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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Schools get COVID testing help as pediatric cases rise

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Ely sees double-digit jump in new cases, largest in four months

REGIONAL- With decisions about COVID-19 protocols in Minnesota schools left up to local districts this year, state officials on Tuesday unveiled details of an expanded free testing program they hope will help keep children and staff in school and COVID-free.

The new measure comes as more than half of the state's 5,000-plus pediatric COVID cases diagnosed since mid-June have come in August, according to health commissioner Jan Malcolm.

"Nearly 3,000 of those cases were detected in the most recent



two weeks," Malcolm said in a Tuesday press conference.

And while the North Country hasn't experienced a large surge in COVID cases, the bi-weekly case rate used by schools as a gauge of community transmission now stands at 13 in northern St. Louis County, the highest among the county's three regions. Last year, that number was above the

threshold for schools to shift from in-person to hybrid learning models.

With the highly-contagious Delta variant now accounting for 95 percent of the new COVID cases in Minnesota and the start

See...COVID pg. 9

WILDFIRES



North Country on fire

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Greenwood Lake Fire in Lake County continues to grow

ISABELLA — Firefighters were working this week to get the upper hand on what has become the largest fire yet this summer in northeastern Minnesota.

The Greenwood Lake Fire, first reported Aug. 15, had grown to more than 3,200 acres as of Wednesday morning, prompting more closures within the Superior National Forest as well as the evacuation of recreational facilities and residents in the potential path of the fire.

Several lakes within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness were also closed to visitor use due to the fire.

Fire officials were deploy-



The Greenwood Lake Fire, top, that started Sunday near Isabella, had exploded to more than 3,000 acres by Wednesday. photo by U.S. Forest Service
Ground crews at the USFS Air Attack base in Ely, above, loaded fire retardant into an Australian Boeing 737 Fireliner to dump on the blaze. photo by K. Vandervort

ing a full air assault in an effort to bring the fire under control, but they were battling a blaze fanned by steady south winds, high temperatures, low humid-

ity, and bone-dry conditions after weeks of intensifying drought. The conditions were creating "extreme fire behavior" at times this week, as the

blaze was crowning intensely and spotting far ahead of the main body of the fire.

See...FIRES pg. 11

Eagles Nest simulates evacuation

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

EAGLES NEST- Eagles Nest residents along Trygg Road fled their homes on Saturday as a forest fire swept in on them from the west, while firefighters from four area departments worked furiously to move and spray lake water to save a burning house.

Eagles Nest firefighter Ron Potter monitors water pumping at a simulation exercise last Saturday. photo by D. Colburn

It was all just a matter of going through the motions, but everyone involved in the simulation arranged by the Eagles Nest Fire Department

See...EVAC pg. 10



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Candidate picked for Police Chief in Breitung

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP - The search for a new Breitung police chief is down to one, the result of action taken at a special Breitung Town Board meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 17.

A committee including Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, Clerk Dianna Sundahl, Fire Chief Steve Burgess, and Fire Captain Trevor Banks recently interviewed two applicants for the position.

"They were fairly close but there were extenuating circumstances," said Tekautz. The interview panel, on a 3-1 vote, recommended on Tuesday that the board move forward with the top candidate.

Tekautz said the finalist, Daniel Reing, works part time as an Eveleth police officer and part time as a special education teacher at ISD 2142. He is also an EMT for Cook Area Ambulance.

Reing served part time as a patrol officer for the Breitung Police Department in 2015-2018. He also worked as a patrol officer for the Warroad and Hibbing police departments.

He is a North Woods High School graduate, and earned a degree at Bemidji State University.

The board will run a background check before making Reing a formal hiring offer.

Short-shifted

The St. Louis County Sheriff's office covered less than half of the shifts requested by local officials over the past five months, according to activity reports.

Breitung and Tower had jointly requested 55 shifts from the sheriff's office from March 1 through July 31, but only 24 shifts, 44 percent, were covered. For 239 hours of coverage at \$70 per hour the total cost was \$16,730.

From March 1 to Aug. 9 (161 days) there were 300 activity reports, 185 in Tower, 114 in Breitung and one in an unknown area. This total includes all calls, not just times they were scheduled for.

Sundahl will work with Tower

See...POLICE pg. 12



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Community notices

Eagles Nest Fire Department fundraiser 5K/3K walk

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

Ancient Cedars Trail: An Artistic Exploration now in Hibbing

HIBBING- The Borealis Art Guild will host Ancient Cedars Trail: An Artistic Exploration. The exhibit will be up until Aug. 27 and is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Borealis Art Guild is located at 214 E Howard St. in Hibbing.

The traveling art exhibit is a collaboration of 11 regional artists who support preserving and protecting critical habitat within the new Ancient Cedars Trail. Artwork was sourced from artist sojourns through the stand of 100-plus acres of white cedar dating back to about 1880.

Artists include Pamela Davis, Nancy Ensley, and Wendy Rouse of Ely; Jordan Gawboy of Tower; Jeff Argir and Louise Laakso Lundin of Hibbing; Jim Devries of Britt; Linda Glisson, Margie Helstrom, Sue Rauschenfels and Nan Stubenvoll of Duluth. The exhibit will be shown in September at Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook.

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for better balance

ELY- One in three adults over the age of 65 will fall, and falls are the leading cause of fatal injury and the most common cause of nonfatal trauma-related hospital admissions among older adults. 40 percent of all hospitalizations are a result of falls. Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance is an evidence-based program designed to keep you mobile and independent and is proven to reduce the risk of falling by 55 percent. These slow, flowing movements relax the mind and build the body.

Offered in partnership with Northwoods Partners, Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance is a 12-week workshop that consists of warm-up exercises, a mix of core forms, and brief cool-down exercises. These exercises can be done while standing, seated or a combination of both. Participants report improved cognitive and physical functional abilities and reduced incidence of falls. Trained peer leaders facilitate the interactive classes while promoting fun, socialization, and reducing chronic pain and the risk of falling. Participants learn balance skills, good body alignment, and coordinated Tai Ji movements.

This class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. for 12 weeks, beginning Thursday, Sept. 9 at the Ely Senior Citizens Center, 27 S 1st Ave. E in Ely. There is no charge for the workshop.

Benefits include connecting with others while improving balance and mobility, reducing the risk of falling, strengthening community support, and having fun. Extensive research shows that this workshop will support, but not replace, medical care from qualified healthcare professionals and improve overall health and wellbeing.

To register or learn more, contact Candy Schindele at office@northwoodspartners.org or 218-365-8019, or register online at www.yourjuniper.org.

Workshops are offered through the statewide Juniper network, a centralized hub of organizations delivering evidence-based programs to help people manage chronic health conditions, improve balance, prevent falls, and foster well-being. Learn more or find a workshop near you by visiting www.yourjuniper.org.

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FREE CONCERT

Laura Sellner at Ely Folk School, Aug. 26

ELY - Laura Sellner from the Duluth-based band Superior Siren will present a free outdoor concert at Ely Folk School. Sellner will perform on Thursday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m. on the front lawn of the Folk School on Sheridan St. Admission is free and registration is not required.

Superior Siren is described as an "eerie folk project from Duluth." The captivating music is inspired by Lake Superior and Siren mythology. Superior Siren is led by Sellner who is the singer, songwriter and guitarist.

In 2016 Sellner joined forces with cellist Rachel Gobin, bassist Nyssa Krause and drummer Emma Deaner to create an alluring blend of vocals, strings and percussion. The collective released their first full-length album in 2018, followed by a tour of the Midwestern United States.

Last May, Superior Siren released a solo EP of original material spotlighting Laura Sellner's



Laura Sellner will play solo in Ely. submitted photo

poignant songwriting. Their latest release, Kill Your Darlings, is a solo collection of original material spotlighting Sellner's raw and alluring songwriting.

"This collection of songs is an ode to past relationships, and how those experiences influenced the relationship I

have with myself," she said. "By knowing and loving others, I have expanded my ability to know and love myself. Amidst the authentic connections and genuine joy, I discovered unlearned patterns and the darkest shadows. Within the depths I found immense opportunities for healing

and growth. And now it is time to make peace with the past and move forward. The meaning I connect with the literary reference Kill Your Darlings is letting go of what no longer serves you. My intention is to release this collection and create space for the new."

MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Horticultural Society meeting, Sept. 11

REGIONAL- The 8th District Minnesota State Horticultural Society's fall meeting and get-together, Sunny September at Olcott Park: The Greenhouse, the Fountain and More! will be held on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Olcott Park in Virginia. Coffee and check-in are at 10 a.m. at the bandstand. Greenhouse tours are planned during the day with the first one at 10:30 a.m. and two others after lunch. The business meeting and some award presentations are scheduled at 11 a.m. with a box lunch served at noon. Rick Juliusson,



The park side entrance to the Botanical Greenhouse. submitted photo

MSHS Executive Director will address the group at this time. A sunflower contest is planned with exhibits being accepted from 10-11 a.m. Categories to be judged include largest flower, smallest flower, prettiest

flower and collection of three flowers. Exhibitors must provide their own container. Cash prizes will be awarded.

A talk on the history of the Olcott Park fountain is planned at 1 p.m. with

greenhouse tours again at 1:30 and 2 p.m. The Country Store and door prize drawings will be held during the day. Special prize drawings will be presented at 2:30 p.m.

Cost of the event is \$20 per person. The event is open to everyone but pre-registration by Sept. 3 is needed. Checks should be payable to District 8 MSHS and sent to Marilyn Kaeli, 205 West 25th St., Hibbing, MN 55746. For questions or late registration requests, contact Marilyn at 218-263-3431, or email marilyn.kaeli@gmail.com. No refunds after Sept. 3.

TOWER AREA TRAILS

Tower looking for input on trail planning

TOWER- If you are a current or future user of trails in the Tower area, the city is looking for your input. A new survey is collecting information on area trails, both motorized and non-motorized, as well as looking at the need for new trails.

"The Tower-Breitung Comprehensive Plan of 2015 includes goals to improve connectivity within the city, between

outdoor recreation and historic destinations within the two communities, as well as to expand connectivity to the area's extensive network of trails," said Tower grant manager Nancy Larson.

The city has hired ARDC Planning to conduct the survey and collect public input about the future of area trail systems. The survey can be accessed at www.ardcplanning.org/

tower. A paper version of the survey can also be requested by calling 218-529-7552. The survey will remain open until Sept. 15.

The results of the survey will be part of the new Tower Area Trail Plan, which will provide a broad overview of outdoor recreational opportunities for all different types of user groups. The survey will help identify and document trails needs in the Tower

area, which includes areas beyond the city limits. ARDC is working with a local committee, which is giving input on existing trails and users, and the possibilities for expansions of all types of trails in the area.

The final plan, identifying the community's desire for trail development, is expected to help the city apply for and secure grant funding in the future.

"The plan will position the city, township and volunteer groups to attract state and federal grants when implementing phases of the plan," said Larson. "Planning is critical to access to grant funds and a successful outcome."

The plan is being funded by the City of Tower, Tower Economic Development Authority, and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Regional Trails Program.

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital has a 2015 Chrysler 200 for sale by sealed bids.

EBCH has for sale by sealed bid a blue 2015 Chrysler 200 Limited four (4) door sedan loaded with options. This car is in excellent condition and has been well maintained. Currently, the odometer reading is 43,918 miles. To view the car and the original window sticker, please contact EBCH Facilities Team Leader Keith Beal at 218-365-8731. The minimum starting bid is well under book value at \$9000.00.

Bids due by 4:00 pm on September 15, 2021

The winning bidder will be notified on September 16, 2021



Please mail your bid to:
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CITY OF ELY

Bronze sculptures donated to Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

The two large artworks to be installed at Whiteside Park

ELY—New Ely Mayor Roger Skraba and city council members enthusiastically accepted a major donation on Tuesday of two bronze sculptures depicting this city's reputation as the canoe capital of the world.

William Rom Jr., son of one of Ely's storied and largest canoe outfitters, and his wife, Holly, presented their vision of displaying a dedication to the city's long history of canoeing through a pair of bronze sculptures to be erected next summer in Whiteside Park.

One sculpture, a life-size representation of a pair of Voyageur explorers in a 16-foot birch bark canoe traversing down a river rapids, will be displayed in the middle of the park. The other sculpture, to be located near the park's band shell, will be a one-quarter scale representation of local adventure canoeist Bill Mason. Both sculptures will sit on a bed of Lake Superior greenstone.

The sculptures are under construction and should be on display in the park by next August.

"Ely has a long canoe-

ing history," Rom said.

Rom graduated from Ely High School in 1963, graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School 50 years ago this summer, and practiced medicine in New York for most of his career, including a stint at the National Institutes of Health working with Dr. Anthony Fauci.

He said he was inspired to give back to his hometown following a visit to New Mexico several years ago. Holly, an artist, and Bill were drawn to a particular sculpture by Vic Paine of a canoeing scene, and he commissioned the artist to develop a similar sculpture depicting Voyageur adventurers in their watercraft.

The city of Ely agreed to supply and pour the concrete pad needed to display the 1,200-pound art piece. The greenstone base is being quarried near Isabella. Rom hopes the sculpture and stone will be in Ely by next June.

The one-quarter life size depiction of "Bill Mason: Patron Saint of Canoeing," is by artist Ron

Bayens.

"Mason is best known for his 1956 documentary film of canoeing in Quetico and went on to become a filmmaker and paddler," Rom said. "We want to dedicate these projects to all the Ely wilderness canoe guides, especially my parents, Bill and Laura."

Council member Heidi Omerza, chair of the city's Park and Recreation Committee, said the plans for the art additions to Whiteside Park have been reviewed. "I don't see anybody having a problem with this," she said.

Nonetheless, city council members will hold a public hearing on the plan prior to their next regular business meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

See ELY...pg. 5

Top: Roger Skraba presided over his first meeting as Ely mayor Tuesday night.

Bottom: A bronze model of the Bill Mason sculpture planned for Whiteside Park.

photos by K. Vandervort



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Echo Trail, Buyck-\$569,000 Private and secluded! 3 BR, 2,900 sq ft custom timber frame home, hickory cabinets, granite flooring, 1,600 sq ft wrap-around deck. Four-stall garage and solar system along with back up generator. **MLS#141606**

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Education over revisionism

Ely School Board deserves credit for opposing book ban attempt

The Ely School Board was wise to resist calls for prohibiting “I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness,” by author Austin Channing Brown. The book recounts one woman’s experience growing up black in America, and it can be painful, at times, for those of us who are part of this nation’s dominant white culture to read. Too painful, apparently, for some.

The book is meant to challenge, yet challenging our perceptions is part of the process of broadening our horizons, which should always be a key objective of education. Recognizing patterns of behavior, assumptions, and misunderstandings that we all have at times, and how those attitudes affect others is more important than ever in an America that is increasingly diverse. People of color now make up 42 percent of this nation’s population, according to just-released census data. It certainly isn’t too soon for all of us to recognize the discrimination African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, and Asian-Americans have faced and all the ways that racial bias has influenced America’s laws and public policy for generations.

Some have dismissed such concerns, arguing that America has left racism in the past and that there’s no value in the exploration of this aspect of our history. Organized groups on the right have even mounted an effort to whitewash America’s past, refusing even to acknowledge the evil of slavery. Anyone willing to admit the racism at the heart of the 1857 Dred Scott decision, in which our nation’s highest court determined that Africans were, by nature, a slave race, not worthy of the freedoms so eloquently enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, is readily dismissed by far too many as “woke.” As if being awakened, or woke, to the reality of the horrors that African-Americans have suffered for centuries in this country is a kind of moral failure, or simply political correctness.

What nonsense. For people of color in this country, understanding racism and its consequences isn’t a matter of history. It’s their lived experience every day, even when those of us in the dominant culture refuse to see it. The many structural disadvantages that generations of oppression against African-Americans have created

aren’t washed away easily, and it is an affront to the very notion of education to suggest that such topics are somehow off-limits for discussion in our nation’s high schools. Is it wrong to inform students that many of our founding fathers, as wise as they were at times, held racist, sexist, and elitist views, by any modern standard, believing that only white property-owning males were worthy of the vote in their new republic? If the founding fathers had their way, the vast majority of North Country residents would be denied the right to vote today. Yet they are held up as paragons of virtue and wisdom, despite their very human flaws and hypocrisies. It took more than a century, and much political struggle, before other groups of citizens were granted the right to vote. For people of color, particularly for African-Americans in the South, that right did not come until the 1960s in the wake of the civil rights movement that helped to expose the evils of the apartheid system that had developed in the South under Jim Crow. Even today, conservative-dominated legislatures are enacting new laws designed to make it harder for people of color to exercise their franchise.

Yet these are realities that far too many Americans believe unworthy of examination in our schools. Sadly, school boards across the country have faced an increasingly organized effort by conservative groups to block the teaching of anything other than the most sanitized version of American history. They have organized under the false claim that schools are teaching something known as critical race theory, which is a discipline taught only in a handful of masters and PhD level colleges and universities, which explores the ways that laws and public policies have fostered racial disparities. No K-12 school in the U.S. teaches critical race theory, but that hasn’t stopped those opposed to the teaching of a more comprehensive version of American history from using it as a straw man to drum up opposition to basic honesty in education.

Fortunately for students, school officials and school boards in our region have consistently resisted the pressure to turn history education into indoctrination. They deserve our thanks and support for doing so.



Letters from Readers

Is the Apocalypse now?

