



the **TIMBERJAY**



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VOL. 29, ISSUE 34 August 31, 2018

VIOLATIONS

County orders elections re-training for Tower clerk

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

Investigation reveals multiple failures stemming from Aug. 14 primary

TOWER— St. Louis County officials are requiring that Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith undergo elections re-training in Duluth, at city expense, after a county investigation revealed a host of significant errors, violations of state law, and failures to follow

election procedures during the Aug. 14 primary election here. “The additional training is necessary due to the severity and number of issues identified during the investigation,” wrote St. Louis County Deputy Auditor Phil Chapman, who supervises elections for the county.

Those errors and failures go well beyond providing erroneous ballots to 25 voters in the city, as the *Timberjay* has previously reported. The election issues are detailed in an Aug. 24 letter to city officials in Tower along with the Minnesota Secretary of State.

Among the most serious findings was that Keith, on Aug. 7, had certified that the city’s pre-election voting machine testing had been completed accurately and consistent with the pre-determined results, when, in fact, the testing had not been completed properly, as required

by state law. Deputy Clerk Terri Joki-Martin and Josh Villebrun also attested to the completion of the testing.

County officials were able to determine that the testing had not been done in the

See...**CLERK** pg. 10

UTILITIES

First hearing on Frontier problems will be in Ely

by **MARCUS WHITE**
Cook/Orr Editor

ELY—Customers of Frontier Communications are invited to the first of a series of public hearings around the state on service and billing complaints related to the telecom giant which is set for Tuesday, Sept. 4, at the Vermilion Community College’s fine arts theater.

Tuesday’s hearing, which begins at 6 p.m., is one of five ordered around the state by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in response to public complaints about Frontier’s service.

The MPUC was flooded with complaints after it opened an initial investigation into the company in the wake of reporting by the *Timberjay* last November.

Additional hearings are set for later in September in McGregor, Wyoming, Lakeville and Slayton.

Those who wish to testify at one of the hearings are asked to do four things.

- 1) To identify themselves and share any relevant circumstances they may have.
- 2) Describe the services currently or formerly received by Frontier.
- 3) Prepare a list of concerns encountered while contracting or receiving services from the telecom provider. Copies of correspondence or bills may also be provided to be entered as evidence.
- 4) Have a list of preferred actions that can either be carried out by the carrier or the state Department of Commerce.

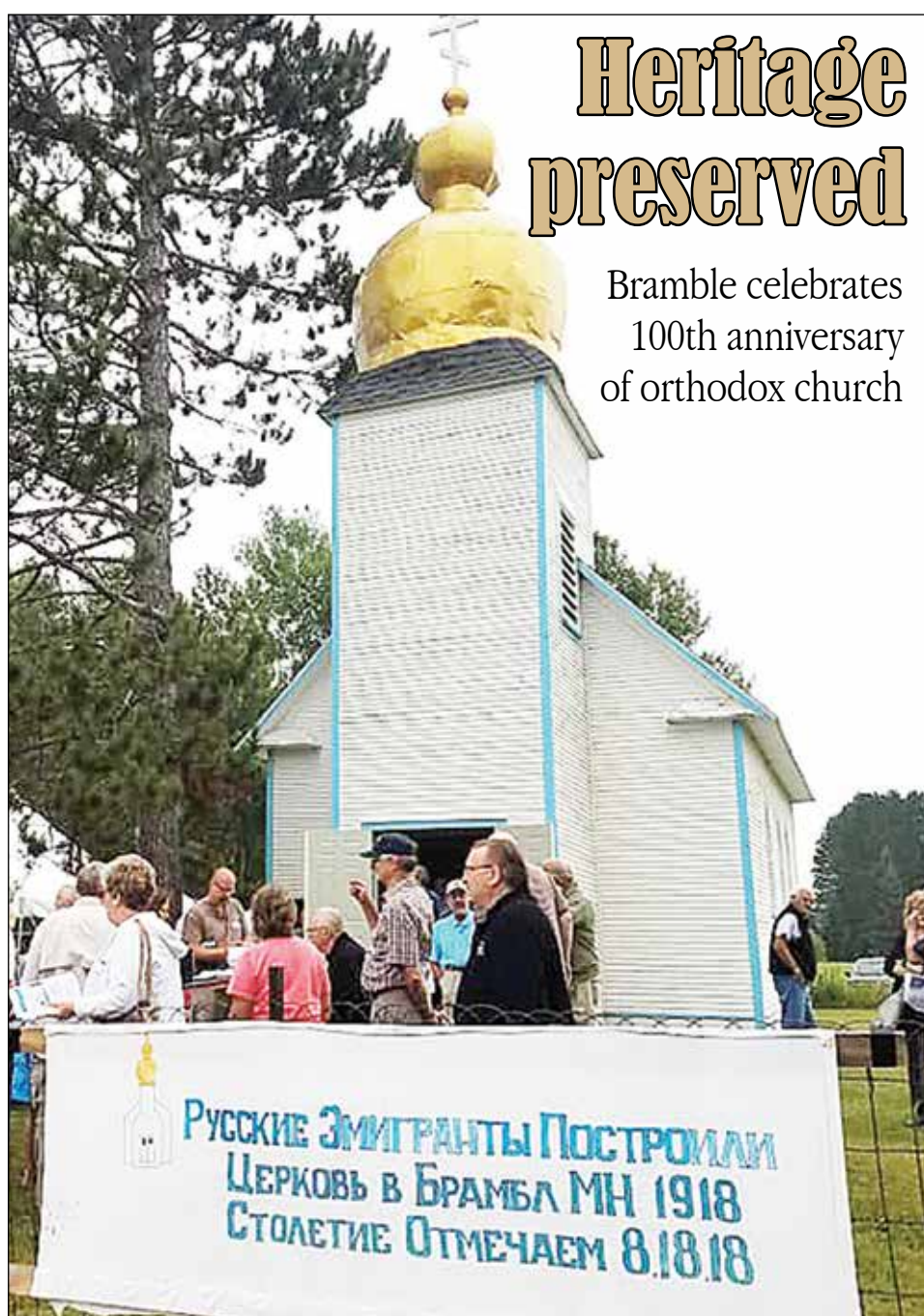
Issues that may be brought forth at the hearing must be related to either billing problems, service quality issues or customer service representatives.

