides were facing cancellations and an uncertain future as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of many indoor restrictions prompted the public to get outdoors. Rather than the empty cabins and boats they feared, area resort owners and guides had a banner year as people flocked to the North Country for an escape from the pandemic. In addition, the pandemic-related shutdown at the Canadian border limited anglers to American waters last summer, and that only brought more angler pressure to Vermilion.

"Every resort I talked to was full through September last year," said Terry Grosshauser, past president of the Vermilion Lake Association, who has worked to promote new voluntary "conservation limits" for Vermilion this year.

Grosshauser said the difference from recent years was stark. "I was on Niles Bay the last week of September last fall," recalls Grosshauser. "Normally, there might be three boats out there that time of year, but I counted 50. And they were all catching walleyes. That's unbelievable pressure."

And it looks as though 2021 could be even busier on Vermilion, which is one reason that Grosshauser said he found broad support for his new conservation limits—which would cut the walleye limit from the current four to two daily— from both guides and resort owners. "Most are already full and they're worried the lake is going to get hit hard again this year," Grosshauser said.

So, the lake association, in cooperation

Lake Vermilion's outstanding fishery is experiencing higher than normal pressure. We need your help to protect the lake by following the volunteer recommended conservation limits...thank you!!

For more information, please visit [vermilionlakeassociation.org/conservation](http://vermilionlakeassociation.org/conservation)

**Recommended Conservation Limits are on a voluntary basis and do not reflect the regulation mandated by the DNR.**

SPECIES	MDNR Regulations Possession Limit	Recommended Conservation Possession Limit
Walleye	4 <small>WALLEYE SLOT 20-26" 1 can be over 26"</small>	2 <small>(Min. 12", Max. 18")</small>
Largemouth Bass	6 (any combination)	0 (Catch & Release Only)
Smallmouth Bass		3 (Less than 18")
Crappie	10	5 (Less than 13")
Bluegill	20	10 (Less than 9")
Perch	40	20 (Less than 12")
Northern	2 <small>NORTHERN SLOT 30-40" 1 can be over 40"</small>	1 <small>(Less than 30")</small>
Musky	1 (54 inch or above)	0 (Catch & Release Only)

## Nature Notes

This week's feature  
**BEAKED HAZEL FLOWER**



One of our most surprising early season wildflowers is easy to overlook. At a time when most other wildflowers are still waiting for warmer weather, the flowers of the Beaked Hazel have already been in bloom since early April.

You just might not notice unless you look very closely. While the flower of the beaked hazel is dramatic, with its deep scarlet "petals," it is also very tiny, and would be easy to pass right by.

The flowers, which are the female part of the bush, appear at the same time as the catkins, which are the male part of the bush. Assuming the flowers are pollinated, that's where the hazel nuts will develop later in the summer.

## FISHERIES

### Fond du Lac wraps up netting on Vermilion

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**—It appears members of the Fond du Lac Band have wrapped up their planned spring netting and spearing in northern St. Louis County, having harvested far less than they originally declared.

This year, the Fond du Lac increased their declared harvest quota on Vermilion to 10,000 pounds, a sharp increase from the 2,500 pounds they've declared in recent years.

But the total harvest after three days of netting was far less than that, at just 625.2 pounds.

Fond du Lac fisheries biologists are careful to catalog all the fish they harvest, to ensure that the harvest does not exceed declared levels.

The Fond du Lac declared their intent to exercise treaty rights on a number of other lakes in the area, including Birch, Bear Island, and Crane, but it appears that no band members actually netted or speared on those lakes this year. Participation from band members can be quite limited at times and that has typically kept actual harvest levels well below the levels declared by the band.

Outdoors in brief

# Bear hunting permit applications due May 7

REGIONAL - Prospective bear hunters have through Friday, May 7, to apply for a bear hunting license. Applications for the 2021 season should be submitted online or via telephone at 888-665-4236.

A total of 3,575 licenses are available in 13 permit areas. The fee to apply is \$5. Bear licenses cost \$44 for residents and \$230 for nonresidents. The season is open from Wednesday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Oct. 17.