The weekend was almost apocalyptic, wasn’t it? Murders in Minneapolis. Critical drought in northern Minnesota. Wildfires raging from Canada to California. Hundred-year floods in China and in Japan. Record high temperatures in Italy and in Spain. Two tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico. The 7.2 earthquake in Haiti. Children dying of the COVID. The fall of Afghanistan.

Jim Ganahl
Cook

Fall of Afghanistan recalls Vietnam

The international problems of the past few days have certainly come to a head and I feel as if I am back in 1975 watching the fall of Saigon. In May of 1995 I was sitting in my car in the parking lot of the Red Lobster in Duluth waiting for friends and listening to MPR. It was the 20th anniversary of that awful day.

Who of us can forget those scenes of the panicked Vietnamese fighting for a flight out of a city about to be overrun by the Viet Cong? Today’s scenes of panicked

Afghans fighting for a chance to escape their country as their soon-to-be oppressors close in on Kabul are all too familiar. It was deja vu. I was in tears.

Forty-six years ago I had reached the point where watching the news was too painful. Each night the television was filled with scenes of conflict, the bombs, the sight of dying young American boys. Does nothing change? I do not doubt the servicemen’s valor. I do not doubt their pledge of honor to their country. I simply cannot see, nor have I ever seen, what good that Vietnam conflict did our country. Today I add that I cannot see what benefit a 20-year war with Afghanistan has been.

In Vietnam we took up the torch dropped by the French. In Afghanistan it was the bloody remains left when the Russians had failed to be the conquerors. In both cases the aftermath has devastated lives and ruined families. The drug and alcohol usage, the suicides, the continued destruction of human life are still ignored by our government.

What if the bloody battles of World War II had been played out day after day before our parents’ eyes? Would they have looked at war in the same light? Perhaps they would have. Their cause was just. Vietnam and Afghanistan were not.

I love my country dearly, but over the past 46 years I have grown to realize that there was something intrinsically wrong with the values of governments that would thrust good young people into situations that might have been better handled diplomatically than militarily.

I weep for the Afghan women and children. They have now been thrust back into the Dark Ages and once more there is no escape.

Margaret Sweet
Babbitt

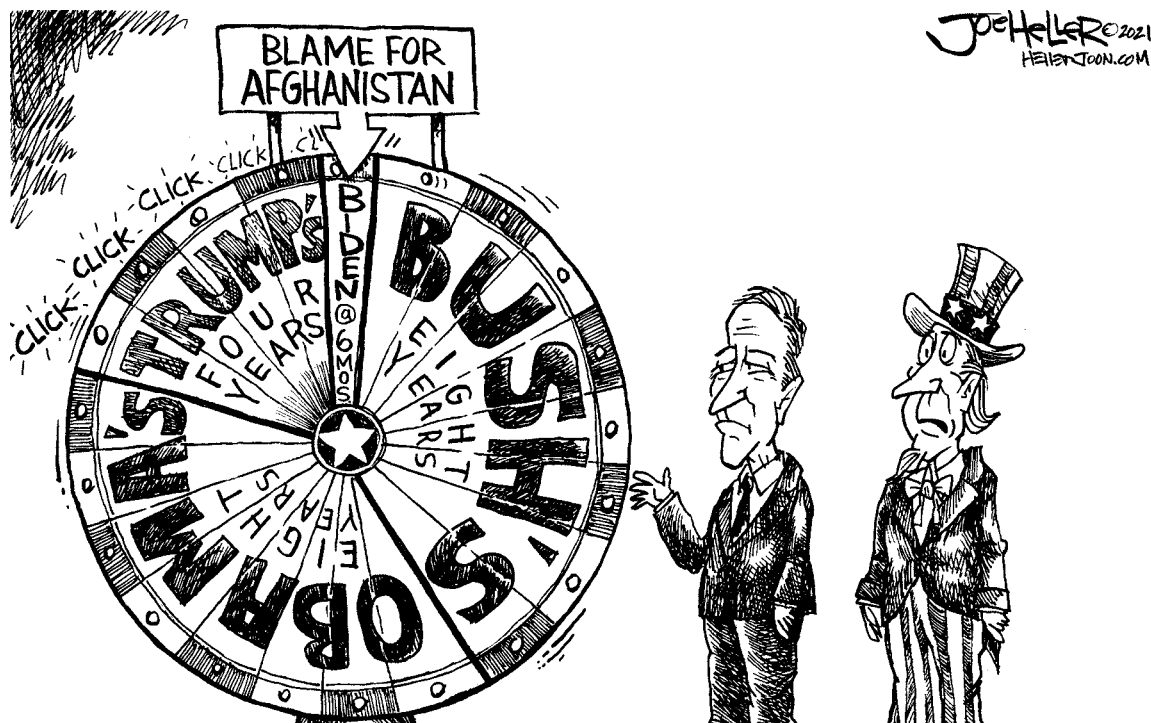
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We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay’s* editorial page. We want to know what you think!



When a phone isn’t a phone anymore

316-382-3381.

That was the very first phone number I ever memorized, the home phone number for the Colburn family, beginning in the mid-1960s when we only had to twirl the dial using the last five digits to connect with anyone else in town.



DAVID COLBURN

my own. All the important ones, and many unimportant, are saved on my smartphone.

We had two phones when I was a kid, a wall-mounted one in the kitchen and a tabletop

version in Mom and Dad’s bedroom. My sisters and I didn’t use the phone all that much, at least until high school when my sister Lynn got her very own extension installed in her room. Up through junior high we were out playing with our friends in the neighborhood most days after school, and evenings were for family time and homework.

I’ll admit I warmed up to the telephone a bit more the summer after my freshman year in high school,

thanks to church camp. Well, to be more exact, thanks to Rene, the girl I fell in love with that week at church camp who lived 70 miles away. Letters were the primary way we kept our romantic fling alive into the fall, but there were also the occasional phone calls. I’d use the phone in my parents’ bedroom, closing the door for privacy and flopping down comfortably for long chats about everything and nothing, with smatterings of breathless

silence and long exclaiming goodbyes. Those calls were pure heaven on earth, at least until my parents started making me pay for the long-distance bills. Love, indeed, came at a cost.

All the way through college, a phone was largely just an accessory in my life. Entering the world of work, phones became more essential, particularly with the advent of pagers and modems. Pagers, I hated. Modems, I loved.

When cell phones came around, I thought they were far worse than pagers, far too invasive of my space. I stubbornly stuck with my pager, but resistance to cell phones was futile, and I finally gave in. I kept a landline phone when I got my first flip phone but went completely wireless when I graduated to a fancy new Blackberry. I’ve been hooked on upgrades ever since, although the Galaxy

Letters from Readers

The good, bad and ugly of climate change

First the “ugly”. Even for those diligently following climate change research, the most recent assessment of the rate and extent of climate change is startling. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report states that after years of collecting data they now can state:

► Climate change is occurring now.

► It is caused almost entirely by human activity.

► It is happening faster than anticipated.

► Greenhouse gases must be reduced to zero to slow and eventually reverse warming.

► We must act now (not in a few years) to avoid catastrophic levels of heating.

► Climate change is impacting all parts of the world with historic heat waves, droughts, flooding, hurricanes, and increasingly fast sea level rise.

I had been concerned about the impacts to our children, and extremely concerned with the thought our grandchildren will not find a livable world. Now I need to be concerned about increasingly severe impacts to my own life.

Next, the “bad”. In our region, most of those living in rural areas get power from Lake Country Power, North Itasca, Cooperative Light & Power, or Arrowhead electric cooperatives. They and 24 other cooperatives serving 700,000 customers in mostly Minnesota get their power from Great River Energy.

In 2020, Great River Energy said it was going to sell or close in two years its coal-fired plant located in North Dakota, the Coal

Creek Station, one the largest remaining fossil fuel plants in the upper Midwest. This would have been a step to reduce the cooperative’s dependence on coal and would have reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Sounds great!

But North Dakota, trying to save 250 jobs and benefit from coal extraction taxes, created Rainbow Energy Marketing which has offered to buy, at below market value, the plant, attempt to install carbon capture systems to the plant, and seek federal tax credits to keep the plant financially viable. It is unlikely the Coal Creek Station will be successful in installing carbon capture equipment.

In addition, a high-capacity power line intended for transmission of wind energy from North Dakota would be repurposed to carry the power from Coal Creek Station to Minnesota.

While utility rates remain mostly unchanged, we will be subsidizing North Dakota’s big coal companies, and we will contribute to the global emissions that will make our grandchildren wonder what we were thinking and doing in 2021. We would not benefit from declining energy costs and job creation from wind and sun.

In its defense, Great River Energy claims this is part of a larger plan to make a transition to clean energy. A transition to clean energy is already well within the utility’s ability right now without the need for coal-fired electricity.

Great River Energy is part of MISO. MISO is a system of electric producers and transmitters that runs from Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico and includes all or part of 16 states or provinces. Great River Energy buys and sells electricity on the MISO market. If the

Coal Creek station plant were shut down in stages it would be replaced by existing surplus, mostly clean energy such as wind and solar-battery stations.

Now, the “good”. There are some signs of hope that some folks and organizations are taking acceleration of climate change impacts seriously.

As a positive example, Minnesota has become the first state in the Midwest and joins 14 other states aligning with California to adopt stricter tailpipe emissions and mandate that manufacturers expand their offer of zero-emission vehicles for sale to Minnesota buyers. An additional benefit is the new infrastructure for electric car charging stations and the new business opportunities and jobs it will create.

Transportation is the state’s leading source of greenhouse gases. Governor Walz pushed for adoption of the rule as part of Minnesota’s push to get back on track to meet state greenhouse gas reduction goals set years ago by lawmakers.

This achievement came despite Republican Senate lawmakers campaigning against the regulation and forcing the resignation of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner who had led the effort.

While manufacturers and dealers must offer more electric and low emission options, the consumer is not required to change their purchasing decision. If you wish to purchase a traditional gas- or diesel-powered vehicle you may continue to do so.

Finally, what can we do? We can speak.

Our cooperatives are owned by the customers and the management is responsible to provide ser-

vice in the best interests of the customers. A narrow view would be that the cooperative should provide the cheapest electric service possible. But if the wider view says we will destroy our grandchildren’s lives if we aren’t addressing climate change, which direction should our utility management and government take? Let them know what you think!

Send your comments to Lake Country Power and ask for their position (generalquestion@lcp.coop). Send your comments to Great River Energy (Webmaster@GREnergy.com) and ask for a copy of the cooperative’s proposed purchase of Coal Creek Station. Send comments to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (<https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/speak-up/>) referencing Docket No. ET2/TL-21-434. It has been reported that customer comments received by the Minnesota PUC, which must approve the power line deal, have been mostly negative.

Keith Steva Cook

Elections don't matter when everyone is corrupt

In reference to your July 30 editorial, I completely understand your points and would agree with them if I were political and voted. But I’m not. I consider myself a true Libertarian by NOT voting in a political institution that is only about power and who will control it to inflict their values, views and prejudices on others who don’t agree with them. In a country founded and fought for on the basis of LIVING

free, Americans have done little to understand the difference and history between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

It is instructive to read George Mason’s Declaration of Rights for the Commonwealth of Virginia which is what the Declaration of Independence is based on. It identifies the ideals and values that these early Americans believed England was violating, and why they were going to fight them over it. The violation of the same principles is at the heart of the Civil War when the Southern states felt the need to protect themselves from the power the North used through the Constitution just 70 years after it was signed. It’s the same power that England had over the early colonies through the English Constitution that they were willing to fight against at the cost of their “lives, fortunes and sacred honor.” So, what can we say about democracies and the Constitutions that form them? Are they good or bad and why do we think that democracies or any other forms of government lead to a person’s idea of a good life or lead to the ideal freedoms that come from God? In paraphrasing James Madison in the Federalist Papers, “If men were angels they would NOT need a government; if men were devils and fallen, why would you give them one?”

My point is that institutions that are based on FORCE as a means of creating order and freedom, and that includes dictatorships, communism, socialism, fascism and republics, will always fail at any level because as Lord Acton said, “POWER CORRUPTS AND ABSOLUTE

POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY.”

It makes no difference whether Republicans or Democrats, Biden or Trump are in the government, people in power will do what they can with their power. It is not about ethical principles. How else could we be 30 trillion dollars in debt? My father always told us, “The only thing you need to know about politics and politicians is that it makes no difference which madam is running the whorehouse, it is still a whorehouse.” People know America is in trouble. Some want to change the party running the government and think things will get better. Or they want to keep the same party and think it will keep getting better. Neither one will work because whether their candidate wins or not, they are really only giving up their individual sovereignty and affirming an institution that has a monopoly on coercive force to order things for them whether they like it or not. There is something called the Tytler Cycle that was developed by a Scotsman whose writings are mostly lost. It would be of interest to all people who worry about America from either standpoint because we have been here before and we’ll be here again in a different generation unless we talk more openly to each other about how we can live our differences and diverse lives openly with each other. Remember, thoughts, values and prejudices on how we should live together are just opinions until governments, institutions of coercive force, get involved with them through voting. Then they become instruments of control by others.

Randy Love Cook

PHONE...Continued from page 4

Note 9 I bought two years ago seems quite adequate for several more years.

Now the appliance I once thought I could easily do without is quite hard to ignore, not so much for the voice communications as for its enormous computing power.

I’m still not much of a phone talker. Even on the cheapest, most limited plan available, I rarely use more than a fifth of my talk minutes in a given month.

Not so when it comes to data. I frequently access my email through my phone. I browse the web on it. I have eight different news apps I read regularly and five social media apps that I use to varying degrees that also regularly bombard me with notifications, as does my weather app. I recently added an app that shows me who owns what parcels of land in the county and tracks my route as I drive, although I regularly use the Google Maps app if I just want to get from one place to another. I do banking and auto insurance and business transactions on the phone. I record interviews and meetings with it and upload the files

to a transcription service. I access my trove of Amazon Kindle books and digital music files with it. I have three high school sports apps, an app for my Instant Pot, and four apps related to photography, including one that connects to my camera to access basic controls and transfer files. I’ve likely deleted just as many apps, and will undoubtedly add more.

It is at once both magnificent and horrifying, enabling and debilitating, enlightening and maddening. All of that information and functionality right there at my fingertips, wondrous. All of the ways it demands my attention, steals my time, and shapes my moods, lamentable.

And that smartphone does things I’m not even aware of. Until I figured out how turn it off, my phone, and therefore Google, was tracking everywhere I went. I’ll admit that when I first discovered the feature, I had fun retracing my overseas trip in 2019. But then it started to feel kind of creepy knowing that a computer was tracking my movements. Creepy enough that I shut it down.

And since I didn’t know it was happening to begin with, I surely don’t miss it one bit.

And now those distant computers can do more than track you. They can, and do, look inside your phones as well.

This past week, Apple got even more invasive with its phones, albeit for a worthy cause, combating child sex abuse. Apple’s computers will now screen iPhones for outgoing messages to children that might contain inappropriate images, and also compare photos on an iPhone against a database of known child sexual abuse material. Apple is alerted if such material is found, the phone is locked, and law enforcement is contacted. At the coding level, the safeguards in the system to prevent misidentification and false accusations are dizzying, to say the least. Apple calculates the chance of false accusations at about one in a trillion.

These new features have sparked a firestorm among privacy advocates, not because of the focus on child sexual abuse, but for how the new snooping tech-

nology could be used for other invasions of privacy, such as searching for political images. If there’s anything we’ve learned in the digital age, it’s that technology intended for good can readily be used for nefarious purposes as well. Apple is adamant its technology won’t be used for anything else, but who’s to say someone else won’t develop similar software or find a way around the safeguards?

Once upon a time, we controlled our phones. Today, an average user spends over three hours a day engaging with their smartphone. They interrupt other activities by picking up that phone an average of 58 times a day. I’ve picked mine up five times while writing this column. It appears that phones are quite on the verge of controlling us, if they don’t already.

Technology changes, but I’m wondering more and more if change equals progress. And right now, I think I’d like to have a nice, long landline call with Rene to mull that through together. Simpler times.

Residential Rehab Loan.

► Approved the application of Todd Crego on the Ely Library Board.

► Approved the on-sale liquor license for Double A Enterprises, 11 N Central Ave.

area in front of Bloomers Flower Shop.

► Approved the purchase of a new computer server from Voltz Technologies for \$8,199.

► Approved a technology upgrade in ticket-writing efficiency for the Ely Police Department at a savings of \$580 per year.

► Approved the mortgage satisfaction for Brian and Karen Maverick for a

Palcher, spoke in favor of the new rule.

► Following a recommendation from the Projects Committee, council members agreed to the request of a new street entrance from 15th Avenue into the parking lot of the new Zup’s Market being built in the former Shopko store.

► Approved allowing a loading zone parking

ELY...Continued from page 3

Other business

In other business, the council:

► Following a public hearing and second reading regarding an ordinance to require all developed lots in the city’s Spaulding Plat neighborhood be connected to the city’s electrical grid, unanimously adopted the new rule. Resident Andy Hill spoke against the proposal. His neighbor, Bernie

the TIMBERJAY



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TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORY

Historical society's Attic Sale draws some special guests

Sale raises \$4,500 for fire hall interior renovation; more sales planned this year

TOWER- Last weekend proved that it is a new day for the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. The introduction of the "Charlemagne's Attic" sale in Tower's Historic Fire Hall was a kickoff event to engage the Tower Soudan Lake Vermilion community in the restoration of the building.