An Administrative Law Judge with the commerce department will preside over each of the hearings.

Those who would like to

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



Heritage preserved

Bramble celebrates 100th anniversary of orthodox church

by **MARCUS WHITE**
Cook/Orr Editor

BRAMBLE—Homesteading communities across the Midwest have come and gone leaving little behind of what once was.

While many in northeastern Minnesota have forgotten the days when farms and ranches dotted this remote portion of the Littlefork River Valley, this small community in southeastern Koochiching County continues to preserve a most visible symbol of their early heritage.

Many small, rural communities have lost their churches over the years as the early homesteaders who cleared the forests and farmed their poor fields for a time eventually moved on in hopes of an easier life, leaving their houses of worship to fall into disrepair.

But dedication from a small group

See...**CHURCH** pg. 12



Rev. Radomir Plavsic and Rev. Kristijan Petrovich lead the 100th anniversary mass at St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Bramble. photos by Fred Schumacher

TOWER HARBOR

Council sets deadline for new town home agreement

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here set a late September deadline for the development group led by Orlyn Kringstad to sign a revised development agreement for town homes at the city’s harbor or the city will cancel the project.

The agreement would require the developers to take on significant additional financial risk, since it would leave them potentially on the hook for the cost of public infrastructure if the project failed to move forward.

Under the original agreement, the city had agreed to pay for the full cost of public infrastructure, mostly through grants from the IRRRB and the state Department of Employment and Economic Development. But estimated costs have risen sharply and the city has been less successful than anticipated in obtaining outside funds to assist with project costs.

“In order to protect the city, the letter of credit was asked for, so if something went awry, we wouldn’t be sitting on three-quarters of a million dollars of infrastructure,” said Mayor Josh Carlson, who acknowledged the requirement was not part of the original development agreement.

The city’s deadline comes barely a month after permits and platting for the project were finally approved, which means the project could potentially move forward to actual sales if the dispute over the development agreement could be resolved.

The council’s action appeared to be a reaction to Kringstad’s recent decision to file for mayor in the fall election. Council member Kevin Fitton questioned whether Kringstad was committed to the development given his plans to divest himself from the town home project in order to avoid any conflict of interest as mayor. “How is that supposed to increase our confidence that you will complete the project?” Fitton asked. Kringstad said his partners on the project would be taking over the project in his place.

See...**TOWER** pg. 9



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Alango High School all-class reunion on Friday, Aug. 31

ALANGO- Annual all-class reunion of Alango High School will be held on Friday, Aug. 31 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Alango High School, at the corner of Hwy. 22 and Cty. Rd. 25. Potluck lunch with a \$5 per person fee to be put in school up-keep fund. Special guests this year are class of 1958 celebrating 60 years. If you attended Alango High School even one day you are invited to attend this reunion. For questions, call Joyce Rude at 218-741-0683.

5-Oh! to play at Community Night Out, Sept. 9 at the Seitaniemi Housebarn

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage of Embarrass is celebrating their annual Community Night Out on Sunday, Sept. 9 from 4-7 p.m. at the historic Seitaniemi Homestead. Come for a free concert, tours of the housebarn restoration project, visiting with friends and neighbors, and good food. Chili, cornbread, hot dogs, homemade pie, coffee and soft drinks will be for sale, or bring your own picnic to enjoy on the lawn. The musical entertainment will be 5-Oh! of Ely, consisting of Rob Mattson on guitar and bass, John Ely on steel guitar, dobro and bass, and Bill Bulinski on guitar.

Freewill donations will be gladly accepted. All proceeds go to Sisu's restoration projects in Embarrass and the surrounding area. The Seitaniemi Homestead is located on Comet Rd. in Waasa. Watch for signs on Hwy 21. Call 218-984-3402 with any questions.

Books for sale at Antique Boat Show, on Sunday, Sept. 2

COOK- Authors Courtney Yasminah and Dale Mulfinger will be selling their Lake Vermilion related books at the Lake Vermilion Antique Boat show at the Landing on Sunday, Sept. 2, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

"A Girl Named Sidney" by Yasminah chronicles a year in the life of a high school senior who runs away from her Chicago home to live by herself in her grandfather's seasonal cabin near Tower.

"The Family Cabin" by Mulfinger highlights 37 cabins, new and old, from across North America, including the Baker Cabin on Lake Vermilion and the Dahl Cabin on Elbow Lake.

Fest du Nord at Camp du Nord this weekend, Aug. 31 - Sept. 2

ELY- The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, a leading nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, will hold the seventh annual Fest du Nord, a family-friendly music festival at YMCA Camp du Nord near Ely, on Labor Day weekend, Aug. 31 - Sept. 2.