Lottery winners will be notified by June 1. The deadline to purchase licenses awarded by lottery will

be Sunday, Aug. 1. Any remaining unpurchased licenses will be available starting at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

The no-quota area that includes east-central and far northwestern Minnesota is not part of the lottery drawing and will have an unlimited number of licenses available.

Overall, bear permit numbers for quota areas have remained unchanged since last year to allow the bear population numbers to gradually increase and support a robust bear population.

# Take a Mom Fishing weekend set for May 8-9

REGIONAL—Take a Mom Fishing Weekend — when Minnesota-resident moms can fish without purchasing a license — is Saturday, May 8, to Sunday, May 9. This special weekend is defined in Minnesota statutes as the weekend that coincides with Mother's Day.

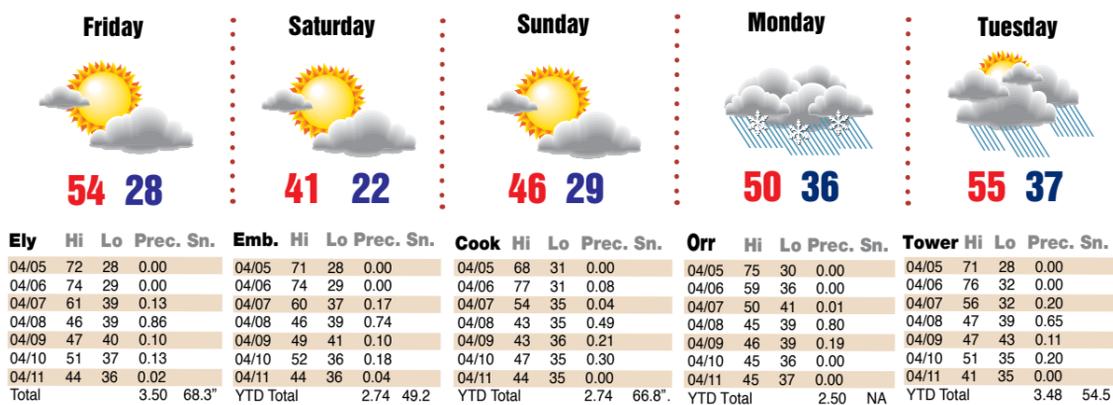
Most years, under Minnesota law, the fishing opener and Take a Mom Fishing Weekend fall on the same weekend, but not this year. Per state law, the 2021 fishing opener is Saturday,

May 15. Though the walleye season won't be open for the 2021 Take a Mom Fishing Weekend, fishing is open for other species including crappie, sunfish, and under-appreciated fish like sucker or bullhead.

Anglers beware: There is an error in the printed version of the Minnesota Fishing Regulations book regarding the dates for Take a Mom Fishing Weekend. The correct dates are May 8-9.

# LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



# CONSERVATION...Continued from page 4B

with the Lake Vermilion Guides League and the Lake Vermilion Resort Association, are promoting the new limits this year, using 5x7-inch postcards that they'll be distributing at area resorts, through area guides, and through lake association volunteers stationed at public landings. The new suggested limits include two walleye per day, between 12 and 18-inches. It also cuts the standard limit for other target species in half and would limit largemouth bass to catch-and-release only this year. Grosshauser said a die-off of largemouth bass two years ago has sharply reduced the numbers of this species, which has traditionally been relatively restricted on Vermilion.

## Test netting may not tell the whole story

Test netting by the Department of Natural Resources last year captured an average of just over 20 walleyes per net, the highest number in more than three decades. Yet Grosshauser points out that the DNR does its netting in late August and September, which means the results don't reflect the fishing pressure the lake experienced all fall, as well as higher than average ice fishing pressure this past winter.

It isn't just that more anglers are plying Vermilion's waters, notes

Grosshauser. He said the increasing sophistication of imaging technology makes it easier for anglers to target and catch fish, which only increases the harvest unless anglers are going to voluntarily limit their harvest.

Grosshauser argues that the time to address the impact of such intense fishing pressure is before the lake experiences a sharp decline in fish populations. "If it gets pounded too hard, it can take 6-8 years to recover. It's not a quick thing."