"I gave so many tours to shoppers who were fascinated by the building's story of the early development of Tower and Soudan," said Nancy Larson, TSHS Vice-President and co-chair of the event. Indeed, the familiarization of the building is proving to be a real impetus to people who wondered what has been happening to the beautiful old structure that was built in 1895, the oldest public building north of Duluth. It served as municipal headquarters as well as a jail and housed the Tippet horse-drawn steam engine. "All of the unique features of this building will be showcased after the restoration is complete," said Linda Folstad, Secretary of the TSHS.

"We were especially thrilled when descendants of the Charlemagne Tower family visited us on Saturday morning," said Cookie Bonicatto, TSHS Board member. Mostly from the Twin Cities area, they traveled to Tower to see the Historic Fire Hall, tour the Soudan Underground Mine State Park and to share family stories with the TSHS. Seven family members, who were attired in bright red T-shirts with their Tower family crest, made the trip and plan to return on a regular basis.

"This successful sale could not have happened without the many volunteers who helped set up the sale and the amazing number of folks who donated their antiques, uniques and other treasures to the organization to sell," stated Louise Gately, member of the TSHS Advisory Board and co-chair of the sale. "The variety of treasures was awesome, and the shoppers were very happy with their purchases."

The sale was so successful that a decision has been made to continue the sale on Aug. 28 in conjunction with St. Martin's Catholic Church rummage sale, and during Ely's Harvest Moon festival, Sept. 10 and 11, when the "Too Much Stuff" rummage sale will also take place in the Tower Civic Center. "That sale is sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club, and proceeds go towards the flowers on the bridge, maintaining the garden in front of the Civic Center, and other projects benefiting Tower and Soudan. We will do a collaborative effort and I will volunteer for both," said Pauly Housenga, community volunteer and board member of the TSHS.

The TSHS raised \$4,500 during the sale over the weekend, and funds are earmarked for the installation of a bathroom in the Historic Fire Hall. "The room is roughed in, and we are ready to complete it," said Nancy Larson. "We are asking folks to continue donating their antiques, unique, vintage, cabin and other items (no books or clothing) to the TSHS to replenish our inventory. Items can be donated all year long, as we have storage in the building and will sell it as we receive it at the future attic sale events we have planned." The TSHS asks that donors contact Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514, Louise Gately at 515-229-8757, or any TSHS board member, if they have donations to drop off.

"We also have scheduled next year's Charlemagne's Attic sale," announced Nancy Larson.



Relatives of Tower's namesake, Charlemagne Tower, visited the area on Aug. 14. Joyce Tower, of Pine City, said her great-grandfather was a first cousin to Charlemagne. Her family has had a longtime interest in area history. Dawn Ozment said she did a high school history paper on Charlemagne, after being given the book "Iron Millionaire." Her father, she said, was an appliance repairman, and one of his customers had the book and made the family connection and gave them his copy. Pictured (from left): Daniel Clifford Tower, Clifford Sherman Tower, Karen Moore, Joyce Tower, Daimon Ozment, Dawn Ozment, and Jonathan Ozment. photos by J. Summit

"It will be on Aug. 12 and 13, 2022. We look forward to continued community support as both donors and as shoppers and we sincerely thank everyone who participated this year."

Right: Visitors tour the sale in the old fire hall.

Below: Julie Kranz brought five of her granddaughters to the sale and each got to pick out one of the porcelain dolls that were for sale.



LVCC Midsummer event canceled due to safety guidelines

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is sorry that we must inform the community and supporters that the LVCC Midsummer event, planned for Aug. 28, will be canceled. New guidance from the MN Department of Health and the CDC regarding holding indoor events was released and necessitated this decision. The most recent COVID-19 numbers pushed St. Louis County into the high-risk category where large indoor events were not recommended. The LVCC

board voted unanimously to cancel the event for 2021.

The LVCC will miss the time to enjoy the connections of friends and supporters over dinner, the celebration of Norway with our musical program, the fun of the silent and live auctions, and our annual opportunity to raise funds for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. The LVCC has now had to cancel three major fundraising events due to COVID-19: Midsummer 2020, Midsummer 2021, and a fundraising trip to the Nordic Countries.

For those who have sent their money in for tickets to the event, the LVCC asks you to consid-

er making this a donation as we move forward to renovate the historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church to serve as a cultural and community center for the Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion area. An LVCC board member or volunteer will be contacting those who made a reservation. Questions may be directed to board members or sent to vermilionculturalcenter@gmail.com.

Community members and supporters are strongly encouraged to make a donation at this time. We are currently working on finishing the exterior of the building and are eager to complete more work on the inside. You may

donate on our website at vermilionculturalcenter.org or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 659, Tower, MN 55790.

Please watch for new programs and events

which will be held following the health guidelines at the time: indoors, outdoors, or on Zoom.

Area students named to UMD Dean's List for Spring Semester 2021

DULUTH- The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Spring Semester 2021. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Maude F. Lenz, Junior, of Embarrass, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Pre Civil Engineering

Sophie R. Lenz, Senior, of Embarrass, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Pre Civil Engineering

Jonathan D. Lanari, Senior, of Tower, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Chemical Engineering BS Ch E

Antonio M. Pazzelli, Senior, of Tower, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, History BA.

St. Paul's Garage Sale on Aug. 21

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan is hosting a garage sale on Saturday, Aug. 21 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The sale is sponsored by the Women of the Church, with proceeds going for charitable projects. Coffee an' will be served. The church is located at 36 Church St.

St. Martin's Annual Rummage Sale set for Aug. 28

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will host a rummage sale on Saturday, Aug. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the church social hall. Due to the great response in the past, we will once again offer EARLY BIRD SHOPPING at 8 a.m. for the cost of \$5. In addition to the rummage sale, coffee and caramel rolls will be available for purchase, and a 50/50 cash drawing will be held, with chances for the cash drawing at \$1 each. The winner will be announced at 12:45 p.m. Hope to see you there.

BLT Night canceled this year

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



Please Join Us
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
GARAGE SALE
Saturday, August 21 • 8 AM to 2 PM
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
36 Church St., Soudan
(Corner of Main St.)
Coffee an' will be served
Sponsored by women of the church with proceeds going towards charitable projects



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OVERCOMING BARRIERS



Veterans on the Lake Resort, on Fall Lake just outside of Ely, played host to dozens of para-athletes last week for the 2021 Boundary Waters Sled Hockey Combine. Local businesses, including Cast Outdoors Adventures, Piragis Northwoods Co., Zup's Food Market, Heavy Metal Sports, and Britton's Café joined together with the Minnesota Wild Hockey organization to provide a safe and welcoming environment. A variety of indoor and outdoor activities focused on the inspiration to overcome emotional, psychological and physical barriers for the participants. Heather Hicks, of Cast Outdoor Adventures, said, "We hope to help teach independence and not co-dependence." Part of the week at Vets on the Lake involved canoeing and portaging, with proper water safety instruction and supervision, into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. submitted photos



Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



small tomatoes, big green, orange and red discovered
luscious, fresh eating

PUBLIC SERVICE

Heidi Omerza honored by cities coalition

ST. PAUL—Ely City Councilor Heidi Omerza was recently recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) for her excellence in service to Greater Minnesota.

The Excellence in Service Award, given annually to city leaders who demonstrated knowledge, leadership and active participation in CGMC program areas over the past year, was presented to Omerza last month at the coalition's summer conference in Alexandria.

As a member of the CGMC Board of Directors and co-chair of the Local Government Aid/Property Taxes Committee, Omerza has long been a go-to leader for the CGMC.

For the past two years, she has also served as president of the Greater Minnesota Partnership, the CGMC's partner organization that focuses on economic development issues. In that role, Omerza has been an outspoken champion for Greater Minnesota on a variety of issues including child care, broadband expansion and housing.

Kast winter, she joined Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian to pen a guest column highlighting the need for more child care options in Greater Minnesota and the critical role child care plays in keeping our state's economy strong. The column was published in

more than a dozen media outlets across the state and helped bring needed attention to this important issue.

"City leaders like Heidi are critical to the success of our organization," said Greg Zylka, mayor of Little Falls and president of the CGMC. "She is extremely knowledgeable about the issues that impact our communities and works hard to make sure Greater Minnesota's unique needs are addressed at the Legislature. Whether it is meeting with legislators, writing commentaries, or rallying other city leaders to join the fight, Heidi is always willing to roll up her sleeves and work hard to advance our goals."



Ely City Councilor Heidi Omerza received the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities "Excellence in Service" award from CGMC President and Little Falls Mayor Greg Zylka. submitted photo

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.
SUNDAY NIGHT AA - at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is cancelled.
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:
Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living
Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

OUR COMMUNITY



The Ely Rotary Club turns 100 years old this year, and the community celebrated last Saturday at Whiteside Park. The annual Rotary auction fundraiser, live music, beer tent, food booths and more were part of the celebration. Natasha Fulkrod, above, displayed a giant lion toy during the auction. As many as 100 items were auctioned off as part of the live auction, while a silent auction also took place. photo by K. Vandervort



Dozens of competitors participated in the "fastest show on H2O" in Winton last weekend as the Ely Watercross Association hosted their annual competition at the Longbranch on Fall Lake. photo by K. Vandervort

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:
► Aug. 24: David Backes, editor of A Private Wilderness: The Journals of Sigurd F. Olson.

Donald C. Gardner Humanities Trust

We are now accepting
2021 Arts Grant Applications
for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

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

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

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

Subscribe:
218-753-2950

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nothing could be finer than some help from 49ers

Construction union members spend two days readying veterans park for next big push

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- When building a new park, shovels and rakes will get you only so far, even when wielded by motivated volunteers. But big jobs like clearing the path for sidewalks, sinking holes and tubes for fence installation and more need bigger tools and folks with the skills to wield them.

For the Veterans Riverfront Park development in Cook, that help came last week from members of IUOE Local 49 who spent the better part of two days reshaping and preparing areas of the park for what comes next.

"We represent young men and women in the construction industry that run heavy equipment, shops, public sector, mechanics, excavations, things like that," said Dan Snidarich, an Angora resident who works as a local business representative out of the union's Virginia office. "We thought this would be a good project to get involved in here."

And while Local 49 has taken on other service projects, the veterans connection with this one was added incentive for some to take a little time away from a busy construction season to help out.

"A project like this is important to me and this community, and important that we help our veterans

out as well," Snidarich said. "One of our leaders in our VFW here in town is a retired 49er who I used to work with. We have a lot of members in our communities who are veterans. So it was important to me that we get involved."

The 49ers volunteers – Dan Manick, Dan Gilbert, Erik Gulland, Ryan Davies, and Snidarich – brought with them some heavy equipment from their training center in Hinckley, and it didn't take long on Thursday for the location to look less like a park and more like a busy construction zone.

The workers excavated and prepped the paths where sidewalks will be to make significant portions of the park handicap accessible. They cleared some of the overgrown brush and trees. And they drilled the hole and set the tube for what will hold one of the park's signature features, a flagpole.

Work paused for lunch provided by Friends of the Parks volunteers, and then the men got back to work, turning their attention to preparing the ground for an iron fence that will run along the front of the park.

Odd discovery

The large auger they brought had no difficulty drilling into the ground to pave the way for the concrete foundations for the fence, although to the east



A crew of IUOE Local 49 members including Dan Gilbert, Erik Gulland, Ryan Davies, Dan Manick and Dan Snidarich spent two days volunteering for major work at the Veterans Riverfront Park project in Cook last week.
photo by D. Colburn

they found themselves drilling through some buried timbers. Still, no difficulty, until they ran into something as hard as rock just a few inches beneath the surface.

Additional excavation unearthed a puzzle: a concrete slab several inches thick and 16 feet wide, one side with a molded foundation of sorts, the other cut straight and clean, revealing the slab's thickness. The men didn't dig much beyond the width of the trench for the fence foundations, but they uncovered enough to spark some speculation.

Manick thought the slab could be a remnant of an approach to a bridge that crossed the river to the east of the present one on River St., one that likely predated one shown on an aerial photo from the late 1930s. The angle, it appeared, would have been right for a crossing that would have been located on the south side adjacent to the back side of Steve Kajala's Prudential office. The width, he suggested, would have accommodated the narrower vehicles of the early 20th century.

But another alternative was suggested. Could

the slab be the last remaining evidence of a dance hall that once stood on the site?

A USGS topographical map found online shows a black box representing a structure in the same approximate location. Two aerial photos on the St. Louis County Land Explorer website, from 2016 and 2013, show faint perpendicular lines that could indicate the corner of a building. And while the 1937-1943 black and white aerial is significantly degraded, the shading and tones in that area suggest that a building was

present there.

However, no one at the site on Friday could recall when the dance hall was built or taken down. Without more serious investigation, either option could be possible.

But back in the present on Friday, there was little time for research, as there was still more work to be done.

"It's been a nice day, the weather's nice, and we're hopefully going to just get things cleaned up here and help everybody. It's kind of what the plan is," Snidarich said.

Proposed RV park gets conditional green light

Crane Lake developer may have to revise planned footprint to accommodate impervious space

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CRANE LAKE- A proposed 10-slot RV park in Crane Lake got a conditional green light from the St. Louis County Planning Commission last week over the objections of several property owners who weighed in with their concerns.

The developer, Drake Dill, is certainly no stranger to Crane Lake. He's the son of the noted late state legislator David Dill, and he and his wife, Whitney, moved back to the area last year when Dill took on a position with an International Falls bank.

"We're from Crane Lake originally," Dill told the *Timberjay* then. "I grew up on an island in Crane Lake, and I'm a graduate of Orr High School. My family has been in this area since the early 1900's – it's home."

Under the umbrella of COC Properties LLC, Dill purchased properties at 7511 and 7505 Gold Coast Road, as well as three smaller irregular tracts, in April, and he's been pursuing the idea of creating an RV park there ever since.

"My wife and young son and I would like to come back and make a go of it and carve out a living on Crane Lake," Dill told planning commission members at the Aug. 12 meeting, which also was accessible virtually.

Dill's proposal has garnered support from the township board, the Crane Lake Sewer and Water District, and other residents who are interested in bringing more business and visitors and development to the little lakeside community. "We are writing this letter in support of the Cabins on Crane RV site permit," said a letter in the planning commission packet from Paul, Sarah, and David Tufte, of Norway Lodge Resort and RV, a neighboring operator. "This property has been a commercial resort property for many years and would be well suited for this use. Crane Lake has a need for more RV sites. More RV sites will mean more tourism for Crane Lake. This will benefit other local businesses and also generate revenue for the town, county, and state."

Those themes carried through other letters and

comments, but another faction of residents registered serious concerns in opposing the conditional use permit.

Wendy and David Blaesser, who live across the street from the proposed RV park, described problems they believed would arise from having the additional RVs and accompanying watercraft using the park.

"We already have tons of issues with the docks," Wendy said. "Drake has plans to put more boats there. We can't imagine having ten more boats on that dock. We think it's dangerous. There's kids swimming, there's people playing it's just so much congestion in such a small area. We have cars coming and going, people using our driveway to make turns to adjust the cars appropriately to fit into Drake's driveway."

David Blaesser reinforced his wife's comments.

"We're the ones getting greatly affected by it because we're in the line of everything," he said. "I don't think it's fair for this to get passed. It would just cause more problems and more issues that we do not

need."

However, commissioners clarified that any issues with the use of docks was outside the scope of the conditional use permit review for the property, and instead would be under the jurisdiction of the DNR.

And Dill had his own answer for the issue. He said he had contacted a local marina to inquire about reserving 10 slips for the use of his guests and was told that was possible. Responding to another congestion issue raised, Dill said he had purchased a five-acre tract outside of Crane Lake where he plans to create a parking lot for guests' boat trailers, so that they wouldn't pose a problem for traffic or storage.

Hilltop Road

Dill's development would have three RV spaces on a lower tier near Gold Coast Road, and seven more on an upper tier with an entrance off Hilltop Rd., where there are also several residences.

One couple, Amy and Jim Arcand, were concerned that Dill's proposal documents didn't include any information about

how the commercial property would be screened from view.

"There are only six residents' homes on that road currently and adding seven (RVs) is going to change the feel of our street quite significantly," Amy said.

Jim noted that Dill had a meeting with some of the owners to talk about the project and get their feedback, and had promised to contribute his share to the ongoing private maintenance of the road, but he also wanted commissioners to require specific language about screening in the proposal and to enforce relevant ordinances.

"I don't have a problem making sure there is some sort of screening as part of the application," Dill said.

Impervious surface issue

While additional issues raised by opponents were raised and discussed, an item included in the commission's analysis of the proposal appears to be the one that could cause Dill to have to reconfigure his plans.

Senior Planner Donald Rigney reported that

the plans submitted by Dill appear to exceed the amount of impervious surface allowed on the property by county zoning ordinances. Impervious surfaces include such things as buildings, concrete pads, asphalt and gravel roads, and other such surfacing that doesn't allow the natural seepage of water into the soil and creates stormwater runoff.

For Dill to be in compliance with the ordinance, only 15 percent of the property may be covered with impervious surfaces, which includes an existing lodge. If Dill obtained an engineered stormwater plan, that percentage would rise to 25 percent. "The amount of impervious surface would need to be reduced to what is allowed," Rigney said.

After nearly an hour of discussion and review, commissioners approved Dill's application for a conditional use permit with standard stipulations for adhering to applicable ordinances and permitting, as well as specifying the impervious surface requirement.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Big book sale will benefit Cook Public Library

COOK- The Friends of the Cook Public Library are pleased to announce a book sale on Saturday, Aug. 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Book Barn on 1st Street SE in Cook.