Fest du Nord, founded and hosted by Minnesota's own John Munson, is the perfect way to close out the summer with beloved local musicians on the idyllic shores of Burntside Lake, and to support YMCA Camp du Nord, a camp that brings together generations of families to strengthen relationships and create unforgettable memories to share for a lifetime.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs, food (some food and beverages will be available for cash purchase) and blankets. Tickets are now available and can be purchased online at <http://festdunord2018.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Ticket costs are Adult (ages 15+) weekend pass - \$50; Friday night only (all ages) - \$5; Adult (ages 15+) Saturday or Sunday only - \$30; Child (ages 4-14) Saturday or Sunday only - \$15; No charge for children ages 0-3.

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TOWER

Tower's Your Boat Club hosting free Labor Day Bash on Sunday, Sept. 2



Tower's old marina, now owned by Your Boat Club and operated as a full-service marina, has new docks and slips, and renovations are underway on the marina building. photo by M. Helmberger

by **MARCUS WHITE**
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER - The new owners of the former Standing Bear Marina are inviting the local community to a Labor Day party this Sunday afternoon from 12 noon - 6 p.m.

The Minneapolis-based Your Boat Club bought the marina earlier this year and has worked to make improvements including new docks and renovated offices.

"It's part of three-year plan to redo the marina," operations manager Brian Maxey said. We're new to the area and we have locals who work here. We are inviting whoever wants to stop by to see the improvements on the marina and introduce ourselves to the community."

Maxey said Your Boat Club managers from not only Minnesota, but also Wisconsin and Illinois, will be on hand to meet attendees.

The new boat club not only pro-

vides traditional marina services, but also has boats for rent and to book through a membership program.

The party will feature a pig and corn roast along with games and live music.

Attendees can either drive to the event via the entrance off of Marina Dr. on Hwy. 169, or can dock their boats at the marina.

There is no cost to attend the event.

Duluth singer-songwriter Sara Thomsen will perform at Hidden Valley Chalet, Sept. 8

ELY- Twin Ports singer-songwriter Sara Thomsen will perform in concert at 7 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 8 at the Hidden Valley Chalet, 1340 Hidden Valley Rd. in Ely (1/2 mile east of Ely). Admission is \$15 at the door, \$10 for students. Although reservations are not required, calls to 218-365-3346 to let organizers know you are coming are appreciated. Guests are welcome to bring appetizers and/or beverages to share during intermission.

Thomsen is based out of Duluth/Superior, where she has been dubbed by the local press as "one of Northern Minnesota's best kept secrets." She is the founder and artistic director of both the non-audition Echoes of Peace Choir, and the vocal trio Three Altos. "The singer picks up the torch carried by the balladeers of decades past - Joan Baez, Pete Seeger, Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, and Peter, Paul, and Mary"

writes the DuluthReader Weekly. "She could make Conan the Barbarian drophissword and collapse blubbering."

"The kind of music she's making is well-crafted, sung beautifully, and recorded immaculately," states the Duluth News Tribune. Thomsen is an excellent songwrit-



er, winning awards that include a Woody Guthrie Songwriting Award for "Precious Waters;" the

Minnesota Folk Festival's New Folk Songwriting Award "Irene Marguerite" and "Keepin' the Peace;" and the Public Domain Foundation's national Music To Life Songwriting award for "Is It For Freedom." With eight albums to her credit, Thomsen is currently working on her ninth.



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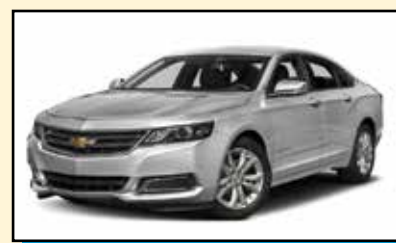
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TUESDAY GROUP

Attorneys cite legal battles over Trump environmental moves

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Two environmental attorneys were in Ely last week to update the Tuesday Group about their work to protect the Boundary Waters against the potential threats posed by sulfide-ore copper-nickel mining.

Alison Flin of The Wilderness Society and Erin Whalen of Earthjustice told area residents that the proposed Twin Metals project is currently in court, where key decisions are likely to be made.

Becky Rom, a local lawyer and BWCWA advocate, introduced the speakers. “You all heard the science and the science is clear. We all know the industry and their practices are clear,”



Alison Flint



Erin Whalen

she said. “The argument that we need copper mining for jobs is not substantiated by a recent independent economic report. We need the best (lawyers) in the business and we have them.”

Whalen said she is part of a group that has “104 active lawsuits” against the Trump administration, although she said she could not discuss many details of the ongoing litigation. “The government acted without

authority and did so arbitrarily because their decision was based on an incorrect interpretation of the law,” she said.

Flint said she has “worked for decades at the national level” to champion environmental causes. “Everyone is now in court and we’ll see how all that plays out,” she said.

Twin Metals Minnesota is currently allowed to continue exploration of a proposed underground mine project southeast of Ely under an order signed by President Trump.

“It can be demoralizing, but I remain optimistic and energized. We have no choice but to keep fighting to protect this unparalleled place,” Flint said.

The Wilderness Society is the leading conservation orga-

nization working to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for the nation’s wild places.

Earthjustice is the nation’s premier nonprofit environmental law organization, regularly taking on some of the largest, precedent-setting cases in the country.

During a brief question and answer period, local sulfide mining supporter Mike Banovetz cited an academic article from a Maryland professor in the journal, Feminist Theory, that defines “eco-sexual” as “a person that finds nature sensual or sexy that takes the earth as their lover” and to use “environmentally-friendly sex products” or “to have sex with nature itself.”

He went on to cite the article, saying “defecating outside is a

form of eco-sexuality.” At this point, many in the audience began to shout down Banovetz. “My question to you, is this the underlying reason for constant litigation by you, your organization and your supporters?”

Flint answered, “I don’t think that justifies a response.”