For now, at least, Vermilion isn't showing the signs of a fishery that's struggling, according to Edie Evarts, Tower area fisheries manager, and not just because the test netting results were so strong this year. "When a fishery is fished too hard, you would see other characteristics as well, like faster growth rates. You'd also see young fish maturing earlier. We've seen those things on Red Lake, but not on Vermilion."

Evarts agrees, however, that Vermilion does experience considerable fishing pressure and she's aware of the reports of increased pressure in 2020. "The DNR does rank it pretty high up there in terms of angling pressure," said Evarts, who notes that the lake's fishery has held up in the past to periods of intensive harvest. The DNR considers 65,000 pounds to be a sustainable harvest

on Vermilion, although it has experienced periods with substantially higher harvest levels. Back in 2003, a DNR creel survey estimated an open water harvest of 96,000 pounds of walleye on Vermilion, and that high level of harvest prompted the DNR to institute a protective slot limit, which helped to reduce the take. The most recent creel survey on the lake, conducted in 2014-15, put the harvest considerably lower, at 40,000-43,000 pounds.

Evarts said the DNR had planned to conduct a new creel survey last year but opted to hold off as a safety precaution with the pandemic. The agency now expects to conduct the new creel survey this summer and also next winter.

Evarts said the DNR has no objection if anglers want to voluntarily keep fewer fish. In fact, she notes, suggested limits proposed by the Vermilion groups are based on the limits attached to the conservation license that the DNR has sold to Minnesota residents for years.

Grosshauser said the broad support for the idea was critical for the lake association to move forward with the proposed new limits. "If we could not get support from guides, resorts and the Bois Forte, we would not have moved this forward," he said.

Subscribe Today!

# OPEN HOUSE

Friday, April 23 & Saturday, April 24 • 9 AM-5 PM

GET ON THE WATER AND AWAY FROM IT ALL



CREST

BUILT BY ANGLERS FOR ANGLERS



LUND

PURE FISHING POWER

THUNDER JET



NEW MODEL

WE ARE EXTENDING THE SAME DEALS ON ALL OF OUR INVENTORY THAT WE WOULD HAVE HAD AT THE HOME, SPORT AND TRAVEL SHOW.

STAY TUNED FOR OUR 2-DAY OPEN HOUSE APRIL 23-24, 9AM-5PM

SALES • STORAGE • REPAIRS  
PARTS • ACCESSORIES



6143 Pike Bay Drive, Tower, MN 55790 | (218) 753-4190 • www.aronsonboatworks.com

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION**

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, Eagles Nest Township is requesting that taxpayers who wish to question or appeal their property tax classifications or valuations do so in writing. Taxpayers may, however, also appeal their assessments by attending a meeting virtually by following the instructions below.

If the property information is not correct, you disagree with the values, or have questions about the valuation notice you have received or will be receiving, please contact Andrew Olson, Assessor, (218) 365-8208 fax (218) 365-8207 first. Often issues can be resolved at this level.

If you are going to make an appeal in writing, mail your written appeal to Keely Drange, Township Clerk at 1552 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN 55731. Be sure to include the basis of your appeal along with the Property ID number, tax description as found on your Valuation Notice. If the property has an address include that also.

Written appeals need to be sent as soon as possible so that the Township Clerk can get the information to the assessor before the deadline of Friday, April 1, 2021.

**The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) is set for Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 10 a.m.**

The LBAE Meeting will not be held in person, but instead will be held virtually. Citizens can attend by phone conference or by video conference.

Phone Conference Instructions:

1. Call 1-701-802-5104.
  2. When prompted for an access code, enter 2894250# using your telephone key pad.
  3. PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN NOT TALKING. This will prevent background noise during the meeting. You can mute and unmute yourself by pressing \*6 on the keypad or by pressing the "Mute" button.
- Video Conference Instructions:
1. Download the application.
    - a. Go to <https://www.freeconferencecall.com/> and create an account.
    - b. Once you have created an account go to your account dashboard and download the free conference call app.
  2. Join the meeting.
    - a. Double click on the FCC icon, then choose the "Home" selection on the left side of the window.
    - b. Click "Join".
    - c. Enter your name and email associated with the free conference call account you created. Then enter the meeting ID, which is "eaglesnestwp".
    - d. Click "Join with computer audio".
    - e. In the lower left part of the screen, "Mute" "Audio" and "Video" icons. You may click those on and off as desired. A gray icon represents off; blue represents on. Note that if you turn off the audio, you will leave the meeting. You can join again by clicking the audio icon again. As with the phone conferencing instructions above, PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF WHEN NOT TALKING to prevent unwanted noise during the meeting.
- More detailed instructions can be found on our website: <https://www.eaglesnestmn.com/> or on our Facebook page.

Keely Drange, Town Clerk, 218-365-4573 eaglesnestwp@citlink.net

*Published in the Timberjay, April 23 & 30, 2021*

**FIELD TOWNSHIP**

**The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Field Township will meet on May 4, 2021 from 11 AM- 12 Noon at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Hwy 25**

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect contact Assessor Ron Bushbaum - 218-471-7277 - Often issues can be resolved at this level.

Or appeal by letter or email prior to the meeting - Pat Chapman, Field Township Clerk, 9998 E. Lind Rd., Angora, MN 55703, or [clerk@fieldtownship.com](mailto:clerk@fieldtownship.com).

Pat Chapman/Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, April 23, 2021*

**GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS**

Notice is hereby given this day of April 23, 2021 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2015), that all persons in St. Louis County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2015), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work hired is done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated as noxious weeds and the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or County Designated Employee. You can also obtain this information from your Local Weed Inspectors. Local Weed Inspectors include the township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants. More information regarding the statewide listed noxious weeds, the MN Noxious Weed law and a list of County Agricultural Inspectors and County Designated Employees can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's website by visiting: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-and-invasive-weed-program>

Kristin Fogard  
County Agricultural Inspector  
Land and Minerals Department  
320 West 2nd St, Ste 302  
218.726.2606  
[fogardk@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:fogardk@stlouiscountymn.gov)

*Published in the Timberjay, April 23, 2021*

**LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION TOWN OF CRANE LAKE St. Louis County, Minnesota**

will meet at  
The Crane Lake Chapel Fellowship Hall  
on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 1:00 PM

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the town has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. Please email [info@cranelaketwp.com](mailto:info@cranelaketwp.com) or mail Town of Crane Lake, P.O. Box 402, Crane Lake, MN 55725 with your concerns, if possible (rather than appearing). The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Jo Ann Pohlman, Clerk, Town of Crane Lake

*Published in the Timberjay, April 16 & 23, 2021*

**EMPLOYMENT**



**Senior Planner**  
Apply by 04/30/2021

**Bailiff – Court Security (Hibbing & Virginia)**  
Apply by 05/07/2021

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
or call 218-726-2422

*Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 4/23*

**Subscribe Today**  
**218-753-2950**

**CITY OF TOWER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Tower Economic Development Authority intends to sell a residential lot located at 510 S Second St. to the non-profit corporation, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, for redevelopment as single-family housing.

Per the requirements of Minn. Stat. 469.105, Subd. 2, TEDA is required to hold a public hearing to take testimony from the public regarding the sale. Anyone interested in expressing an opinion on the sale can attend the hearing, to be held at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021. Comment can also be submitted prior to the hearing in writing at [teda@cityoftower.com](mailto:teda@cityoftower.com), attention Marshall Helmberger, Executive Director, or addressed to Tower Economic Development Authority, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

*Published in the Timberjay, April 23, 2021*

**EMPLOYMENT**

**CITY OF TOWER Job Posting Seasonal Maintenance Worker**

\$12-\$15/hr • Mowing, Snow Removal, Etc. Must be able to lift 50 lbs  
For full job description and to apply, visit [www.cityoftower.com/positions-available](http://www.cityoftower.com/positions-available)

*Published in the Timberjay, April 16 & 23, 2021*

**HELP WANTED**

**Would you like to work outside?  
Would you like to work on the lake?**

Docks on Wheels in Ely is looking to fill a variety of positions. All positions require the ability to lift 50 lbs continually. Call to schedule an interview, 218-365-6210. 4/30