There will be volunteers next to the Cook Area Farmers Market booths on River St. that morning to direct patrons to the Book Barn.

Church offers free meal on Aug. 26

COOK- It's just about that time of the month when area residents can

The Friends group welcomes one and all to stock up on good used books for the coming fall and winter. Cook Library T-shirts and book totes are also available for sale.

All proceeds from the sale support the Cook Public Library.

partake of another free community meal at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook.

Pulled pork sandwiches will be the entre e for the meal to be served on Thursday, Aug. 26 from 4 to 6 p.m. Pasta salad, coleslaw, and a cookie will complete the meal, which may be eaten on site or packaged for drive through.

Park music series to welcome The Blenders

COOK- Cook's Music in the Park series will continue when The Blenders are scheduled to take the stage at the gazebo in the park at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug 25.

Music lovers should grab a lawn chair or blanket and head on down for the final appearance of The Blenders this season.

Read the news from across the North County in the Timberjay each week
www.timberjay.com



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ISD 696

Ely recommends face masks to start school year

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Updated safety protocols to be announced at Aug. 23 study session

ELY – Protective face masks will not be required of students and staff in Ely schools at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. Instead, school administrators will strongly encourage the practice against the spread of the coronavirus.

With the ever-changing COVID-19 landscape and public safety protocols, administrators at ISD 696 are hoping for a more “typical” school year when Ely students return to the classroom on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

Superintendent Erik Ely told school board members last week that the district’s administration team was considering the latest public health recommendations and local coronavirus case rate information before making any announcements on mask mandates and other safe learning protocols for students as the school year begins.

Ely said he was not expecting to make any announcement on safety protocols until Monday, Aug. 23, but he was able to convene the district’s Safe Learning Plan Advisory Committee last week, and with mounting pressure expressed against imple-

menting a campus-wide face mask mandate, students and staff will be just encouraged to wear face masks.

A letter to parents, students and staff from the ISD 696 administration team said, “Masks are recommended by MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) and MDH (Minnesota Department of Health) for all people in the school setting but are not required. This is subject to change and masks may be required in the future.”

Ely added, “We continue to ask for your patience and support as recommendations, requirements, and guidance continue to change from MDE, MDH, local health, and CDC (Centers for Disease Control) regarding the COVID-19 virus.”

Face masks are required on all school vehicles per CDC and Minnesota Public Transportation rules.

“All people riding school buses will be required to wear face coverings, including for all activities,” Ely said.

Face masks are recommended by MDE and MDH for extracurricular activities but are not required during active participation.

Masks may be required in the future, Ely added. Ely Public Schools are required to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Ely said the input of local health care providers, including Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and Essentia Health, was essential in reaching the masking recommendation.

“Dr. (Joe) Bianco, who is not a regular on our advisory council, was also involved,” Ely said. “His message was to encourage vaccinations. That was also the message from Aubrey Hoover from the St. Louis County Public Health Department.”

Children under the age of 12 are not allowed to get the COVID-19 vaccine, leaving a large part of the school population unprotected.

“As soon as that authorization comes, our local public health officials will work to have vaccination clinics available,” Ely said. He noted that having vaccination clinics in the school could again be a possibility.

St. Louis County data indicates that just 40 percent of 12- to 17-year-

olds have been vaccinated with one dose.

The bi-weekly case rate for Northern St. Louis County increased from 1.24 (per 10,000 people) two weeks ago to 8.67 last week. Ely told school board members that he expected the local case to increase again this week to 12.38. As of Tuesday, the case rate stood at 13.

The Ely Public School Restart Blueprint put in place last year dictates that a case rate of at least 10 calls for a hybrid learning model for secondary students and in-person learning for elementary students. Safe Learning Plan recommendations last year called for social distancing, face masks or coverings, COVID-19 symptom screenings and other precautions.

Ely’s letter to staff and students added that in-person learning will be provided five days a week, 8:05 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. Distance learning will not be provided this year at ISD 696.

“We were forced into doing that with some of our situations last year,” Ely told school board members last week.

“We will continue to

adhere to our school safeguards again this year,” Ely said. “We will keep class sizes small, be very diligent in our cleaning, and do what we can to keep employees and students safe.”

Students and staff in the Washington and Memorial buildings will also be kept separate as much as possible. “We will serve lunches in the Washington building and not have students go back and forth between the buildings,” Ely said.

Ely did not anticipate vaccination mandates for staff or students without the guidance and direction from the Department of Education.

“We of course strongly encourage everyone get vaccinated who are able to,” he said.

He did not have data on how many Ely teachers received the COVID-19 vaccination.

“We have broad statistics from St. Louis County, but we have not surveyed for that information.”

“The Ely Public Schools will continue to work with our Ely Safe Learning Advisory Council and our Safe

Learning Site teams to finalize other details to reopen our schools safely including, but not limited to, the following:

- Identifying close contacts to a positive case,
- Screening for symptoms,
- Social distancing,
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including ventilation,
- Continued hand-washing and respiratory etiquette,
- Collaborations with state and local health officials, and
- Monitoring COVID-19 cases in our community.”

“We will continue to actively monitor our local COVID-19 data to help us provide a safe learning environment for students, families, and staff,” he said.

Ely anticipated convening another advisory council meeting in early September.

At the ISD 696 school board study session on Monday, Aug. 23, school administrators are planning to announce a comprehensive safety plan and will address contact tracing and other protocols, Ely added.

COVID...Continued from page 1

of school fall sports practices this week, the timing was good for the new state testing support.

Education commissioner Heather Mueller said that schools will have a choice of receiving saliva, nasal, or rapid tests.

“We are excited to be able to provide testing options for public school districts, charter schools, tribal schools and nonpublic schools across the state,” he said. “It’s up to local communities to decide which is best for their students and educators.”

State grants are also available to schools who implement testing pro-

grams to subsidize associated personnel and materials costs, Mueller said.

Testing is not mandated, but is highly recommended, particularly for students and staff who are unvaccinated. Federal and state guidelines recommend that unvaccinated students and staff be tested weekly, and those involved in activities like sports even more frequently. If vaccinated individuals exhibit symptoms, they should also be tested, according to state and federal guidelines.

While the Tuesday afternoon announcement was too soon for ISD 2142 Superintendent Reggie

Engebretson to say how her district would utilize the program, she was pleased that the district has options to consider.

“Especially with some COVID symptoms mimicking other things like colds and allergies, it would be nice if we could provide the rapid tests to possibly rule out COVID and get kids back in school sooner who are sent home with symptoms,” Engebretson said.

As previously reported, ISD 2142 will start the school year without a mask mandate, but will strongly recommend that students, staff, and visitors wear

them.

Ely spurt

Last Thursday’s weekly COVID case report contained potentially concerning news for those in the Ely zip code area, as 12 new cases were reported over the prior week. Ely had not experienced a double-digit increase in weekly cases since the last week of March, coming at the end of a month-long surge of 75 new cases.

Five new cases also were reported in Tower, while Orr and Embarrass each reported two new cases. Out of caution due to the prevalence of the Delta variant and increased

cases, the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center canceled its upcoming Aug. 28 benefit event, “Midsummer in Norway 2021.”

Vaccinations

State officials reported a continuing increase in the rate of vaccinations across the state, including an encouraging uptick among those ages 12 to 19.

“We’re really pleased to see the 12 to 15 group pop up a full three percentage points just in the last week,” Malcolm said.

Last week the state surpassed its goal of 70 percent of those 16 and older with at least one vaccination, a goal originally set for July

1. Malcolm continued to encourage vaccinations for those who haven’t had them, noting that case rates now are higher than they were last year at this time.

“Our case rates are 54 percent higher,” she said.

Malcolm also touted the success of the state’s \$100 gift card incentive for first vaccination shots and noted that the program has been extended through Sunday, Aug. 22. Anyone who received their first dose between July 30 and Aug. 22 is eligible to apply for the reward at <https://mn.gov/covid19/100/>.

SULFIDE MINING

Twin Metals commits to electric fleet for underground mine

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Twin Metals will be the first mine in the state of Minnesota to adopt battery electric vehicle technology. As announced last week, the planned electric vehicle fleet represents nearly 100 percent of the proposed mining operation and support vehicles to be used in the underground mine near here.

“Battery electric mining equipment has advanced significantly since the technology was first introduced just over 10 years ago, and it will only continue to improve as Twin Metals gets closer to becoming operational,” said Glenn Barr, Twin



Electric underground vehicles such as this could be used in the proposed Twin Metals sulfide mine operation near Ely.

photo courtesy of Sandvik Mining and Rock Solutions

Metals Vice President of Project Development.

The press release went on to say that converting the mine’s vehicle fleet from previously proposed diesel equipment to electric vehicles will allow Twin Metals to “significantly reduce our onsite greenhouse gas

emissions by 65 percent.”

The press release continued, “This change also means it will reduce our operation’s need for power, maintenance, and heat, it will reduce vibration and noise and, most importantly, it will improve worker safety and air quality

throughout our operations.”

Nothing was said about how many of the electric vehicles will be operated remotely, eliminating the need for individual drivers.

“We are committing to use the very technologies combatting climate change that require the metals our world-class, 21st century mine will produce,” said Kelly Osborne, Twin Metals Chief Executive Officer. “We’re doubling down in our fight against climate change by both delivering the raw materials needed for our clean energy future and using the most innovative technologies to reduce the impacts of our own operations.”

According to a report by Minnesota Public Radio,

Tom Landwehr with the Save the Boundary Waters campaign said the all-electric fleet plan of Twin Metals “is like putting lipstick on a pig. What they fail to acknowledge is that the greenhouse gases from producing minerals here are going to be enormous,” he said.

Landwehr said most of Twin Metal’s climate impact will come from shipping, and the vast amount of electricity needed to power its production plant.

Twin Metals submit-

ted its formal mine plan to state and federal regulators in late 2019 and is currently undergoing a rigorous, multi-year environmental review process. Environmental review and permitting for the project will likely take many more years.

Twin Metals has not yet established contracts with specific battery electric mining equipment vendors.

Minnesota Public Radio contributed to this report

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Pastor Eric Thiele shares the Word.

WILDFIRES

Go-bags recommended for wildfire evacuation plans

by GLORIA ERICKSON
Firewise Coordinator

REGIONAL- The smell of smoke, the lack of rain, and the outbreak of multiple wildfires in our region this summer makes the possibility of an evacuation more real. Part of an evacuation plan is having a go-bag or tote for each member of your family, including pets.

A go-bag or tote should contain a three-day supply of items you would need in the event you had to evacuate your home. These bags are prepared in advance and are kept in an easily accessible place.

When creating your go-bag or tote, suggestions of essentials items include: cash, credit and/or debit cards; driver's

license; passport; insurance documents; a written or video home inventory; exterior photos of house and landscape; computer and charger; cell phone and charger; address book; medications; prescription glasses, sunglasses, contact lenses and solutions; water and nonperishable foods; toiletries; clothing for three to five days; flashlight and

batteries; first aid kit; and pet necessities.

Additional items to consider include hand sanitizer/wipes; trash bags; rain wear; laundry detergent; rubber gloves; blankets; and books and magazines. Other possibilities may be small family heirlooms or photos.

Remember, your biggest defense in evac-

uating safely is to have a plan. Be ready to go, leave early, stay calm, and follow the directions of emergency personnel.

For additional information on go-bags and other wildfire preparedness information, contact Gloria Erickson, St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator, at gloria@dovetailinc.org or 218-365-0878.

Also, check out the new Minnesota Arrowhead Fire Adapted Communities website at <https://minnesotafac.org>. This site offers wildland fire resilience resources to landowners, communities, and land managers. It also includes an evacuation check-list and things to do on your property or home before evacuation.

EVAC...Continued from page 1

took on their roles seriously, all committed to the effort of testing the ability of emergency personnel and systems to respond effectively to the dire scenario.

Eagles Nest, Ely, Morse-Fall Lake, and Tower firefighters and equipment assembled at the event control center in a gravel pit near the Trygg Road/Highway 169 junction at 9 a.m. to get final instructions from Eagles Nest emergency management coordinator Mike Ostlund and Fire Chief Larry McCray.

"We've got a lot of trucks and we've got a lot of horsepower out there," Ostlund said. "So be aware of your surroundings. The goal today is to move residents, but it's also a training day for you folks."

"The goal today that we're looking at in our fire training is water movement," McCray said "A lot of it. Quickly."

Given the dangerous fire conditions created by the drought, McCray elicited some laughter from the assembly when he stated the obvious.

"We will not have a live burn," he said. "Rich Floyd, our township supervisor and chair is here, and as much as we pushed him, he said, 'Absolutely no fire.'"

Phase one of the simulation began at 10 a.m. with a notice to evacuate that was sent by text message to designated "road ambassadors," people living along Trygg Road who in turn were to text other residents and receive their acknowledgment.

Notified ahead of time

that the simulated evacuation would be taking place, it took only a few minutes for a parade of vehicles, including a bicyclist, to start streaming toward the checkpoint at the highway. Many crossed the highway and waited out the evacuation at the gravel pit command center, while others checked in and then took off for parts unknown, to return later in the day.

Before those at the command center returned to their homes, they participated in a "hot wash," a debriefing to get feedback on what worked and didn't work.

Ostlund said that information provided by two of the participants will lead to improvements in the evacuation process.

One resident reported that she saw the text

because she knew to be looking for it, but that there was no audible alert when the text was received. If she hadn't been looking at her phone, she said, she wouldn't have known it was time to evacuate. Revised guidance will include information about confirming phone messaging settings so that audible alerts are on, Ostlund said.

The second issue involved a couple, each of whom have cell phones. The husband's cell phone number was the one on the notification list, and he was sent and received the text as planned. The issue? The husband was in Minneapolis, but his wife was at the home at Eagles Nest, and he didn't call her about the notice. Knowing the text should have already been sent, she ended up calling him to see if he had received it. Ostlund said residents would be contacted to be sure all cell phones associated with an address are included on the appropriate messaging lists.

Ostlund was already thinking ahead to the next evacuation scenario, noting that there are other possible alert systems to coordinate with, and other scenarios to practice, such as a water

evacuation in the event a road is closed by a downed tree.

"It's a matter of building the program, and that's what we're doing," he said. And feedback from one resident made the whole exercise worthwhile.

"She said she not afraid of evacuations anymore," Ostlund said.

Fire scene

Once the evacuation was complete, firefighters were dispatched for a simulated fire at a home on Trygg Rd., a battle that required three separate but equally important activities - pump water from Eagles Nest Lake No. 2 into waiting tenders, transport the water up the road to a portable holding tank, and pump the water from there to firefighters manning four hoses at the end of a long driveway down a steep grade.

A potential issue with designated radio channels that could have confounded communications was resolved just minutes before the trucks were called into action.

Ely Engine No. One was designated as the unit to go to the water access point on the lake and pump water into the tenders,

and when they started to set up, they encountered a problem. They weren't getting enough suction to draw the amount of water needed. An auxiliary pump was immediately deployed to start transferring water while others looked for the source of the problem, which turned out to be mismatched fittings.

"We weren't getting the flow we needed, so originally we were looking at the fittings of the hoses," Ely Chief David Marshall said. Hose to hose, the fittings were fine. The issue was connecting the hose to the truck. "We realized that the Storz fitting had to come off of there and the hoses had to be direct-threaded on. That was a change we made, but we knew we had to keep the tenders filled, so that's when we pulled the portable pump out."

It took about 25-30 minutes to send the first tender on its way, but that didn't create any delay at the scene of the house fire. Firefighters there had to get in position, set up the holding tank, lay the hoses, and they were able to start spraying by utilizing already loaded tenders. For most of the exercise, the rotation of tenders to the

lake and back was sufficient to keep the water flowing through the hoses at the desired rate, McCray said.

And it seems that the Eagles Nest truck transferring the water from the holding tank to the hoses also had an issue with mismatched fittings.

"We took delivery of a new fire truck with a hard suction hose on it," McCray said. "We have been practicing with that truck every month since we received it. I guess it's fantastic that we caught it at a time like this instead of at two in the morning. We'll replace that hose with one from our old engine."

Over the course of the simulation, which lasted just short of an hour and a half, the holding tank was refilled seven times, twice by tenders from Ely, Eagles Nest, and Morse-Fall Lake, and once by Tower.

As a recent addition, Tower firefighter Victoria Ranua welcomed the opportunity to practice and learn more about the Tower truck.

"I thank Eagles Nest for coming up with this," she said. "You can see they put a lot of work, a lot of thought, a lot of planning into it. All we had to do was plug into it. There was one part of my equipment I didn't know how to use, but the folks on site were able to figure it out, and I took snapshots of the components so I can bring that back (to the department)."

"I was very pleased with the day," McCray said. "Yes, we ran into some problems, but nothing that was not overcome. I think that's a testament to the firefighters' abilities, that we were still successful. If we had a structural fire really going on out there, I think we'd have made real good progress, we probably would've saved a good part of it. The people that evacuated were pleased, and we're very excited about that. My whole goal is to keep this neighborhood safe."

McCray said the department plans to stage more practice scenarios in the future.



Area fire departments from the city of Ely, city of Tower, and Morse/Fall Lake townships gathered with the Eagles Nest Fire Department last Saturday to run through a fire and evacuation simulation exercise. photos by D. Colburn

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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.