Later in the conversation, another audience member responded to Banovetz’s comments, “These are public meetings and most of the public comes here come with the desire to learn and understand. And for those who come to ridicule and insult, I challenge you to come openly because you are welcome and be open to what is being discussed. You don’t have to agree with it, but be respectful.”

CITY OF TOWER

Election snafu, mayoral fireworks highlight special meeting

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — A normally routine special city council meeting this past Thursday, to certify primary election results here, offered some apologies and subsequent fireworks as the city grappled with the fallout from the Aug. 14 election snafu.

Mayor Josh Carlson acknowledged that 25 voters in the city received the wrong ballots, potentially disenfranchising those voters, depending on a final decision by St. Louis County election officials. Indeed, the election results certified by the council did not appear to include the results from voters who were mistakenly provided ballots from the city’s uninhabited Precinct Two even though they reside in Precinct One. The

city’s two precincts lie within two distinct legislative districts, which have slightly different ballots during some elections, including this year’s primary.

Carlson said City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith, who oversees the city’s elections, had developed some steps that she believes will help ensure that a similar error won’t occur again.

Keith suggested again that the county’s process played a role in the incident. “One of the things that we find just completely astonishing is that there is no packing slip that comes with the boxes,” she said, referring to the box of election materials that the county delivers just ahead of the election. “We are going to generate a packing slip so we know what we’ve got,” she added. She said in the future, the ballots will be pulled out and separated and

will be triple-checked by her, the deputy clerk, and the election judges to be sure that the ballots for the city’s two precincts are not interspersed.

Resident Steve Wilson, who was the voter who first recognized that the election officials were providing the wrong ballots to voters, was present at the meeting and said he was pleased that the city was taking the matter seriously. Wilson said he was really disappointed to learn that he has potentially lost his vote. “I take voting so seriously and I never ever want to experience this again,” he said. Again, I’m glad you’re taking steps to address it and I hope you’ll continue to monitor the situation for any sign of something going wrong in the future.”

“We hear you,” said council member Brooke Anderson, who

apologized for the incident.

“I appreciate that, Brooke,” Wilson responded.

Carlson said he believed that the incident was an honest mistake that involved no ill will on the part of city election officials and he said he didn’t believe any punishment or other type of accountability was warranted.

Wilson suggested training was a key to preventing it in the future. “One thing that was striking when I brought it to the attention of all the election judges that I had a 6B ballot, none of them were aware, apparently, that there were two different ballots to begin with.”

With the council’s approval of the vote tally, the meeting’s only agenda item was complete. But a visibly angry Carlson used the next 20 minutes to lambaste Timberjay Publisher Marshall

Helmberger for an editorial in last week’s newspaper that criticized the city council for what the newspaper described as its “lackadaisical oversight role” of city operations. “Make no mistake about it,” said Carlson, referring to the editorial. “I’m pissed.”

Carlson said he took “particular exception” to the suggestion in the editorial that the city’s decision-making was lacking in transparency, since the council routinely makes decisions, even on major items, without any questions or discussion at council meetings.

“The fact that we do not sit here and squabble or ask stupid questions that should have already been researched before the meeting and make

See FIREWORKS...pg. 5

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OPINION

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Editorial

Harbor project secrecy

City council members express frustration and misinformation over town homes

The lack of transparency in the operation of the city of Tower’s harbor committee came home to roost on Monday as members of the city council, who have been left out of the loop, expressed frustration with the lack of information they’ve received about the project. Inaccurate and inflammatory statements, particularly by council member Kevin Fitton at Monday’s city council meeting, highlighted the lack of understanding that too many councilors have about the project, which needlessly puts the development at risk.

Fitton’s misunderstandings about the reasons behind delays in the project, as well as its finances, reflect the problems inherent in the secrecy that has shrouded the functioning of the harbor committee for at least the past two years. Most councilors clearly have only a limited understanding of the agreements that have been reached between the harbor committee and the project developers and of the factors behind ongoing delays.

It’s no surprise that councilors have questions, since the three official members of the harbor committee, Mayor Josh Carlson, City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith, and Steve Altenburg, have plainly failed to keep fellow council members apprised of the project’s twists and turns. Virtually no documentation of the committee’s activities is available since the committee takes no minutes and rarely provides any kind of written report of their activities to the council. And councilors can’t always rely on news reports in the *Timberjay* since the committee has repeatedly held unscheduled meetings without informing the newspaper, in violation of the state’s Open Meeting Law.

Some council members, particularly Fitton, seemed to harbor serious misunderstandings of the town home project and how it has evolved since Orlin Kringstad and his development team first responded to a city Request for Qualifications in late 2015. At that time, the city was seeking only architectural, planning, marketing, and construction services for a town home project in which the city’s economic development authority would serve as developer. It was only after Kringstad’s group was brought to the table that the harbor committee changed the deal, insisting that his company, Tower Vision 2025, assume the developer role for the project. Under that