**Camp Voyageur**

Now hiring for summer cook/baker and kitchen assistants. Fun and flexible hours. Join our experienced culinary team while working right on the water on Farm Lake. Contact [deb@campvoyageur.com](mailto:deb@campvoyageur.com). tfr

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Civil-rights org.
- 6 Crunchy sandwich
- 9 Eastern "way"
- 12 D-Day beach
- 13 Kanga's kid
- 14 Pirates' quaff
- 15 Stopwatch
- 16 "Charlotte's Web" author
- 18 Van Gogh painting
- 20 Black, in verse
- 21 Lass
- 23 Pouch
- 24 Raiment
- 25 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
- 27 Bush
- 29 Refines, as ore
- 31 Decrees
- 35 Void
- 37 Old U.S. gas brand
- 38 "West Side Story" song
- 41 Stashed
- 43 Science room
- 44 Shortly
- 45 Party snack
- 47 "The War of the Worlds" author
- 49 Did yard work
- 52 Enzyme suffix
- 53 Granola grain

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
		18			19			20			
21	22			23			24				
25			26		27		28				
29				30			31		32	33	34
			35				36		37		
38	39	40			41		42		43		
44				45				46			
47				48				49		50	51
52				53				54			
55				56				57			

- 54 Speak one's mind
- 55 USPS delivery
- 56 " - Clear Day"
- 57 Egg holders
- 11 Signs
- 17 Disney's "Love Bug"
- 19 Impudent
- 21 Ozone, for one
- 22 Branch
- 24 Flop
- 26 Broadway's Stritch
- 28 Pine product
- 30 TV schedule abbr.
- 32 "The Chronicles
- 9 Navajo or Hopi
- 10 Ones for the road?
- 17 Disney's "Love Bug"
- 19 Impudent
- 21 Ozone, for one
- 22 Branch
- 24 Flop
- 26 Broadway's Stritch
- 28 Pine product
- 30 TV schedule abbr.
- 32 "The Chronicles
- 33 Airport screening org.
- 34 Weep
- 36 California peak
- 38 Taj -
- 39 Uneasy feeling
- 40 Crew member
- 42 Matt of Hollywood
- 45 Family
- 46 Francis, e.g.
- 48 Privy
- 50 Tolkien creature
- 51 - Moines

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

**EMPLOYMENT**

**COOK HOSPITAL & CARE CENTER**  
Our Specialty is You

---

**OPEN POSITIONS** 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723

<p><b>Dietary</b> FT Dietary Manager</p> <p><b>Hospital/ER</b> PT Registered Nurse (wage starting at \$34.06/hr - Sign-On Bonus)</p> <p><b>Care Center</b> PT Nursing Assistant (wage starting at \$16.36/hr - Sign-On Bonus)</p> <p><b>Activities</b> PT &amp; Casual Activities Assistant</p>	<p><b>Environmental Services</b> PT Housekeeper Casual Laundry Aide Casual Housekeeping &amp; Laundry</p>
---	---

**TO APPLY:**  
[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)  
More Info? Contact Human Resources  
**218-666-6220**  
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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

Equal Opportunity Employer/ Affirmative Action Employer

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.



# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

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

## BUILDING SERVICES

**All Out Contracting**  
Septic Systems,  
Site Preparation,  
Land Clearing, Brushing,  
Class-5, Black Dirt,  
Sand, Boulders  
**Cody Wooster**  
218-290-6939  
ALLOUTLLC@outlook.com  
Licensed, Insured, Bonded

## HAIR CARE

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA OPEN GROUP  
MEETINGS- in person meetings,  
Wednesdays & Saturdays  
at 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran  
Church, 915 E Camp St., Ely

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

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.