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FIRES...Continued from page 1

The U.S. Forest Service, Lake County, and the Department of Natural Resources had created a unified command to respond to the fire. A Type 2 team was set to assume command over the incident on Wednesday. Air support for the effort includes two helicopters along with fixed wing aircraft.

Among the biggest tools in the arsenal is a Boeing 737 Fireliner, (Bomber 210, N138CG), recently flown in from the New South Wales Rural Fire Service in Australia. The massive aircraft is now deployed until further notice to the USFS Air Attack Base at the Ely Airport.

Australia's one and only large air tanker flew across the Pacific late last month to assist firefighters in the United States who are spread thin battling 61 large wildfires across several western states. It is expected to be deployed for 45 days, according to information from www.fireaviation.com. "The plane was in Boise, Idaho, for the last couple of weeks," said USFS Acting Aviation Officer Kevin Merrill on Monday. "She flew in this morning because of the danger posed by the Greenwood Lake Fire (located 19 miles southeast of Ely).

The massive plane didn't sit long on the runway. Ground crews loaded 3,700 gallons of liquid fire retardant into its hold in just a few minutes late Monday morning. By 1 p.m., the plane was preparing for its second fire drop of the day. Merrill said the plane would take four or five more loads to the fire that day. "Hopefully, we'll have this plane as long as it's needed," he said.

Other aircraft were on the way. "We also have two water bombers from Ontario making flights here," Merrill said on Monday. "The Forest Service is throwing everything they can at this fire." MnDOT and the State Patrol, in coordination with the Forest Service, closed Hwy. 1 near Isabella Monday afternoon due to the Greenwood Lake Fire. The road is closed on southbound Hwy. 1 at New Tomahawk Road to allow traffic to go back to Babbitt or turn around. Northbound traffic is closed at Wanless Road in Isabella to allow traffic to use forest roads or turn around. Hwy. 2, from Hwy. 1 south past Greenwood Lake Road is also closed.

The McDougal Lake campground and associated facilities are closed as well and a large area of the national forest located in and around Isabella is closed, although private landowners are being allowed access for now.

Check out timberjay.com for regular updates on the fire.

For additional information about the Greenwood Lake Fire, you can also visit Inciweb.nwccg.gov or call 218-499-9441.

Timberjay Ely Editor Keith Vandervort contributed to this report.



A Boeing 737 Fireliner, above, Sikorsky helicopter, left, and Fire Boss floatplanes, right, are all flying out of the U.S. Forest Service Air Attack Base at the Ely Airport to fight the Greenwood Lake Fire. photos by K. Vandervort



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\$50,804
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\$49,804 CONDITIONAL PRICE



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2021 ESCAPE SE AWD

\$29,850 MSRP
-2052 FOH DISCOUNT
-1000 BONUS CASH

\$29,329
+TAX/TRANS

-500 TRADE ASSIST
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#24717B

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\$13,975

#7699A

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\$25,980

#24554B

2013 EDGE SPORT AWD W/PAN ROOF



\$16,975

#7693

2017 EDGE SPORT AWD



\$28,980

#7730

2015 FOCUS SE W/ H+D LEATHER



\$12,980

#7748

2015 F150 XL CREW 6.5FT BOX W/MAX TOW



\$27,980

#24763A

2019 GRAND CARAVAN SXT



\$25,500

#7739

2020 EXPEDITION PLATINUM



\$68,980

#7744

2010 F150 LARIAT SUPERCAB



\$14,941

#24927C

2018 ESCAPE SEL AWD



\$22,980

#24923A

2018 F150 XLT CREW 6.5FT BOX



\$24,980

#24740A

2016 FOCUS SE HATCH



\$11,980

#7745

2014 EXPLORER SPORT W/PAN ROOF



\$23,980

#24872B

2017 EDGE SEL AWD W/LEATHER



\$18,980

#24739A

2010 F150 LARIAT CREW



\$13,980

#247630

2012 ESCAPE XLT 4WD



\$7,500

#7674A

2018 F150 PLATINUM 5.0 L W/6.5FT BOX



\$46,973

#7689

2018 MALIBU LS 40K MILES



\$16,973

#7677

2018 EXPLORER XLT AWD W/30K MILES



\$34,980

#24932A

2013 FOCUS SE W/SFE



\$8,900

#24791B

2012 EXPLORES XLT AWD W/LEATHER



\$11,980

#7750A

2013 BUICK ENCORE



\$8,937

#24,936A

2009 EQUINOX LT AWD



\$3,900

#7592B

2016 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED W/PAN ROOF



\$17,980

#7675A

2011 ROGUE SV AWD W/NAV



\$6,980

#24931A

2011 EXPLORER LIMITED AWD



\$13,849

#24,700B

2007 SIERRA 1500 W/6.0L



\$7,980

#24,858B

2016 COMPASS LATITUDE 4WD



\$16,467

#24922A

2017 ESCAPE SE W/ TRAILER TOW



\$17,940

#7726

2009 FOCUS SEL



\$4,980

#24,752B

2017 F150 KING RANCH



\$38,980

#24905A

2014 ACADIA SLT-1



\$15,793

#7721A

2013 CRUZE 2LT W/RS PACK



\$5,980

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HEALTH CARE

Essentia will operate pharmacy in new Ely Zup's Market

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Essentia Health will double this city's pharmacy services later this year when it opens a new facility in the relocated in the new Zup's Food Market.

Ely has had only one pharmacy, Ely Community Pharmacy, since the closure of Shopko.

An announcement was made last Friday.

"At Essentia Health, we are always looking for ways to better serve our patients," said a press release from Kenzie Hohman, senior director of ambulatory care pharmacy at Essentia. "That includes providing service closer to home. Bringing an Essentia Health pharmacy to Ely aligns with that objective, and we're excited to open by the end of 2021."

In an update last week on the progress of opening



The former Shopko Pharmacy in the back of the new Zup's Market in Ely. photo by K. Vandervort

Ely's new grocery market, Zup's Food Market owner Jimmy Zupancich would only say that he signed a

contract with a pharmacy. "We were asked not to reveal the name yet," he said at the time. "They'll

have the drive-through, too, and are hoping to be ready to open when we are." Zupancich said the

new grocery store, located in the former Shopko building, will be open by mid-October. The new

pharmacy and a liquor store will also be opened by then.

The Essentia Health-Ely Pharmacy will be located in the back of the new market at 1500 E. Sheridan St. in the same place as the Shopko pharmacy. Hours of operation were not announced.

Essentia Health pharmacies offer:

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications
- Medication management
- Specialty pharmacy services
- Monthly prescription service
- Online refill requests
- Mail delivery
- Local and home delivery
- Medication flavoring (limited locations)
- Vaccines
- Custom medication packaging.

EDUCATION

Schools get \$5 million boost to help students reconnect with learning

REGIONAL - Disruptions to student learning during the COVID-19 pandemic caused many students to be disconnected from their schools, and the St. Louis County Board has made a \$5 million commitment to help re-engage those students and get them back on track for academic success. Throughout the pandemic, as school districts, by necessity, shifted to hybrid and distance learning models, they reported that many students stopped attending, were unresponsive to outreach, fell behind in grades and credits, and some were unenrolled.

St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services collaborated with school districts throughout the county to determine an effective solution, and together they selected the Minnesota-based Check and Connect model. Check and Connect is

St. Louis County board commits COVID funds for three-year mentoring project

an intervention program successfully used for 30 years with K-12 students who show warning signs of disengagement with school and who are at risk of dropping out. Through Check and Connect, a caring, trained mentor builds a trusting relationship with the student, serving as an advocate for the student while also challenging the student to keep education a priority. Students are referred to Check and Connect when they show warning signs such as poor attendance, behavioral issues, and/or low grades.

Research shows that Check and Connect positively impacts students by:

- decreasing truancy, tardies, behavior referrals, and dropout rates;
- increasing attendance, persistence in school, credits accrued,

and school completion; and

- improving literacy skills.

The funding comes from the \$54 million federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award to the county and will pay for 36.5 mentor positions for 15 districts or charter/private schools in St. Louis County to serve approximately 1,000 students. Two coordinators for the northern and southern halves of the county will be based in the ISD 2142 and Proctor school districts.

"During this past year, we had students who stopped attending school and did not enroll in another school. We had students who fell behind and who thought distance learning was going to work for them, but it did not. We have students who struggled with mental health

issues due to the isolation of COVID or from family issues due to COVID," said Superintendent Reggie Engebretson of St. Louis County Schools and Mountain Iron-Buhl school district, who has past experience with Check and Connect. "We know from research that to engage students to learn, we need to build relationships with them. This program will allow us to add additional adults to our teams to make connections with students and provide the support they need to either get back on track educationally or stay on track and make progress towards graduation."

Vermilion Country School Administrator Frank Zobitz said the quick action by the county board will truly help area students who are struggling, since

schools will have the new mentors in school buildings this fall.

"This gives us an opportunity to monitor and help our students' success in attendance, behavior, and coursework by having a dedicated staff person just focusing on those elements." The staff will also be working with students' families and connecting them to services available in the community, if needed.

"We have already found a wonderful person to hire," said Zobitz, "who has experience working with students with both mental health and academic needs."

The grant will allow a small school, like Vermilion Country, to have a mentor in the building three days a week for the next three school years, Zobitz said.

"We need this type of program," he said, "and hope to keep it going long-term."

During last week's Committee of the Whole meeting, St. Louis County commissioners were enthusiastic in their support.

"This is huge. This investment is going to pay dividends for us down the road," said Commissioner Paul McDonald, of Ely, a former educator.

School districts will be hiring mentors in the coming weeks. The county is working with the University of Minnesota to coordinate and provide training for the mentors.

Editor Jodi Summit contributed to this story, submitted by St. Louis County.

POLICE...Continued from page 1

to request more shifts for September, including Labor Day weekend and the weekend of Sept. 17 when there will be a large ATV ride on the Prospectors Trail.

Trails

The board agreed to send a letter of support for a permanent bridge over the Beaver River. The Prospector Trail Alliance requested support to attain a grant from the IRRR. The bridge will connect the

local area to Murray Rd. and Babbitt to Ely. There is a temporary bridge in place now.

ARDC is conducting a survey for public input about the future of local trail systems. The Tower Trail Plan Steering Committee is

creating a master plan to look at possible ways to connect current trails. The survey will be available online on the Breitung Township website or paper copies are available at the Breitung Town Hall.

The Breitung Board

supported a resolution to make application to and accept funds for \$162,500 from IRRR Regional Trails Program.

Five registered letters were sent to Breitung residents for blight. Two blight

issues have been resolved. Three of the letters were not picked up from the Post Office. The township will ask a St. Louis County Sheriff's deputy to hand-deliver the letters.

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NorthCountry

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FESTIVAL OF SKALDS

FANTASY and family fun

Nordic-themed festival set in the woods of Alango Township

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

ANGORA- There were Vikings, but also faeries, pirates, mermaids, dragon hunters, mystics, and more at this year's Festival of Skalds Viking Festival in Angora last weekend.

This is the second year that Micah and Jacinda Hodge, along with many family members, put on a local version of a Renaissance festival, but with their own Norse spin.

"Basically, it is like a big family that comes together to do these shows," said Micah.

And even though Micah admits he does have a rather large extended family, family in this case involves all the volunteers

See **FESTIVAL...**pg. 4B

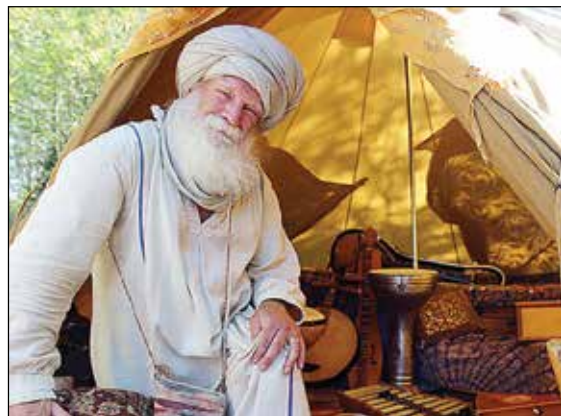


Far left: Allison Herrlinger smiles as she purchases three new arrows for her bow from Kurtis Fultz, of Angora.

Left: Real Viking-style swords were also for sale.

Below: Musician and mystic Mustafa Ali entertained with music and stories.

photos by J. Summit



PERFORMANCE

Reflecting on Work/Play

Ely dance company showcases contrasting activities through dance and music

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Dancers with Reflections Dance Company here presented various styles of music and motion at Ely's Historic State Theater last weekend. The four-day show attracted hundreds in the landmark venue.

"This show was all about the work and play that people throughout time have done in the Ely area. We centered on the themes of work and play in the Northwoods," said Director Molly Olson "I know our dancers had a great time with it, and I hope our wonderful audiences enjoyed the weekend."

The show included a variety of dance, ballet to contemporary, and polka to tap, including jazz, contemporary, and acro, as well as traditional Ojibwe medicine round dance and woodland style dance from the Bois Forte dancers.

"Work/Play" dance pieces were performed by local dancers of all ages, set to live music performed by local musicians Irene Hartfield, Jef Cerniak, Joey Kenig, Andy Messerschmidt, Beth Hokanson, Keiko Williams, Sarah Mason, and Bois Forte drummers Ryan Bajan and Kobe Adams. The choir included Karin Schmidt, Sarah Mason, Erin Bremner, and David Wigdahl.

The show opened with homage to the Indigenous people of the North Country and included dancers Dani Pieratos and Jordan Gawboy from Bois Forte along with drummers and singers. A Pow Wow video with historic meaning narration, a Grand Entry, Jingle Dress Dance and Men's Woodland Traditional Dance were presented.

Throughout the afternoon performance on Sunday, photos provided by

See **REFLECTIONS...**pg. 4B



Top: Performers act out the work side of life in the piece "Hands Dirty."

Second from top: On the play side of life, performers in the set titled "Put Your Records On."

Above: Lose It! dancers Gracie Pointer and Charlotte Hegman.

Left: Jordan Gawboy performs a traditional woodland dance.

photos by K. Vandervort

DEVELOPMENT

Tower P&Z greenlights RV park CUP

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Tower Planning and Zoning Commission approved a conditional use permit (CUP) for Justin Renner's RV Park project at a special meeting on Aug. 12. The motion to approve the CUP was approved 4-1, with commission member Kevin Norby voting no.

The CUP, along with a list of ten conditions, and findings of fact that support the decision, has been forwarded to the Tower City Council for final review and approval. The CUP is expected to be on the council's Aug. 23 meeting agenda.

Renner's proposal to develop a 49-unit RV park on a 58-acre parcel on Pike Bay, adjacent to the Your Boat Club property, elicited some concerns from property owners on Mill Point at the public hearing on Aug. 3, especially related to noise and screening.

Tony Jeffries, who works on planning and zoning issues with the city, suggested that the conditions put on the permit be "broad and vague." But he said the commission should look at developing a RV Camp Ordinance and state that the RV park must comply with it. The ordinance, he noted, would also apply to any other RV parks and campgrounds in the city, including the Dave Rose property and the Hoodoo Point Campground.

"This will level the playing field," he said. Jeffries had samples of ordinances developed by other cities for the commission to review at a future meeting.

Jeffries reviewed the draft conditions and findings of fact assembled by commission member Marshall Helmberger and discussed which should go into the CUP as conditions and what should be incorporated into a future RV ordinance.

The final conditions put on the CUP include:

- Completion of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and

See **RV PARK...**pg. 4B



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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WATER LEVELS

Rivers all but vanish as drought intensifies

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — What happens when a river simply disappears? That's the question after the latest water level report for the Vermilion River pegged the river's flow at an astonishing 15 cubic feet per second — a level not recorded in modern memory. It's just one of a number of major rivers in the region now experiencing record low levels due to the intensifying drought.

The stream flow report is published weekly by

the Department of Natural Resources and it shows virtually every major watershed in northern Minnesota in extremely low flow, but only the Roseau River in northwestern Minnesota is as far below its normal flows as the Vermilion. In a normal August, water would be flowing down the Vermilion River at a rate of 350 cubic feet per second, or cfs. It's late summer and it's a relatively low flow time of year even under normal conditions. As recently as last week, the *Timberjay* had reported that the

See DROUGHT...pg. 3B



Right: Looking downstream from the lip of the Vermilion Dam, shows the Vermilion River now almost entirely devoid of water.

Left: The rapids on the East Two River in Tower, just upstream of the city's harbor. The river has effectively ceased to flow in recent days.

Timberjay staff photos



LANDSCAPES

Looking at East Little Fork

Where the swamp ends and the remains of a long marginal ag sector still linger

As I write this on a Sunday morning from my living room, I sit facing west, looking out over miles of the Lost Lake Swamp. I've written about the swamp more times than I can count because I find it a fascinating place, but as I look past the miles of stunted black spruce, the sedge meadows, and occasional upland islands of druid trees, I can see someplace else, far out on the edge of a very distant horizon.

While fingers of our swamp stretch nearly all the way to Cook, the main body of the swamp ends about eight miles west of here, in a place that locals refer to as East Little Fork. While I can't imagine leaving my lookout here on the swamp's east side, if I ever had to leave, East Little Fork is where I'd want to go.

Landscapes have always intrigued me and it was the wilderness landscape that plays out across swamp and the surrounding terrain that prompted me to buy a piece of the North Country in 1978, when I was still in high school (my father had to sign the paperwork). The wilderness landscape is notable as a place left to its own devices.