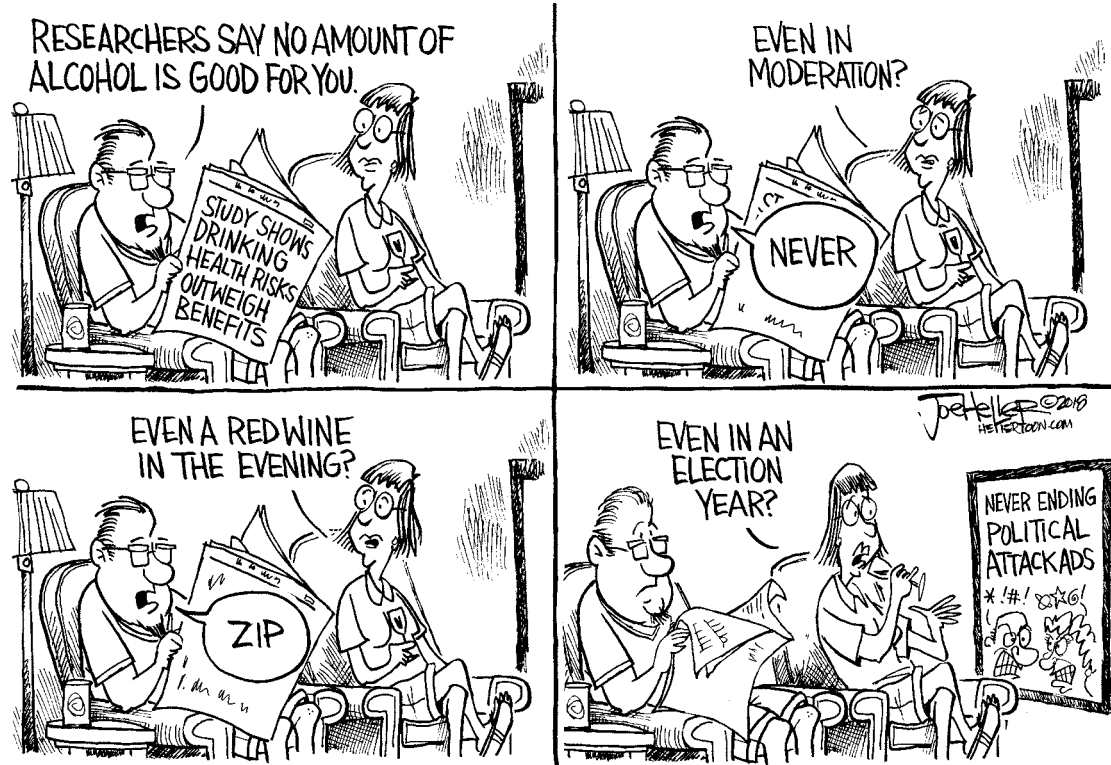
new arrangement, the city agreed that it would finance all the public infrastructure, such as water, sewer, roads, and other utilities. While initially reluctant to take on the new role, because of the added financial risk for his company, Kringstad and his partners did agree to the city’s request.

At Monday’s meeting, Fitton falsely accused Kringstad of coming with his hand out seeking the city’s help in paying for the public infrastructure. Fitton had it exactly backwards. In fact, it was the city that strained the relationship with Tower Vision 2025 this spring by changing the deal yet again, insisting that Tower Vision take on even more risk by backstopping the city’s costs for public infrastructure through a letter of credit or similar bond. This, after Kringstad’s group had already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on architectural designs, floor plans, marketing, legal work, and much more under the terms of the original development agreement, which included the city bearing the costs for related infrastructure.

Kringstad, to his credit, has tried to find a mutually-satisfactory resolution of the dispute. Most other developers would have simply walked away, or got the lawyers involved by this point.

Indeed, other developers have chosen to walk away. In early 2016, Bob and Diane Bremer, who have significant experience in urban redevelopment in small cities, also approached the harbor committee with plans for renovation and new construction on Main Street. The Bremers eventually gave up, however, after requests for information from the city went unanswered for months. There are other examples as well.

It’s understandable that councilors are frustrated with the slow pace of progress at the harbor since the groundbreaking 11 years ago. But lashing out at Mr. Kringstad, who has worked long hours in good faith to try to advance the city’s goals for the harbor is hardly a sensible response. Members of the council can’t blame Mr. Kringstad for their lack of understanding of the project. It’s their duty to inform themselves or find out why their own harbor committee has failed to provide them the information they need to make sensible decisions. This project is too important for the council to blow it up now.



Letters from Readers

Ely official abusive toward women presenters

On Aug. 21, at the Tuesday Group noon meeting at Grand Ely Lodge, Mike Banovetz, a member of the City of Ely Planning and Zoning Commission, publicly harassed the two presenters, who were women. They were speaking about actions their national agencies are taking to protect the BWCAW from sulfide or hard rock mining.

After their presentation, they took questions. Planning commission member Banovetz, who had been recording the meeting on what I take was an iPhone or similar device, was recognized, and he proceeded to read something that he said was from a feminist environmental publication. The gist seemed to be love of nature and connecting with nature in an intimate way. He read about masturbation under waterfalls and other graphic references.

This obviously did not correspond to the topic of mining and could only have been intended to intimidate or cast aspersions on the presenters as women and tie them to something unrelated to their organizations. Overall, it was ludicrous and a bad reflection on our community.

The Ely City Council has adopted a policy regarding such inappropriate behavior by any of its members, and I would urge the same policy be extended to commission members.

Anne Uehling
Ely

Trump’s behavior shows why we need a check on his power

Our president’s behavior in reaction to John McCain’s death makes one thing absolutely clear... we need to ‘think big’ before voting for our Eighth District congressman. Typically we elect representatives based on local issues, and that’s a good thing. This year we need to look beyond the local issues. Yes, just

as in the past, there are issues that threaten to pit us against each other. But we can’t afford to focus only on those issues. Nationally, divisiveness is fever pitched. No doubt it affects us. John McCain’s death, however, reminds us just how much we all have in common and how much we all want, at some level, to honor our instinct for civility and the ‘common good.’

We can, each of us, do one very important thing to reconnect and strengthen that instinct. We can vote, in the Eighth District race specifically, to check our president’s divisive behavior. Unfortunately, it sets a tone that echoes locally. It’s evident that one of the two major parties will do nothing to trim that divisiveness. It’s also evident that the system of checks and balances only works when a single party does not dominate the Congress and Judiciary.