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

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

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

## King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

**Advertising  
PAYS OFF!**

Call  
**753-2950**  
subscribe to the  
**Timberjay!**

## HELP WANTED

SATURDAY CLEANERS  
WANTED- Come clean with our  
amazing team on Saturdays at  
White Eagle Resort. Competitive  
wages offered based upon  
experience. Contact us at 218-  
666-5500 or apply online at  
Whiteeagleresort.com. tfn

## FOR SALE

FRUIT PLANTS FOR SALE-  
Raspberries, currants, thimble-  
berries. Many varieties, low prices.  
Rural Babbitt. Please call  
218-827-2649. 4/23

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆  
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Answer

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

**Subscribe Today**  
**(218) 753-2950**

## Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

## MARINE

**Handberg's MARINA**  
Sales • Service  
Rentals  
General Store  
218-993-2214  
www.handbergs.com

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

**ARONSON BOAT WORKS**  
LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
Located two miles southwest  
of Tower on Hwy. 169  
NEW Spring Hours:  
Mon-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM

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

**Grubben MARINA & VILLAGE**  
Boat launch, rental,  
store & repair  
Cabins for a great,  
fun vacation  
See us at: www.grubbens.com  
Call us at: 218.753.5000  
4296 Arrowhead Point Rd,  
Tower MN 55790

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

## MARINE

**TIMBUKTU MARINA**  
ON LAKE VERMILION  
218-666-2434  
7401 Oak Narrows Rd - Cook MN

Cabin rentals  
Year round boat  
storage and dockage  
Boat and pontoon  
rental  
Convenience store  
Gas, bait & liquor  
timbuktumarina.com

**TIMBUKTU MARINE**  
LAKE VERMILION  
218-666-2276  
2475 Vermilion Dr - Cook MN

**Ranger** **Premier**  
**BOATS** **BOATS**  
**WEERES**  
**BOATS** **MERCURY**  
**SUZUKI** **YAMAHA**  
Sales, service, storage, boat lifts,  
docks, trailers and accessories  
timbuktumarine.com