And that's the landscape that lays out for eight miles to the west of here, broken only in the slightest form by the occasional hunting cabin. It wasn't always that way. Indeed, our wilderness is dotted with the remains of quite a few foundations of old homesteads, dug into an occasional

Above: A long-abandoned harvester sits forlornly in a field, backed by tall tamarack and black spruce in the distance, a perfect example of the East Little Fork landscape.

Right: An old shed, an old field and a swamp forest in the background.

Lower right: A raven makes its lazy takeoff along Johnson Road, one of the handful of backroads in the East Little Fork area.

Bottom right: A spruce grouse chick peeks through tamarack branches.

photos by M. Helmberger

lump of washed gravel left in between the rocky outcrops by the last glacier.

It was the coming of electricity that turned the area from a place lightly settled by overly-optimistic homesteaders back to wilderness. The power extended several miles to the east of Cook, as far as East Little Fork. From Tower, the power extended up along Lake Vermilion and just about a mile west of the Y Store along

Hwy. 1, where it terminates at a residence about a mile to our southeast. In between is eight miles that is unserved by the grid from either Cook or Tower, and that fact quickly cleared this stretch of permanent residents, leaving those old homesteads, for the most part, to be reclaimed by the forest.

This eight-mile stretch forms a transition between the



largely unbroken forest to the east and what passes for farm country in our area by the time you reach the richer soil of the Little Fork Valley around Cook. East Little Fork, which extends several miles to the east of Cook, is where

that transition takes place, creating a pastoral landscape sculpted in places by humans, but still clinging to its wilderness tendencies around the edges. You might see a neighbor's residence across



the field and down the gravel road a spell, but you know that timber wolves and the occasional lynx or moose are still meandering

See LANDSCAPE...pg. 3B

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
LARGE-LEAVED ASTER



Without doubt, the **Large-leaved Aster**, *Eurybia macrophylla*, is one of the North Country's most common wildflowers, and is found in upland areas all throughout our region.

It's large, heart-shaped, stiffly hairy leaves make up a significant portion of the groundcover in area forests, and have given this plant the moniker of "lumberjack's toilet paper," because it actually works pretty well in a pinch.

Come late summer, most of the plants will send up a flower stalk, with somewhat raggedy, pale lavender flowers that grow in a loose cluster.

Fishing reports

Ely area

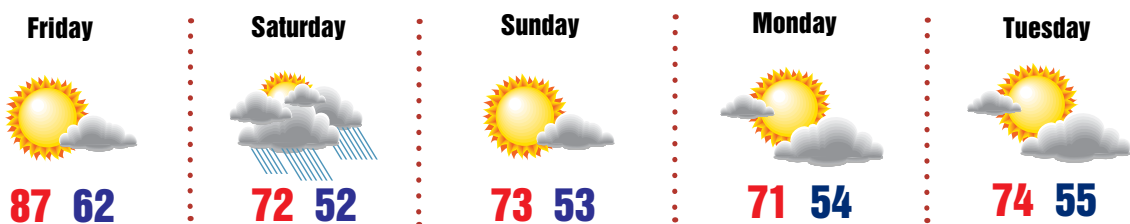
Walleye fishing has improved to good to outstanding right now. Best bite has been out on deeper sunken islands in 25-30 feet of water. Big minnows like pike suckers, on a jig, and jigging raps have been accounting for the majority of walleyes caught out here. Deep water trolling bite continues to also be excellent with anglers catching walleyes 20-30 feet down over 40-80 feet of water.

Smallmouth bass fishing continues to be excellent to outstanding for anglers targeting them. Topwater remains excellent early in the mornings, very close to shore with whopper ploppers, pop-r's and torpedoes. As the sun gets up, subsurface lures like wacky worms, senkos and spinnerbaits have been very effective. Largemouth bass fishing also has been excellent. Topwater baits like frogs, fished in weed beds, wild rice and around lily pads has been very effective on largemouth bass.

Lake trout anglers have been having success catching lakers this last week on area lakes. Anglers are finding lakers 35-50 feet down, out over deep water. Trolling spoons fished behind down riggers has been the most effective technique for catching these deep lakers.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather



Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
08/09	77	46	0.00		08/09	77	59	0.00		08/09	75	60	0.00		08/09	90	64	0.00		08/09	77	59	0.00	
08/10	89	50	0.00		08/10	88	64	0.00		08/10	88	64	0.00		08/10	82	66	0.00		08/10	89	63	0.00	
08/11	84	51	0.15		08/11	83	61	0.22		08/11	83	62	0.36		08/11	79	61	0.00		08/11	83	59	0.30	
08/12	79	54	0.03		08/12	78	50	0.08		08/12	78	58	0.07		08/12	70	54	0.00		08/12	78	53	0.00	
08/13	70	62	0.00		08/13	71	38	0.00		08/13	70	49	0.00		08/13	72	46	0.00		08/13	71	42	0.00	
08/14	72	57	0.00		08/14	71	32	0.00		08/14	70	47	0.00		08/14	88	43	0.00		08/14	72	35	0.00	
08/15	84	59	0.00		08/15	85	48	0.00		08/15	86	48	0.00		08/15	90	43	0.00		08/15	84	51	0.00	
Total			8.90		YTD Total			9.62		YTD Total			10.47		YTD Total			12.97		YTD Total				13.06



FISHING COMPETITION

Virginia student catches tourney winning muskie

LAKEVERMILION— A Virginia high school student and his teammate from Forest Lake successfully defended their title in the Minnesota High School State Muskie Tournament, held here last Friday, Aug. 13.

Erik Panyan, of Virginia, caught the winning fish, a 42-inch muskie, to take home the

top trophy.

His teammate Charlie Weiss caught a 49.5-inch muskie last year, to clinch the title.

The two fishing partners first met nine years ago, while staying at McKinley Park Campground and have been friends ever since. The boys hope to make it three years in a row during the 2022 competition.

Outdoors in brief

Near total fire ban ordered

REGIONAL— Don't burn, anything. That's the directive issued this week by the Department of Natural Resources as the drought and fire conditions reached extreme levels across much of northern Minnesota this week.

The stiffest restrictions are now in place across the northern half of St. Louis County and all of Lake, Itasca, and Koochiching counties. All campfires, with or without a ring, are now banned, along with fireworks or any prescribed burning. All of these restrictions apply to private land as well as DNR-managed lands. The use of welding devices or torches is also prohibited in the vicinity of any combustible vegetation.

In both the backcountry and at established campsites, burning is limited to the use of propane or gas cook stoves. Gas and charcoal grills are still allowed at occupied homes, cabins, or resorts.

"Don't do any burning right now, and be extremely cautious with any other activity where heat or sparks could start a wildfire," advised Allissa Reynolds, DNR acting wildfire prevention supervisor. She encourages Minnesotans to do their part to prevent wildfires by knowing and following the burning

Tower DNR deer open house set for Aug. 26

restrictions in their county.

TOWER— The DNR is encouraging the public to discuss their views on deer management with wildlife staff here on Thursday, Aug. 26, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Wildlife managers throughout the state will be available to discuss deer-related topics in local area offices or on the phone.

Tower Area wildlife staff will hold an in-person open house at the Tower Area DNR office located at 650 Hwy. 169. Alternatively, Tower area wildlife staff can be reached by phone at 218-300-7860.

Deer open houses are just one way people can get involved with the deer sea-

LANDSCAPE...Continued from page 2B

around the back forty.

For birders, it's a remarkable place, full of diversity, where you can hear the bubbling notes of a bobolink followed a mile later by the springtime flutter flight of a spruce grouse. It's home to bluebirds, magpies, and dickcissels, all birds that you're unlikely to ever encounter in the deep woods on the east side of the swamp. It's home to all the birds of the boreal woods combined with many of the birds of open country, normally found further to the west. Birds are mobile, of course, and will find and take advantage of habitat wherever it presents itself.

While East Little Fork qualifies as farm country in our area, it's pretty marginal ag land, which is the kind I've always preferred. Marginal farms often have the slightly neglected look that signals that whoever is working the land either

makes a living from something else, or is barely scraping by. The fences are older and a bit saggy, especially near the water hole where it's too wet for fenceposts. The old barn, which has stood unused ever since the hassles of feeding and watering a dozen head of cattle became too much to handle, is starting to sag. The weeds seem to be winning over the crops. The hayfield gets mowed later and later, leaving more habitat for ground-nesting birds and pollinators. When I was much younger and hunted pheasants in Iowa every fall with my father, we'd drive right by the well-tended farms. We knew it was the rundown farms that held the birds, and always seemed to have an old, grizzled farmer in dirty overalls standing in the farmhouse doorway when we asked permission to go chase a few.

The exact boundaries of East Little Fork aren't entirely clear to

me, but in my mind it includes that area located north of Leander Road up to County Rd. 115, starting a couple miles east of Cook until the electric lines end.

I assume this area got its name from its location, on the very eastern headwaters of the Little Fork River, which flows in its slow, winding fashion through the heart of this place. Still, it's not a place you can learn about on Google. It's settled, but only sparsely so, encompassing portions of two unorganized townships, the northern part of 61-17 and the southern portion of 62-17.

It doesn't have the allure of Lake Vermilion just to its north, or the high rocky outcrops like the one I live on here on the swamp's east side. It's just rural, bordered by wilderness. And I can see all the way there from my living room.

DROUGHT...Continued from page 2B

Vermilion River had fallen to just 33 cfs as of the Aug. 9 stream flow report, or less than one-tenth its normal flow for this time of year. Yet, the Aug. 16 report issued by the DNR on Monday showed the river's flow had fallen by more than half again since the week before, to a mere trickle of just 15 cfs.

It's left the normally roaring Vermilion Falls, located just upstream from the river's mouth at Crane Lake, reduced to a barely visible trickle through the rocks. In normal flows, it's a roaring torrent, a deadly Class 6 rapids. Now, it's just rocks that you could hop across in flip flops, while keeping your feet dry.

The river's current condition is a reflection of Lake Vermilion, which provides the bulk of the river's flow from its outlet at the Vermilion Dam. Yet, Lake Vermilion itself is so low, that there's just a trickle coming over the lip of the dam.

It's the same story further upstream. Tributaries that normally sustain Lake Vermilion during mid-to-late summer have dried up as well. The Pike River has all but disappeared as a source of inflow for the lake, and other, smaller streams, like the East Two River, which flows through Tower, have been reduced to dry riverbeds.

"It's the lowest we've ever seen it," said Gretchen Niemiste, who operates Aronson Boatworks on Lake Vermilion with her husband John.

The low water has prompted many lake residents to end their boating season early, said Niemiste, since many can no longer float their boats off their lifts. And driving on the sprawling lake is more dangerous than ever given the number of rocks now exposed, or nearly exposed, that normally don't pose a danger to boaters.

"The number of props and lower units we've seen smashed

this summer is alarming," said Niemiste. To make matters worse, getting replacement parts is nearly impossible given the post-COVID shortages, which means many boats are out of commission for the season.

Even for experienced boaters, the current conditions pose a challenge. The Lake Vermilion mailboat, operated by Aronson Boatworks, has been forced to adjust drop-off locations for some of its mail customers because the boat can no longer safely reach customers' docks.

"People really need to be careful," said Niemiste.

Conditions were expected to worsen right through the week, with sunny skies, windy conditions, and high temperatures near 90 right through Thursday. The weekend does offer hope for some relief, with much cooler temperatures and varying chances of scattered showers or thunderstorms beginning Friday through Monday.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

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

DRAIN

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

DRY

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FESTIVAL...Continued from page 1B

and vendors and entertainers who come together to make the event possible.

“Our budget is on a shoestring,” he said. “We’ve mostly been funding this out of our own pockets.”

This year the festival received a grant from the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club that helped pay for the materials to build a new fence and entrance gate area.

But it’s the volunteers, including the entertainers, who make the festival possible.

The volunteer crew starts with the Hodge family.

“This wouldn’t happen without the help from all of our family members,” said Micah. The family rebuilt the wooden wall and gate that serves as an entryway into the festival grounds and expanded the festival area. This summer’s drought added some wrinkles to their plans, Micah said, because they had trouble re-growing grass in the newly created areas, so they ended up using the same festival footprint as two years ago and set aside the new areas for vendor camping.

Their oldest children sold attendance tickets, and the youngest took turns selling bottled water and leeches, an essential medical tool a thousand years ago, in their own convenient little carrying cases.

The Hodges began their journey into the world of Renaissance fairs after Micah, an instrument repairman by trade, began making and selling wooden archery bows.

“People were coming back and asking for arrows and quivers,” he said, “and



Codie Johnson, of Virginia, practices her ax throwing during the festival

I’ve learned not to say no to a customer.”

“The next thing I knew I was making all sorts of products,” he said.

Jacinda also creates leather journal covers and other items they now sell in their booth.

When the couple went to their first Renaissance festival they were immediately hooked.

“It was such a blast,” he said. “It was like a big family...and everyone helped show us how to make our booth come alive.”

The family started travelling to shows, and their children also loved the experience. Now they are working to share that magic with families in their hometown area of Cook.

“Our kids are so happy after not being able to travel to shows last year,” he said.

When the family bought 10 acres of land in Angora, they started planning to host their own event, and in 2019 the first Festival of Skalds was held.

“It’s fun to make

believe,” said Micah. “I know that sounds cheesy, but it’s fun to relive the old-timey things and help people feel like they have stepped back a thousand years.”

And that they did. Attendance this year topped 400, with many larger family groups stopping in. On Sunday afternoon, Micah shepherded every one on the grounds and created an angry mob that marched around grumbling.

They are always looking at ways to get audiences involved in the re-creations, as well as increasing the types of entertainment available.

“This is definitely growing,” he said. “We want this to be a place to tell stories. We want to have more musicians, and poets, and storytellers.”

In old Norse culture, a skald was a poet and storyteller.

The Hodges have already been talking with their organizing committee on what improvements can

be made for next summer’s festival, which will take place again in early August. The exact weekend will depend on when the St. Louis County Fair is held, so it doesn’t conflict with that event.

“We want people to know the old stories,” Jacinda said. This year’s performers told stories of mystics, dragon hunters, and faeries. There were Viking games, archery, and axe-throwing. There were rune readings (fortune telling), replica and wooden weapons for sale, leatherwork, handmade soaps, and even pet leeches for sale.

Many of the vendors travelled from out-of-state, though some came from the Range. Most were friends that the Hodges had met at other Ren fairs, including several generations of the local Hodge family who all seemed to get in on the fun.

RV Hodge, an “expert” on dragon hunting, was back for his second Skald Festival. The weekend also coincided with his 40th Cook High School reunion,

which gave him a chance to catch up with dozens of old friends.

RV also has a love for all things ancient.

“I am the last living authority on dragons,” he said. R.V. started writing just for his family, but soon realized that many others enjoyed his stories. As his children grew up and married, he started writing children’s books.

Miriam and Katelyn Theisen came over to visit with RV and his wife Jennie, also a storyteller. They were fans of his writing and already owned several of his books. They had driven over from Hibbing with their parents, and were all in costume.

“We like to dress up and get into the spirit of the festival,” they said. The two girls had found some of their costume pieces online and created the rest themselves.

“I really love this festival,” said Sarah Riley, who was selling original artwork and doing rune readings. “Renaissance festival people are wonderful,” she said. And after spending most of the last year and a half working from home, selling her artwork and teaching art therapy classes online, she was happy to be out visiting with old and new friends.

The Hodge family grandmother, Darlene, a retired newspaper columnist from the *Hibbing Tribune*, was selling a collection of her columns, as well as historical fiction and fantasy she has written. Other Hodge family members were teaching archery and axe-throwing to festival-goers young and old.

The camaraderie of those drawn to these fes-

tivals was clear. Heidi Duerst, who was selling handmade soaps and lotions with her daughters Jessica and Julianna, said that the fellowship they have found is what draws them to these festivals. The family had travelled from the Milwaukee area and learned about the festival after meeting the Hodges at a festival in Wisconsin.

Jessica, dressed in pirate attire, noted that you can’t dress up like a pirate every day. Her sister Julianna liked the friendliness of the festival regulars.

“Everyone talks to everyone else,” she said.

One of the most memorable participants in the first festival, Mustafa Ali, was back.

“He puts on such a wonderful show,” said Micah. “He is so talented and humble. He is like a real travelling mystic. We are very blessed to have him come.”

Ali’s tent would have been right at home during the time of the Arabian Nights and was filled with dozens of instruments that he has gathered from his travels around the world. His storytelling and music-playing attracted the largest crowds at the festival. His business cards list his address as “Planet Earth,” and suggest contact is best made with him through telepathy.

Anyone interested in participating in the festival next year can contact the Hodges for information, at www.ironrangerarts.com. While performers do need to be in costume, Micah said there is no need for elaborate get-ups, and many inexpensive costume pieces can be found at local big box stores during the Halloween season.

REFLECTIONS...Continued from page 1B

the Ely-Winton Historical Society were projected onto the screen partially lowered to leave space for the dancers to perform, adding a historic perspective to nearly every one of the 30-plus acts.

The show was dedicated to the memory of Olson’s father.

“He was focused on the intersection of work and play, and always tried to teach his children the importance of personal betterment through daily tasks,” she said.

The show touched on the historical significance of work and play in the Ely area, highlighting

work such as ice cutting, mining, logging, laundry, house cleaning, waitressing, military, railroads, carpentry, farming, and office work. Topics of play presented included polka, circle dance, singing, paddling, fishing, dancing, and playing music.