We have the opportunity to help provide the congressional balance needed to hold our nation’s leaders accountable. We can do our part to provide oversight and a common sense response to executive excess and just plain bizarre behavior. It’s not about partisanship. It’s about promoting compromise between parties, finding the center again, and rejecting divisiveness. It’s about the common good.

In reality, both major party candidates in the Eighth will work to solve many of our local problems. The differences between them on local issues are often exaggerated by partisan flaks pursuing votes. Only one of those candidates, however, will help achieve a new house majority needed to balance the President.

This year we need to think big. We need consider consequences beyond the district boundaries. Whatever you feel about the issues, whatever party you support, consider splitting your ticket if needed and vote a democrat to the House of Representatives in the eighth district. I think of it as an important step toward supporting McCain’s vision of civility and the common good. In this election in particu-

lar, one district and a few votes could be the difference.

Steve Anderson
Birch Lake

It might be too late for the BWCAW

It might be too late to save the Boundary Waters. During our recent canoe trip off the Gunflint Trail we found green water in Little Caribou Lake. It was so thick, something like pea soup, that we couldn’t see the blades of our paddles below the canoe.

I called the Forest Service office in Grand Marais, just to make sure, and was told that, yes, it was algae bloom. Fire and wind and flood aren’t enough, I guess. Mother Nature seems determined to use every weapon at her command to change the landscape in northern Minnesota. One of these days in the not so distant future the Forest Service will be forced to close the Boundary Waters altogether because it won’t be safe for any of us to go there.

Jim Ganahl
Cook

Where the
North Country
Sounds Off!

We want your letters!

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

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!

Just me and my Gangsta car

Recently I jumped into the epicenter of American consumerism along with 56 million others when I reluctantly came to the conclusion that I needed to replace my 21-year-old Subaru Legacy wagon. That car has been perfect for me in almost every way. It was



BETTY FIRTH

12 years old when I bought it with only 53,000 miles on it, and very clean with no rust. It was red, a color with some attitude, and it was the boxy, small wagon style I’ve always favored with plenty of room for hauling stuff without being a road hog. The salesman said somewhat apologetically, “It

has manual transmission and doesn’t have automatic windows or door locks.” Being a terrible negotiator, instead of expressing disappointment, I said, “Oh, I prefer it that way.” After a test drive and arranging for financing, I drove home, happy that finding the car was so easy. It was literally the second car I looked at.

The car served me very well for nine years with some wear and tear but the time had come to let it go when the rear

struts needed replacing. I was reluctant, for I felt we could go many more miles together, but I finally listened to advice of those more attuned to engines and auto dynamics than I.

Distrusting the safety of the struts on the highway, I asked my friend Carol if I could borrow her car to search further afield when I couldn’t find anything suitable in town. This is the third time I’ve had to do a car search without a vehicle to use, and believe me, I don’t recommend it when you

live at the end of the road without public transportation. However, it did strengthen my resolve to be very clear about my parameters, while throwing an earnest request out to the universe to make it as easy as the last time. Carol offered to be chauffeur and support team, so we headed off for a day of delving into dealerships, my stack of online notes in hand.

At our first stop, the

See **GANGSTA...**pg. 5

COMMENTARY

An open letter to the Iron Range regarding former Essar project

Dear Friends,
I am as frustrated as anyone, by all of the setbacks that have delayed completion of the former Essar Steel's taconite plant in Nashauk. When I became Governor in 2011, the project had already been plagued by several years of broken promises, missed deadlines, and lame excuses.

After another missed deadline, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources gave Essar the legally required notice that we intended to revoke the company's mineral leases of state lands in Nashauk. Instead, Essar filed for bankruptcy, which under federal law blocked our actions and transferred control of the project's future to a bankruptcy court judge in Delaware. We were enormously frustrated by this maneuver; but we had

no choice, other than to abide by federal law.

After several months of legal filings, the judge asked for bids from anyone who wanted to buy ownership of the project, pay off existing creditors, finish building the plant, and begin to produce pellets. In June 2017, the judge ruled that Chippewa Capital Partners, headed by an East Coast businessman named Thomas Clarke, had made the best offer. He was awarded ownership of Mesabi Metallics, which included Essar's mineral leases with



GOV. MARK DAYTON

the DNR. At first, the new owners and their plans to finish construction and begin production looked promising. Importantly, they paid Iron Range contractors \$46 million that they were owed for their previous work. All of the

required steps to retain the state mineral leases post-bankruptcy, including contracts to complete the site's construction, \$850 million debt and equity investment, and offtake agreements for the pellets, were represented by Mr. Clarke to have been completed by the June 30, 2018 deadline.

It was only afterward that we were told about an internal conflict between Mr. Clarke and his equity partner, a company named Nubai Global Investment in the country of Dubai. That dispute went to another federal court, where the judge awarded control of Mesabi Metallics to the Nubai investors.

I met on Aug. 16 with Mr. Gary Heasley, designated by Nubai as Mesabi Metallics' Chief Executive Officer. He expressed his intent to resume construction and begin producing taconite pellets as soon as possible. He also confirmed his strong commitment to completing the required value-added iron

ore component at the site.

Like you, I have heard all of this before: from Essar, from a previous group of investors (SPL), and from Mr. Clarke. I hope this time it will be different. However, I fully realize that everyone, myself included, has been burned so many times that we are cautious about new promises. Only restarting construction will provide the proof we are all looking for.