**Centrally Located On  
Lake Vermilion**

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

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

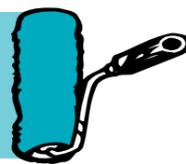
## Super Crossword

- |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Tribal emblems</p> <p>7 Sobbing</p> <p>14 Hunt for food</p> <p>20 Of a big blood vessel</p> <p>21 Church part near the altar</p> <p>22 Mistreating type</p> <p>23 Start of a riddle</p> <p>25 Starts a PC session</p> <p>26 Copies a cat</p> <p>27 Pop singer Grande, to fans</p> <p>28 Doctrine in copyright law</p> <p>29 Buy that can be deleted</p> <p>31 With 110-Down, decisive trial</p> <p>34 Hawk's nest</p> <p>37 Goldman's partner</p> <p>38 Riddle, part 2</p> <p>43 Fig and fir</p> <p>44 Foster</p> <p>45 Miner's strike</p> <p>46 Unruffled</p> <p>48 Plotting group</p> <p>51 Pastry variety</p> <p>57 Riddle, part 3</p> | <p>62 Pieces of gig gear</p> <p>65 Bridle part</p> <p>66 Of a central point</p> <p>67 Perform wonderfully</p> <p>68 Buck mate</p> <p>69 Apple's apple, e.g.</p> <p>70 Miss.-to-Minn. dir.</p> <p>71 Foyer floor protectors</p> <p>73 Linking word in Leipzig</p> <p>74 Befogged</p> <p>76 1960s radical Hoffman</p> <p>78 Huge hauler</p> <p>79 February 14 deity</p> <p>80 Riddle, part 4</p> <p>84 Weds on the fly</p> <p>85 University of — Dame</p> <p>86 Buddy from way back</p> <p>90 Group in a roundup</p> <p>93 Griffin who created "Jeopardy!"</p> <p>96 Debonair</p> <p>97 End of the riddle</p> | <p>105 Helmsley with hotels</p> <p>106 Beau —</p> <p>107 Rebuke to Brutus</p> <p>108 "Hel-Hp!"</p> <p>109 Divided into segments</p> <p>111 Cry of cheer</p> <p>113 Part of OTB</p> <p>116 Provoke</p> <p>117 Riddle's answer</p> <p>123 Fishing nets</p> <p>124 Vacillated</p> <p>125 Comic Boosler</p> <p>126 Most eccentric</p> <p>127 Cabbie's query</p> <p>128 More packed</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Shooting marble</p> <p>2 Cry of delight</p> <p>3 Stomped on</p> <p>4 Kin of -ess</p> <p>5 Japanese soup variety</p> <p>6 Investment bigwig Charles</p> <p>7 Hosp. section</p> <p>8 Bruins' org.</p> <p>9 "I did it!"</p> | <p>10 Bait</p> <p>11 More tender</p> <p>12 Mr. —! (old detective game)</p> <p>13 Foxy</p> <p>14 FDR's dog</p> <p>15 Wind section player</p> <p>16 Little kid</p> <p>17 "That being the case ..."</p> <p>18 Hostess in a kimono</p> <p>19 Borgnine of "Marty"</p> <p>24 Grouchy Muppet</p> <p>28 Familial fight</p> <p>29 Deeds</p> <p>30 Prune</p> <p>32 34th prez</p> <p>33 Priest's assistant</p> <p>35 Threw the dice</p> <p>36 Altar avowal</p> <p>39 Conducts</p> <p>40 In re</p> <p>41 "Dam it!"</p> <p>42 Relinquish</p> <p>47 The younger Saارينen</p> <p>49 Grammy winner Tony</p> <p>50 State frankly</p> <p>52 Grows older</p> | <p>53 Shoot down</p> <p>54 Rack up</p> <p>55 Old-style office scribe</p> <p>56 Clings (to)</p> <p>58 "Just Shoot Me!" actor George</p> <p>59 Mourner of myth</p> <p>60 Personal identifiers</p> <p>61 Pin it on</p> <p>62 Wise truism</p> <p>63 Roadhouse</p> <p>64 Basil-based sauce</p> <p>69 Overdue</p> <p>70 Boy, in Bolivia</p> <p>72 DVR pioneer</p> <p>75 Sci-fi power</p> <p>77 Family on "Married ... With Children"</p> <p>78 Jacket part</p> <p>79 Finish</p> <p>81 Court king Arthur</p> <p>82 Cookbook writer</p> <p>83 Snow queen in "Frozen"</p> <p>87 Openers of many locks</p> <p>88 Chevy debut of 2004</p> | <p>89 Some watch displays, for short</p> <p>91 Leg up</p> <p>92 Pop's Carly — Jepsen</p> <p>94 Like a prof. emeritus</p> <p>95 Flashy Chevy, for short</p> <p>97 Texas city</p> <p>98 Got close to</p> <p>99 Doughnut-shaped figure</p> <p>100 Harmonious</p> <p>101 Hoists</p> <p>102 Took pains</p> <p>103 Physician, often</p> <p>104 Lay in concealment</p> <p>110 See 31-Across</p> <p>112 Roll call reply</p> <p>114 Proficient</p> <p>115 — Grape (Ocean Spray flavor)</p> <p>117 URL part</p> <p>118 "Take that!"</p> <p>119 Sweaty, say</p> <p>120 Old Tokyo</p> <p>121 Prop- or hex-ender</p> <p>122 The, in Vienna</p> |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20						21							22							
23					24								25							
		26						27				28								
29	30				31		32	33		34		35	36			37				
38			39	40					41						42					
43							44					45								
46					47			48		49	50			51	52	53	54	55	56	
				57			58	59					60	61						
62	63	64			65											67				
68					69					70			71	72				73		
74			75			76			77				78					79		
80					81							82				83				
84									85						86			87	88	89
					90	91	92				93		94	95		96				
97	98	99	100	101					102	103					104					
105																				
109					110															
116																				
117																				
123																				
124																				
126																				
127																				
128																				



# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



**THE FINISHED LOOK**  
BUILDING | ROOFING  
REMODELING

**John Thomas Almeida**  
Owner & Designer  
Pingajt@gmail.com  
**(218) 235-7305**

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

**YOU CALL, WE HAUL!**

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

**Carl Anderson**  
**Anderson Barging, Inc.**  
Cell 218-780-4955  
www.andersonbarging.com

Covering all of Lake Vermilion

**ROOFS**  
The FINISHED LOOK

**REPAIR & INSTALLATION**

**218-235-7305**  
Licensed and Insured  
License# BC674311

**NORTHEAST TITLE**

Real Estate Closing Services,  
Title Insurance & Abstracting

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

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

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

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

www.netitle.com

**Don't Miss Our... WEEKLY SPECIALS**

**Potting Soil**  
From composted organic material.  
.75 Cu Ft...\$2.89

**Compost with Manure**  
.75 Cu Ft...\$2.89

**Top Soil**  
.75 Cu Ft...\$1.99

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off

**VERMILION LUMBER**  
**HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS**  
218-753-2230  
302 Main St., Tower, MN  
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon

**TRANSFORM YOUR BATH OR SHOWER IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY**

**CALL NOW**

**FOR \$500 Off** OR **NO PAYMENTS & NO INTEREST FOR 18 MONTHS**  
Offer Expires 6.30.2021

855-651-0584

- Over 850 Authorized Dealers
- Factory-Trained & Certified Installers
- Lifetime Warranty
- Made in the U.S.A.

**BCI BATH & SHOWER**  
"We make bathing safer"

Military & Senior Discounts Available

\*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires June 30, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic Inc.

**EAST RANGE LAWN CARE**

• LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED  
• WEEKLY - MONTHLY - QUARTERLY - ANNUAL CONTRACTS  
• ON-CALL SERVICE

**YOUR PROPERTY, OUR PRIORITY.**

**FREE** Fall fertilizing and clean-up if you sign up for weekly services this spring!

**OUR SERVICES**

- LAWN SERVICES**  
•Brush/Tree Trimming & Removal
- DOCK SERVICES**  
•Caretaker Cleaning Services  
•Painting/Staining
- LANDSCAPING**  
•Trash Removal & Clean-Up  
•Power Washing

CALL US NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE! **218-410-9797**

**CEDAR DOCK BOARDS!**

2x6-6 Western RED CEDAR DOCK BOARDS  
**\$14.59**  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

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

**DO YOU NEED PLANS?**  
North Country's Premier Design and Drafting Service

• Custom Homes  
• Garages  
• Remodels  
• Additions  
• Site Planning

**CADline Design**  
218.827.8166 - Office  
218.349.6838 - Cell  
plans@cadlinedesign.us  
www.cadlinedesign.us

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

**BEAR RIVER ELECTRIC**

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

**JDL Landscaping**  
Cook, MN

Schedule Your Work Today!

- Cut/trim trees & brush
- Brush removal

Jack Luecken 780-9750  
Brad Luecken 780-1852

**PETERSEN DRILLING**  
Since 1948  
Wells Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

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

**CABIN FEVER FRENZY!**

**LEVEL LOOP Commercial Carpets**  
Starting At **\$8.99** Sq. Yd.  
(Carpet Only) Great For Cabins & Family Rooms!

**OUTDOOR CARPET**  
Starting At **\$5.99** Sq. Yd.  
GREAT FOR DOCKS & BOATS!

**NEW Spring Arrivals!**  
Area Rugs 5'3" x 7'7"  
**SPECIAL LOW PRICES!**

**In-Stock Laminate Countertops**  
Starting At **\$9.99** Lin. Ft.

**HUGE INVENTORY CARPET & VINYL REMNANTS**  
Prices from **\$5-\$300**  
**10% OFF CASH**

Stop in and see Anton for a great deal on flooring!

Big enough to serve you; small enough to know you.

**BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You**

**FLOOR to CEILING**  
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron  
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) •741-6690

HOURS: 8-5:30 M-F  
Find us on facebook.  
floortoceiling.com/virginia

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**CITY OF TOWER CALL FOR SEALED BIDS**

The City of Tower is calling for sealed bids on a 2014 John Deere D150 Riding Mower. Sold as is, Where is. Needs Mower Deck Replacement.

Questions? call Randy at 218-753-6868

Minimum bid: \$200

Sealed Bids Due Monday, May 10 at 12 Noon, City Hall Outside Drop Box or Mail to PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Bids to be opened Monday, May 10, 2021 at the Council Meeting.

Published in the Timberjay, April 16, 23, 30 & May 7, 2021

**(SNOWFLAKES) solution**

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

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