Dancers incorporated many props to signify the varied tools that are part of work, and audience participation was encouraged.

Rehearsals for “Work/Play” began in early summer, but some dancers took classes with Reflections Dance Company all year, learning parts of the dances starting

last October, according to Olson.

“The production is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and with support from Northern Lakes Arts Association,” Olson added.

Reflections Dance Company classes will begin a new season on Oct. 3, and will include the 2021-22 production of “Math in Motion.”

RV PARK...Continued from page 1B

compliance with all recommended mitigations identified in the EAW.

➤ Following all applicable drinking water and wastewater standards.

➤ That any docking extending into public waters shall comply with state and federal regulations.

➤ That quiet time be no later than 10 p.m.

➤ That lighting be directed downwards in compliance with night sky standards.

➤ The applicant must comply with all other relevant local, county, state, and federal ordinances and regulations.

➤ That the access road be improved to ensure safe access by emergency vehicles.

➤ That existing screening on the lakeshore be maintained or enhanced.

➤ A copy of the campground rules be provided to the city.

The findings of fact, which is also part of the CUP approval process, find that the facility is consistent with current zoning regulations and will not be a danger to the surrounding environment. The findings

also state that this development is consistent with the 2015 Tower-Breitung Comprehensive Plan. The findings also note that the demand for RV camping is well-documented in the area and this development enhances and is compatible with the harbor area and the existing development at the Your Boat Club Marina.

Whether or not the city will be able to provide sewer access at the site is uncertain. Quotes received by the city to extend the city’s current sewer line came in much higher than expected. Renner has also been working with an engineering firm to design an on-site sewage system if needed.

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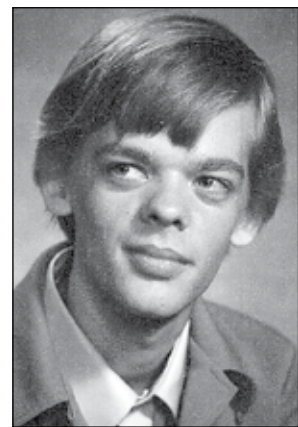
Recreational Bike Tour Series on the Mesabi Trail

Tour #2
August 28, 2021
 Start/Finish is at the Grand Rapids/Itasca County Fairgrounds
 Turn-Around #1 - 12 miles to Taconite (a total of 24 miles out & back on the Mesabi Trail)
 Turn-Around #2 - 24 miles to Nashauk (a total of 48 miles out & back)
 Online Registration OPENS July 19, 2021

Tour #3
September 18, 2021
 Start/Finish is at Virginia’s Olcott Park
 Turn-Around #1 - 14 miles to Buhl (a total of 28 miles out & back on the Mesabi Trail)
 Turn-Around #2 - 26 miles to Hibbing (a total of 52 miles out & back)
 Online Registration OPENS August 16, 2021

\$45/Individuals \$90/Families
Kids 16 and under ride FREE
 For more info, call 877-637-2241 or go to mesabitrail.com

Obituaries and Death Notices



Guy A. Sarazine

Guy Allan Sarazine, 58, of Chisholm, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, at Sanford Health, N.D. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 25 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Guy was born to Raymond and Kathleen (Martinson) Sarazine on Aug. 12, 1962, in Cook.

He attended school in Chisholm.

Guy loved everything country. He loved country music, his guitar, and his cowboy boots and cowboy hat. He enjoyed Friday night dances and recreation, karaoke, and playing ball. He also enjoyed a good apple and his morning coffee. Above all, he loved visits from his mama, brothers, and other family and friends.

Guy is survived by his mother, Kathleen; brothers, Nathan (Roni) Sarazine, Craig Sarazine, Stephen (Carrie) Sarazine and Todd (Christine) Sarazine; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond; and grandparents, Roger and Virginia Martinson and Leo and Elizabeth Sarazine.

Lawrence E. Davis

Lawrence Edward "Pete" Davis, 94, of Ely, passed away at Boundary Waters Care Center on Monday, Aug. 9, 2021. Funeral services were held on Monday, Aug. 16 at Ely Methodist Church. Interment was at the Ely Cemetery. The family wishes to thank Dr. Jim Montana and the staff at Carefree Living and Boundary Waters Care Center for their care of Pete and his beloved wife, Mary Clendenning Davis. Memorials are requested to the American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Research, Veterans on the Lake or Northland Honor Flight. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

He is survived by his daughter, Joy (Robert) Sundquist and his family; son, Mark (Linda) Davis; grandchildren, Nic,

Shelly, Aaron (Hannah) and Pamela; great-grandchildren, Blake, Molly, Brookelyn, Brayden, Maddelyn, Finnean, Emelyn and Dahlia.

Marilyn A. Lind

Marilyn Ailene Moisisio Lind, 86, previously of Cook, Alango and Babbitt, passed away on Thursday, July 22, 2021, with family by her side at Primrose Retirement Community in Duluth. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 20 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia, with visitation one hour prior to service. Burial will be at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Cemetery in Twig. The family would like to thank Kindred Hospice and the staff at Primrose for their excellent care of Marilyn; she definitely made an impression on all of them. Donations are preferred to Kindred at Home Foundation at etapestry.com. Arrangements

are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Lisa (Gary) Maki of Las Vegas, Peter Lind of Garfield, Beth (Kirby) Scholz of Cloquet and Robert (Lisa) Lind of St. Paul; grandchildren, Stacey Maki, Sabrina Maki, Tania (Jamie) Rice, Erica (Casey) Myers, Dustin (Jordan) Scholz, Dylan (Kristin) Scholz, Lindy (Nick) Witzman, Karina Lind and Julia Lind; great-grandchildren, Emmett, Elton and Finley Scholz and Roman Witzman; brother, Dennis (Marilynn) Moisisio; sister, Lynne (Lee) Phillips; brother, Kurt Hanula; and sister, Pamela Cook; sisters-in-law, Audrey Marshall and Karen Lind; brother-in-law, Don Schubbe; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gwendolyn L. Tibbetts

Gwendolyn L. Newberry Tibbetts, 83, longtime resident of Tower, died on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021, at Essentia Health in Virginia. A private celebration of Gwen's life will be held at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 63 years, Bill; children, William "Burny" (Shelly) Tibbetts of Britt, Belinda (Dave) Fazio of Lake Vermilion, Wiley Brandon Tibbetts of Vail, Ariz., and Shannon Tibbetts Kelly of Tower; brothers, Frederick Jr. "Hank" Newberry, Fred Newberry and Richard Newberry; special friend, Stacy Tibbetts; 18 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

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OLDER VEHICLES- 2003 GMC 1500, Ext. Cab; 1972 ½ Chev El Camino; 1975 Chev C65, w/16-Ft. Flatbed w/Hoist; 1962 Ford F600 w/14-Ft. Flatbed; 1959 Chev Viking Cab and Chassis; 1953 IHL160 Gravel Truck; 1976 Chev20; 1993 GMC Sierra; Ford Pickup w/Buzz Saw; Older Car Bodies; Steel Grain Box

PRIMITIVES- 5-Cent Slot Machine, Wood/Alum. (works); Oak Ice Box; 8-Ft. Front and Back Bar from Tavern; Victrola VV-XL 2033 Phonograph, Mfg. 1911, with Record and Needles; 5 Johnson Outboards and Others; Steel Wheeled Gas Engine Cart; Standard Oil Barrel; Vintage Gas Stove; Hay Forks; Wooden Spoked Car Wheels; Twisted Iron Chair; Milk Baskets; Stanchions; Fish Spears; Maytag Wringer Washer; Carpenter Tool Box; One Man Saw; Sleds; Ice Tongs; Folding Courtroom Chairs; Antique Furniture; Army Saddle; Redwing Water Cooler; Approx. 40 Pcs. Of Redwing, Hall, McCoy; 3 Cases Beer Bottles; Steel Wheeled Cultivator; Horse Harness; 2 Lg Steel Pulleys

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF TOWER, MINNESOTA SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT			
The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of Tower to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at the City Hall, 602 Main Street, Tower, MN 55790. Questions about this report should be directed to Clerk/Treasurer Victoria Ranua at clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com or 218-753-4070.			
Revenues and Expenditures for General Operations (Governmental Funds)			
	Total 2020	Total 2019	Percent Increase (Decrease)
REVENUES			
Taxes	\$ 417,250	\$ 410,186	1.72%
Licenses and permits	10,939	10,479	4.39%
Intergovernmental	760,051	1,202,464	-36.79%
Charges for services	855,584	926,708	-7.67%
Fines	2,302	2,277	1.10%
Gifts and contributions	45,037	31,364	43.59%
Interest	8,058	13,688	-41.13%
Miscellaneous	42,411	52,743	-19.59%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,141,632	\$ 2,649,909	-19.18%
Per Capita	554.11	685.62	-19.18%
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
General government	\$ 316,938	\$ 283,976	11.61%
Public safety	542,017	603,743	-10.22%
Public works	287,024	209,851	36.78%
Sanitation	-	-	0.00%
Culture and recreation	180,159	316,624	-43.10%
Economic development	58,591	38,334	52.84%
Airport	78,137	88,491	-11.70%
Miscellaneous	2,717	3,500	-22.37%
Debt Service			
Principal	120,929	555,743	-78.24%
Interest and other charges	56,226	49,578	13.41%
Capital Outlay			
Airport	433,991	49,390	778.70%
Culture and recreation	155,586	48,964	217.76%
Economic development	160,086	1,706,540	-90.62%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,392,401	\$ 3,954,734	-39.51%
Per Capita	618.99	1,023.22	-39.51%
TOTAL LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS	\$ 3,073,361	\$ 2,772,588	10.85%
Per Capita	795.18	717.36	10.85%
ALL FUND BALANCE - DECEMBER 31	\$ 1,430,410	\$ 1,502,727	-4.81%
Per Capita	370.09	388.80	-4.81%

CITY OF TOWER, MINNESOTA STATEMENT OF NET POSITION PROPRIETARY FUNDS December 31, 2020			
	Water Enterprise	Sewer Enterprise	Totals
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts receivable	\$ 6,112	\$ 3,746	\$ 9,858
Due from other funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loans receivable	\$ -	\$ 2,735	\$ 2,735
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 6,112	\$ 6,481	\$ 12,593
NONCURRENT ASSETS			
Capital assets			
Construction in progress	\$ 63,905	\$ -	\$ 63,905
Infrastructure	\$ 542,160	\$ 1,098,096	\$ 1,640,256
Less accumulated depreciation	\$ (124,919)	\$ (275,540)	\$ (400,459)
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS			
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,112	\$ 6,481	\$ 12,593
DEFERRED OUTFLOW OF RESOURCES			
Related to pensions	\$ 3,893	\$ 3,893	\$ 7,786
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 20,211	\$ 7,625	\$ 27,836
Salaries payable	\$ 157	\$ 191	\$ 348
Accrued interest payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due from other funds	\$ 14,325	\$ 38,834	\$ 53,159
Customer deposits	\$ 4,254	\$ 4,254	\$ 8,508
Revenue bonds payable- current	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 38,947	\$ 50,904	\$ 89,851
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES			
PERA net pension liability	\$ 31,176	\$ 31,176	\$ 62,352
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 70,123	\$ 82,080	\$ 152,203

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QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum 4-year degree in relevant area. Administrator licensure or coursework preferred but not required. Experience with charter schools and school leadership. Experience/interest in innovative learning and creating a democratic school environment. Ability to write/manage grants, interact with state agencies, VCS authorizer, and all stakeholders. The board envisions this to be a .50 position, with a possibility of the remainder of the position to be filled with a teaching, special education, or other assignment.

The Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 charter school that opened in the fall of 2013. It is located in Tower, on the shores of beautiful Lake Vermilion, in the heart of Minnesota's North Country. The school serves a multicultural student body of 30-35 students, with an innovative program learning model that is uniquely-adapted to this remote community. For more information, visit our website at www.vermilioncountry.org

The Vermilion Country Administrator will assist in several aspects of program development and implementation while working side-by-side with our staff to oversee the educational programming. Our school's staff oversees day-to-day student management. The administrator is responsible for guiding our staff to reach our school goals, and will report directly to the school board, and act as our administrator of record for MDE and our authorizer.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY OPENING

St. Louis County Attorney Mark S. Rubin has announced that he will retire on September 30, 2021.

Under Minnesota law, the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners must fill the forthcoming vacancy in this office by appointment. The appointed person will take office upon Mr. Rubin's retirement and serve the remainder of the applicable term, which ends on January 2, 2023.

Persons who wish to apply for the appointment must e-mail a cover letter and resumé to Deputy County Administrator Brian Fritsinger at fritsingerb@stlouiscountymn.gov on or before August 31, 2021.

The board intends to make the appointment at its previously scheduled meeting at the Virginia Courthouse, 300 South Fifth Avenue, Virginia, Minnesota 55792, on September 14, 2021.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 20 & 27, 2021

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POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Assistant Hockey Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Assistant Hockey Coach for the 2021-2022 winter season. Background check required. Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's Degree preferred;
- Previous coaching experience preferred;
- Must be available for several practices/meets per week from November through March, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Application and full job description is available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us
A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume

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

Stipend: \$3,920

Deadline to apply: August 25, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 20, 2021

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Call 365-6634 to join the team! tm

Social Studies Teacher .5 FTE



Vermilion Country School in Tower, MN is seeking to hire a .5 FTE Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Position can be combined with other openings.

Position open until filled.

Application material would include a cover letter, a resume, and license.

Only electronic applications will be accepted. Please send application material to: director@vermilioncountry.org

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	DIMLY	DAISY	NOAH
TAMPICO	BEDROOM	HILDA	
URAL	STAY	BRIE	
BEDECK	ANDCALL	ELAPSED	
ENABLE	TIARAED	OTELLO	
SAMSUNG	PREDAWN	SHRIMP	
	ENYA	EDIE	IDEE
GREEDY	MATTER	WAILERS	
ATMS	SHORN	USERS	
BEEPED	PEDANT	SPOCKET	
	NONOIL	ORBIT	ONME
DEDUCT	TAPE	ORR	VIREOS
ELISA	WICKED	ERBASKETS	
JONAS	ALTER	AERIE	LEI
ANGLE	SASSY	KRONE	SSE

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
18		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			42		43		44		45		
46	47	48			49		50				
51					52		53			54	55
56					57				58		
59					60				61		

ACROSS

1 Soviet space station
4 Dance move
8 Actress Fisher
12 — out a living
13 Abode
14 Punch
15 Shares with followers on social media
17 Fury
18 MSN rival
19 Fuming
21 Cop's badge
24 Flamenco cheer
25 Triumphed
26 Half a dozen
28 Travels by jet
32 Throat clearer
34 Jewel
36 Early Peruvian
37 Cleaning agent
39 Fawn's mom
41 Junior
42 Carried out
44 French cathedral city
46 Tea urn
50 Business mag
51 Pressing thing?
52 "The Handmaid's Tale" author
56 King of the

DOWN

1 Sea, to Henri
2 Mamie's man
3 Lawyer's fee
4 Beach souvenirs
5 Water tester
6 911 responders
7 Green sauce
8 Haifa native
9 Bridge coup
10 Olympic sled
11 On in years
16 Misery
20 Sprite
21 Clear the decks?
22 Jolly laugh
23 Use a shovel
27 Deleted
29 Behind closed doors
30 Nobel Prize subj.
31 Without

33 "Material Girl" singer
35 Extinct bird
38 VII doubled
40 Asylum seeker, perhaps
43 Titled women
45 — jiffy
46 Sediment
47 "Carmen" solo
48 Disposition
49 Sitarist Shankar
53 Roulette bet
54 Before
55 Levy

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EMPLOYMENT

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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.

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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).