I understand some people's desire to pull the state's mineral leases from this project and transfer them to Cleveland Cliffs. Unfortunately, such a switch would not be nearly as simple as some are saying. Cliffs had the chance to take ownership of the project, including the state's mineral leases, in the bankruptcy proceedings. However, the federal judge ruled in favor of Chippewa Capital Partners' bid, and transferred the ownership to them.

The bankruptcy judge made that decision, not the state of

Minnesota. We own land with iron ore deposits that have been leased to the owners of this project; however, we do not own the project, the facilities, or any part of the company that does.

It is unfair to blame "The DNR" for these problems. If you need someone to blame, blame me. I have been closely involved with the DNR Commissioner and his staff at every step of this tortured path. We have also communicated frequently with Range legislators and with Itasca County leadership. Neither the DNR nor I have been trying to tell anyone on the Range what to do. Rather, we have done our very best to work in partnership to complete this project and begin producing pellets and jobs.

And that is what we will continue to do.

Mark Dayton is governor of Minnesota.

GANGSTA...Continued from page 4

salesperson couldn't find the car I'd seen online and had nothing in my price range. Was I sure it was at their location? He led us out into the lot, and I realized he was just buying time, hoping I'd fall for some other, more expensive option. Was I sure I wanted to stay under \$10,000? "Yes, quite sure, preferably under \$8,000." We proceeded to the next stop across the street; different brand, same ownership. They had only one car in my range, unsuitable for my needs, but as we were walking away, the first guy walked up and said he'd found a car in the car wash he thought I'd like. Was I still wanting to stay under \$10,000? I grinned. Yes, crossing the highway had not in any way altered my financial limits. I could see the day was going to offer some comic relief, as long as I chose to see it that way.

I need to digress here to say that I know very little about cars, and I don't

find much about them very interesting unless they're a cool color. I want a car that's functional and dependable. I don't need glitz and gadgets and actually dislike seats that are leather or heated. I do like colors with a bit of sass, and hoped for anything but white or black, but here I was, plopped in a used car market flooded with white, silver/grey, or black vehicles. A bit of research revealed that people really do prefer these colors even when they aren't limited by a \$8,000-\$10,000 ceiling and someone else's original choice of color: 23 percent prefer silver, 15 percent prefer white, and 12 percent prefer black... that's 50 percent of all the cars on the road. I counted nine dark gray cars in a row this morning. One of them was mine.

What happened to people's sense of aesthetic adventure? With all the luscious colors in the spectrum, why not go a

little wild? A paint expert theorizes that silver and grey reflect our fascination with technology, but I'll bet it's just a lot cheaper to have three huge vats of paint than to keep cleaning them out and changing colors and use the money to pay someone to come up with names like oyster, egg shell, igloo white, palm oyster, glacier white, egg white white, polar bear white, bianco eldorado, silver, iridium silver, pearl grey, traffic grey, nimbus grey, pigeon grey, gun-metal grey, truffle mica, and duranodic. Okay, so I made some of those up, but only a few!

I have to give the guy at our next stop credit for persistence. He had 30 years in the business and was determined to sell me a Hyundai Santa Fe in excellent condition with 180,000 miles, arguing that it would have already had all the major maintenance done, although he had no proof of that. He

even said we could take it with us to lunch, which we did. I was pretty sure I couldn't get past the idea of buying a car with more mileage than the one I already owned, but I figured if we took it with us, no one would buy it out from under me in case I changed my mind.

I didn't, but the lunch break gave me time to find some online listings at the Kia dealership, so we headed there. The first one, a Kia Soul, had a rear gate that wouldn't open and smelled so bad that we wouldn't get in it. The second one started lunging when I got it up to 60 mph on the freeway. I slowed down, exited to a city street, and the car died. We waited 20 minutes in 95° heat for someone to come pick us up from the dealership five minutes away. The third car, another Santa Fe, seemed a likely bet until the air conditioning died during the test drive.

I commiserated with our salesman who just graduated from high school: "It's too bad you can't legally drink, because after this day, you could probably use one." Carol and I had a delicious meal at the Duluth Grill and headed home.

Discouraged, I laid low for a couple weeks, then ventured online again. I found a Chevy HHR, which I'd never seen or heard of, and did some research. It was less expensive with better mileage than any other SUV I'd seen, had only 76,000 miles, looked boxy and spacious, and I couldn't find a bad review. So, the next day Carol and I headed

to Virginia to check it out. I test drove it and signed on the dotted line. It's a dark, metallic gray with retro styling like a getaway car from the 1940's, so I call it the Gangsta' Car, since the naming people used up all their creativity on paint colors. It has running boards, more electronics than anyone needs, and gets more radio stations than I knew were out there. I really do like those automatic locks and windows, but, best of all, the search is over.

FIREWORKS...Continued from page 3

quick, concise decisions up here does not show a lack of effort. Quite often, it's quite the opposite. I'm not exactly sure Mr. Helmberger what more you want from your city council."

"I don't know if you want me to respond," said Helmberger.

"Oh, by all means," said Carlson. "Usually it's not a two-way so I just have to listen to all the garbage you print."

Helmberger continued: "There have been so many issues over the past two years where I have frankly been mystified as to how decisions were arrived at given that the discussion that takes place at council is so limited," said Helmberger. "You're right that in the past, sometimes meetings used to take two hours. That was a fairly standard council meeting, because the discussion that you say you're having before the meetings or outside the meetings, those normally take place in a public meeting so the public is aware of the discussion and the argument and the reasons behind the decisions you make. Otherwise, all we know is that we get to a council meeting and things that we have very little information about are just being approved without

questions."