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

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

FREE

FREE CONN ELECTRIC ORGAN with bench. One key not working. You pick up. Includes a lot of music scores. 218-666-5771. 8/27v

Find It Here

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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Brad Luecken 780-1852

WANTED

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20' TRAILER WANTED FOR 18' PONTOON. Call Dave Porter 612-722-1001. 8/27

LAWN SERVICE

VERMILION LAWN SERVICE- We can help with: overgrown lawns, pruning, brushing, clearing. Call for estimate. Lake Vermilion/Eagles Nest areas. Call Casey at 218-750-4510. 8/27p

AUTOMOTIVE

For Sale: 2012 Honda Odyssey Touring model 8 passenger van. Towing package, Leather, Nav, DVD, Sunroof. Well maintained. Very good condition. High mileage. \$4,500. 218-365-7727 or 763-458-5964. 8/27

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

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GARAGE SALE

TWO-PARTY SALE- Handyman's dream! Building supplies, tools, furniture, woodworking, household, outdoor items. All must go. Saturday, Aug. 28, 9-1, 8908 Raps Rd., Cook, take Hwy 24 north from Cook. 8/27

HUGE ESTATE SALE- Friday, Aug. 20 and Sat., Aug. 21, 9-5. Ely Senior Center, 27 S 1st Ave E, Ely. Collectibles, craft and sewing supplies, children's items, old tools, and large variety of items both old and new. 8/20p

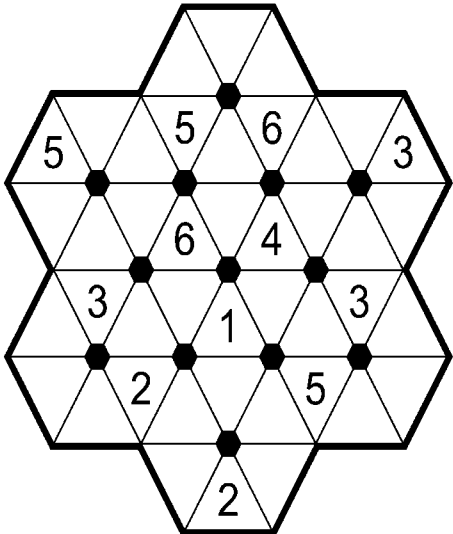
HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- COOK NEEDED- full-time or part-time at Melgeorge's on Elephant Lake. WEEKEND CABIN CLEANERS also needed. Call 218-374-3621. tfn

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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

Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 Puck surface
4 Transparent
9 Nick of "Weeds"
14 Urged (on)
19 Source of bean curd
20 Figure skater Sonja
21 Luau "hello"
22 Thousand: Prefix
23 Soft leather sewn over fabric tears?
26 Poker entry fee
27 Elevate
28 USMC rank
29 Tabby that's a national government's mascot?
31 Peace Nobel
32 Sounded like a cow
34 Antarctic penguin
35 Enticingly beautiful mugs?
40 Braininess
43 How distant stars shine
44 White-rayed flower
47 Trevor of "The Daily Show"
48 Port on the Gulf of Mexico
52 Poet Doolittle who did all of her writing in her boudoir?
55 Caspian Sea feeder
56 "Don't leave!"
59 Easily spread cheese
60 Put decorations on your phone, then dial someone's number?
66 Ticked by
71 Warrant
72 Wearing a fancy crown
74 Verdi opera
75 Maker of Galaxy phones
77 Crustacean that's most active just before sunup?
79 "Exile" New Age artist
81 Falco with four Emmys
82 Notion, in Nantes
83 Black hole sucking in everything around it?
90 People lamenting
93 \$\$\$ spitter-outers
94 Like clipped sheep
95 Consumers
97 Tooted
100 Smug know-it-alls shoplift?
106 Having its petroleum imported, as a nation
109 Cosmic path
110 "My treat!"
111 Subtract the cost of an adhesive roll?
115 Bruin Bobby
116 Red-eyed songbirds
118 Actress Donovan of "Clueless"
119 Shopping containers holding more sinful items?
122 Salk of the Salk vaccine
123 Modify
124 Cliff nest
125 Luau gift
126 Viewpoint
127 Insolent
128 Norwegian money
129 Reno-to-L.A. dir.
DOWN
1 Emanates
2 Duo
3 Lashes' base
4 See 87-Down
5 Shoved off
6 Rocker Brian
7 Use a fan on
8 Steinbeck novella, with "The"
9 "Platoon" war zone, in brief
10 Snowman in "Frozen"
11 Box in an opera house
12 Silents star Bara
13 Mollified
14 Mummify
15 Former New York City mayor Rudy
16 Antifreeze compound
17 Kazan of filmdom
18 By — of (owing to)
24 God, to Henri
25 Baldwin of "Still Alice"
30 Apt., e.g.
32 Brunch quaff
33 "My man!"
36 Roman 401
37 Quirky habit
38 Brake part
39 Male title of respect
41 Smidgen
42 "— Na Na"
45 Bawl
46 Days of old
48 Lipstick units
49 Action venue
50 Female title of respect
51 Ancient Roman lower class
52 Via automobile
53 Director Forman
54 Moor shrub
57 It blasts
58 Take — (swim or bathe)
61 Given a hint
62 Singer Loggins
63 "Rules — rules"
64 Worker filling a cargo hold, say
65 Spearhead
67 Great risk
68 Begin to fail
69 Bugs bugger Fudd
70 Ninnies
73 Imbiber's hwy. offense
76 P.E. places
78 Most recent
80 "Makes sense now"
83 Chitchat
84 Map no.
85 Editing
86 Adoption of a cause
87 With 4-Down, cooking reality series
88 Uno tripled
89 Prefix with spore
91 Dadaist Jean
92 Prefix with thermal
95 Toni Braxton's "— My Heart"
96 Swizzle stick
98 Totally cover
99 Speck
101 Yank who wore #13
102 Wine stopper
103 Genueflects
104 Overplays it
105 Actress O'Shea
107 "— the best of times ..."
108 Boxer Ali
111 — vu
112 University in North Carolina
113 Agts.' cuts
114 Just makes, with "out"
116 Narcissistic
117 "Makes sense now"
120 Suffix with cook or mock
121 "My man!"

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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

EMBARRASS REGION FAIR

The Embarrass Fair is back with three days of fun, Aug. 27, 28, 29

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- With a year off due to the pandemic, Embarrass Region Fair organizers are ready to put on their 81st annual fair the weekend of Aug. 27-29. Following a year without any community get-togethers, they are hoping to see everyone stop by for all their favorites, plus some new activities. The fair is organized and staffed by a large group of dedicated volunteers.

Admission is only \$4 and that buys you a whole day's worth of fun; children 10 and under are free with a paid adult. Weekend passes are \$10. All events are at or around Timber Hall, at 4855 Hwy. 21.

The fair features a horse show, pony rides, a mud run, demolition derby, car show, the Flying Finn 5K, livestock displays, dog show, many exhibits, and much, much more.

New this year is an expanded "machinery hill" area featuring farm machinery from the new John Deere dealer in Virginia and Kubota products from Bobcat of Duluth.

"They are both really excited to be showing off their product lines," said fair vice-chair Sue Beaton.

Another new event is the cornhole tournament, which is taking the place of the traditional horseshoe tournament, which has seen less interest in recent years.

"Cornhole is really popular," said Beaton, and the fair committee is hoping to see lots of cornhole competition on Saturday.

The cornhole tournament starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday, and participants should sign-up by 10 a.m. Entry is \$20 per team with an 80-percent payout. The fair has three sets of tournament-sized boards, and is asking participants to bring their own wooden cornhole boards if they are tournament size (www.play-cornhole.org for details).

There will still be two horseshoe pits available for anyone who wants to play.

The goal of this year's organizing committee was to put on the fair as safely as possible. There will be sanitizer stations throughout the fairgrounds, and attendees will be encouraged to wear masks inside Timber Hall.

St. Louis County Public Health will be providing free COVID-19 vaccinations at the fair on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., near the north gate to the fairgrounds.

Indoor space at Timber Hall is all spoken for, Beaton said, and there will be vendors out-



Above: Lace up your running shoes and take part in the Flying Finn on Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Left: Think about entering your garden, kitchen, or other creations in the fair this year.

arts, and more. More vendors will be selling goods outdoors.

The livestock building is open Saturday and Sunday; stop by to meet many different animals

doors as well. All the regular fair food favorites will be back, including a few new offerings.

Friday will be a little quieter than in past years. Due to the pandemic, there is no queen coronation. Area favorite Sweet Freedom will be playing from 4 - 10 p.m. and the beer garden and food vendors will be open, as well as Wizard's Kingdom Inflatables.

With the team penning moved to an earlier weekend, the horse arena will not be busy on Friday or Saturday, but on Sunday, the Annual Embarrass Fair Horse Show is underway all day long.

Exhibitors from area communities including Aurora, Babbitt, Biwabik, Breitung, Britt, Eagles Nest, Ely, Embarrass, Greenwood, Hoyt Lakes, Kugler, Morse-Fall Lake, Palo, Pike, Sandy, Soudan, Tower, Vermilion Lake, Waasa, White, Winton, and Wuori are invited to showcase their goods and possibly win a prize. See the fair book for more information on rules, divisions and tips on how to harvest and display your vegetables, fruits, and flowers, as well as entry and judging times. Exhibit entries can be dropped off Friday from 1 - 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 - 10 a.m.

Timber Hall will be filled with vendors selling canned and baked goods, homemade crafts, wooden toys, photography, fiber

which may include cows, sheep, lambs, goats, llamas, alpacas, horses, ponies, rabbits, chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys.

The beer garden will be available on Friday, 2 - 8 p.m., Saturday, 12 - 8 p.m. and Sunday, 12 - 6 p.m. The beer garden is operated by the Babbitt Lions Club. All profits are used to fund local needs and charities.

Wizards Kingdom Inflatables will open at 3 p.m. Friday and will be open all day Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday, music starts again at 4 p.m. with favorites from Saturday Night Country Live: 1/2 Way, The Hutter Bunch, BackRoads, and more.

Rising Sun Entertainment is hosting a karaoke contest on Sunday at noon, with sign-ups starting at 10 a.m.

Saturday

A dog show, featuring the beloved doggies of youth 16 and under will take place at 10 a.m. Registration is strictly between 9 and 9:45 a.m. Participants will need an up-to-date written certificate of rabies vaccination. For questions, contact Bonnie Meier at 218-984-3506.

The 40th Annual Flying Finn 5K Run-Walk begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. The Flying Finn starting line and registration area are located across Hwy. 21 from the fairgrounds.

Team Penning and Ranch Sorting to be held Aug. 20-22



EMBARRASS- Take three riders on horseback, put them in a corral with about 30 calves with numbers zero to nine marked on their sides. Then give the riders one minute to round up three specific calves and herd them into a pen at the opposite end of the corral. Sounds easy? Not really.

If this sounds like it would be something fun to watch, it is. And everyone is invited to stop by the Embarrass Fair horse ring to watch this year's event, which has been moved to the weekend prior to the fair itself.

Team penning begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 20 at the Embarrass Fairgrounds and continues until dusk, with sign-up starting at 2 p.m. Team penning continues Saturday, Aug. 21 at 10 a.m. and runs until dusk. On Sunday, the event switches to ranch sorting, with a 10 a.m. starting time for beginners and the competitive division from 1 - 4 p.m.

The event is open to all ages and experience levels, so all area horse enthusiasts are welcome to give it a try. The cost to enter is \$10 per rider per run, with two runs required to compete in the top ten short run. Cash prizes and buckles are awarded. Food concessions will be available.

For more information, call Doug Mattson at 218-780-7477 or Jeff Anderson at 218-780-3449.

A \$50 award goes to the first male and first female finishers. First, second, and third-place medallions are given in each of the six age divisions. All participants will receive a Flying Finn T-shirt. Cost is \$25. Call Holly Johnson at 218-780-6633 or email hsjohnson6980@gmail.com for more information.

Races For All Ages start at 11 a.m. Games include baby crawl, bean bag toss, running, sawdust scramble, gunny sack race, wheelbarrow race, three-legged race, shoe kick, and a water balloon toss. Cash prizes for all categories.

The Tony Morshing Memorial Mud Run starts at 12:30 p.m. with a \$10 admission fee; ages 10 and under are free with a paid adult. The Mud Run features a standard 4x4 run and a fast track. Those who wish to enter may do so from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. For more information, call Floyd Joki at 218-984-2843.

Saturday Night Country Live favorites will be performing from 4 - 10 p.m.

Sunday

The Classic Field of Dreams Car and Truck Show starts its 80th year at 9 a.m. and concludes with an awards ceremony at 2 p.m. This year the show is featuring an open class with all cars, pickups, street rods, and special interest. Trophies will be awarded for "Queen's Choice," "Longest Distance," and "Fair Board Chair." For questions, call Darwin A. Salo at 218-827-3581 or Tim Sipola at 218-827-3340.

The Demolition Derby begins at 12:30 p.m. with an admission fee of \$5. Bring your lawn chairs.

The horse show begins at 9 a.m. Karaoke contest sign-up begins at 10 a.m.; singing goes from noon - 3 p.m. The weekend festivities start to wind down with the annual parade, which starts at 4 p.m. There are parade prizes in adult groups/singles, businesses/organizations, and children's groups/singles. Line-up begins at 2:30 p.m. at the Nelmark on Hwy. 21; judging is at 3:30 p.m.

I'm Hungry

LET'S EAT!

A Summer Restaurant Guide

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

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

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VERMILION LAKE ASSOCIATION

VLA celebrates 53 years of protecting Lake Vermilion

LAKE VERMILION- Vermilion Lake Association (VLA) members gathered for their annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 7 at scenic Camp Vermilion in Cook to mark 53 years of carrying out their mission to protect and improve Lake Vermilion. About 100 members and guests attended.

Informational tables for the Lake Steward program, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), shore lunch sites, loon preservation/count, and fisheries conservation were set up on the deck outside, with VLA program leaders and staff from the St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District available to answer questions.

Cael Thompson, a Boy Scout from Iowa, displayed one of his two loon nest platforms that he built in support of VLA's ongoing loon work. He spoke briefly about his project as a

part of his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. Cael has visited Lake Vermilion for many years with his family.

Board members Sheri Sawatzky, Pat Michaelson, Gary Haugen, and Jill Korpela-Bontems were re-elected, and will be joined by new board member Nancy Watkins. By-law changes regarding monthly board meetings and annual meetings were approved. These changes will be available on the website.

The 2,700-member Vermilion Lake Association – one of the largest and most active in Minnesota – welcomes all who care about Lake Vermilion and wish to protect her for the next generation. If you would like to join or volunteer, please check out the organization's website at www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org or contact Pat Michaelson at 612-306-7702.



Cael Thompson, with the one of the loon platforms he built for his Eagle Scout project. submitted photo

Infrastructure projects underway in Tower



TOWER- Tower's Pine Street project, which has been in the planning stages for several years and was supposed to get underway in July, has begun. The work includes the reconstruction of Pine Street from the Tower Fire Hall area to Harbor Drive, and it also includes rerouting of Pine Street's intersection with Harbor Drive.

The work also includes installing the water and sewer infrastructure needed for the first phase of the townhome development at the harbor site.

While this work is underway, the Iron Ore Bar bridge is closed to traffic and there is no through access from Highway 135 to Pine Street. Access to the Vermilion Country School will need to be via

Highway 135 and Harbor Drive.

The timeline of the project is not available at this time. The first construction meeting is set for Aug. 19 and more details will be available at that time.

The Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board is taking advantage of the extremely low water levels to replace a section of forced sewer main around one of its manholes slightly ahead of schedule. The wastewater system maintains a total of 24 manholes along its forced sewer main and while most of the main is relatively new PVC piping, short segments entering and exiting manholes are still comprised of older metal pipe, which has caused leaks in some cases as the pipe corrodes.

The board has completed

three of the replacements to date, and plans to replace the remaining sections over the next year, according to wastewater system operator Matt Tuchel. The portion of the line being replaced this past week is located in a wetland within a few feet of the East Two River, which typically poses challenges for replacement. It was originally scheduled for replacement in the spring, but the current drought, which has left the river nearly dry in that location, provided a window to replace it without having to deal with typical water levels.

"We're taking advantage of the dry conditions to do this one early," said Tuchel.

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

County Board approves \$1.75 million for broadband infrastructure grants

REGIONAL- A new county-funded pot of \$1.75 million for Broadband Infrastructure Grants will be available to qualifying communities to assist with constructing broadband infrastructure in unserved or underserved areas, thanks to recent action by the County Board.

This latest investment is in addition to \$250,000 authorized last month to assist communities with broadband planning costs. Funding for the Broad-

band Infrastructure Grants comes from the federal American Rescue Plan Act money the county received.

Communities may apply for assistance up to \$400,000, and grants require an equal financial match. Eligible project costs include architectural and engineering fees, consulting costs and services, personnel costs, surveys, construction costs, broadband equipment, and similar costs associated with

broadband infrastructure construction. Applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis subject to grant funding availability.

"One of the top priorities I consistently hear from my constituents and from people throughout the county relates to broadband," said Commissioner Paul McDonald, whose district spans the entire northern half of the county and much of the eastern portion. "We know larg-

er federal and state solutions are needed, but this is a first step in supporting our cities and townships, as well as providers, in their efforts to bring broadband service to residents and businesses."

More information on the broadband grants and the meeting can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/broadband. Anyone with comments or questions can email communitydevelopmentinfo@stlouiscounty.com.

county.com.

Additionally, St. Louis County is looking for input from residents regarding their current home Internet subscription and their use of and satisfaction with current broadband services. People without a home broadband subscription are also encouraged to provide that information. The survey can be found online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8KBK8PW>.




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Wizard's Kingdom Inflatables..3:00 PM	Family Entertainmen....4 -10PM

Saturday 28th

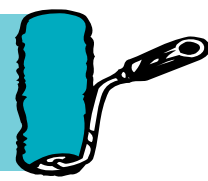
Grounds Open.....8:00 AM	Exhibit Entries.....8:00-10:00 AM
Crafts & Concessions.....All Day	Livestock Building.....All Day
Softball Tournament.....All Day	Dog Show..... 10:00AM
40th Annual Flying Finn 5K Run Walk.....9:30AM	
First Ever Corn Hole Tournament....10:00 AM	Races for All Ages....11:00AM
Exhibit Building Closed for Judging.11:30 AM	Beer Garden...12 PM –8 PM
Tony Morsching Memorial Mud Run.....12:30PM	
Saturday Night Country live.....4 PM-10 PM	

Sunday 29th

Grounds Open.....7:00 AM	Crafts & Concessions.....All Day
Livestock Building.....All Day	Softball Tournament.....All Day
Pony Rides.....All Day	Horse Show.....9:00 AM
Classic Field of Dreams Car & Truck Show.....9:00AM	
Karaoke Contest (Sign up 10AM) 12-3 PM	
Beer Garden.....12 PM -6 PM	Demolition Derby.....12:30PM
Parade.....4:00 PM	Brand new Event Lawnmower Races



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