Helmberger noted that he had raised similar concerns with Carlson in the past, which had prompted similar attacks, and apparent retaliation, from Carlson. After the *Timberjay* made an issue of frequent Open Meeting Law violations by the city late last year, Carlson motioned at the next reorganization meeting to discontinue use of the *Timberjay* as its official newspaper and he removed Helmberger from the Tower Economic Development Authority. Carlson had also previously attacked Helmberger at a council meeting over an editorial he viewed as unsatisfactory.

Brooke Anderson spoke up and said she doesn't talk to other members of the council outside of public meetings. Carlson acknowledged that he and two other council members are friends and sometimes get together. "But the last thing that we are going to do is sit down at D'Ericks and have a beer and talk about what we're going to vote on Monday morning. It couldn't be further from our minds."

Carlson also took issue with the suggestion in the editorial that some council members were

eager to be off the council and had partially "checked out" from their jobs.

Carlson insisted that the council is "doing our due diligence."

"That's your opinion, I understand," responded Helmberger.

"Whether you agree with the decisions or not, that's on you," said Carlson.

Carlson then offered an extended defense of his tenure on the council and his efforts to fix what he saw as shortcomings of previous councils. He said he first ran to restore a contract with the Breitung Police Department, calling the city's previous decision to discontinue the contract "an absolute farce."

He said Hoodoo Point Campground had been left in a "hot mess."

"Not a nickel had been put into that place. It realized \$27,000 in revenue that they could use to keep the levy down with. In the past budget, we budgeted \$60,000. That's helped with city bills."

Carlson cited road projects, such as North Second, Main Street, and the Pine St. bridge, all of which involved county or state funding.

Councilor Lance Dougherty noted that the city had gone through a complete staff turnover.

"Twice," added Carlson.

Carlson said he would look back at the end of his term "and feel pretty darn good about what we've accomplished."

Steve Altenburg said the council has also paid down a considerable amount of unfunded city debt, which Keith said totaled nearly half a million dollars. Dougherty said the council had also begun setting aside funds for future replacement of city vehicles, something he said had not taken place before.

Carlson also chastised Helmberger for attempting to influence city decisions. "I said from day one when I was elected mayor that I'm going to run this council and run these meetings. That will hold true for the last four months of this term. I've always said there's no way in hell that I will let you run this city from behind that desk at the *Timberjay*. You want that opportunity, you've got until October 5th to take up residence in this town and you can run a write-in campaign."

"That's not my purpose," responded Helmberger, who Carlson quickly cut off by adjourning the meeting.

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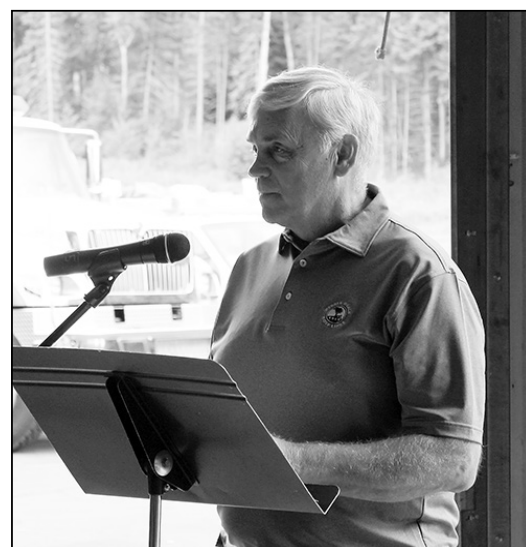
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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

40th Anniversary Celebration draws over 350



Over 350 community members and friends (above) stopped by the Greenwood Town Hall last Saturday to celebrate the township's 40th anniversary. The township's first chairman, Lorne Turner (far right) talked to the crowd, and members of the Greenwood Fire Department did medical screenings (pictured at right are Rod Politano and Marilyn Mueller). The township's new playground got a workout as children and grandchildren checked out the slides, climbers, and swings.
photos by S. Ukkola



Soudan Baptist and the community says goodbye to Pastor Gary and Lynn Watts



Soudan Baptist Church was filled from top to bottom as the community came by to wish a happy retirement to Pastor Gary Watts during an afternoon reception with a musical program held on Aug. 26. The couple will be moving to the Twin Cities area. Both Gary and Lynn have been very active members of the Tower-Soudan community.

photo by S. Ukkola



TSHS Class of '59 to celebrate 59 years Sept. 16

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1959 is celebrating their 59th year since graduating. They are planning a casual get together on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. in the dining room at the Vermillion Club and will order off the menu. Spouses and guests are welcome. If possible, please RSVP to George Peyla at 218-753-6228 or bngpeyla@gmail.com so the VC knows how many to expect. If plans change, come even if you don't RSVP.

open to anyone in the area who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Experiencing the death of a loved one can be a very difficult experience. Learning about the grief process and having support from others can help a great deal. Please consider reserving your spot to participate. There is no cost for the group.

Discussion for the Sept. 6 group will be "What I wish others understood about my grief journey" as well as an introduction to the book club selection.

Registration is not required, however it is recommended. Please call East Range Hospice at 218-749-7975 or 1-877-851-2213 to register.

This Grief Education and Support Group is sponsored and facilitated by Essentia Health St. Mary's East Range Hospice, Patient and Family Grief Support Services.

Grief Education and Support Group meets Sept. 6 in Tower

TOWER- A monthly Grief Education Support Group is ongoing and meets the first Thursday of the month from 2 - 4 p.m., The next session will be on Thursday, Sept. 6 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 304 Spruce St. This group is

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

TS Elementary starts on Tuesday, Sept. 4

TOWER- Tower-Soudan Elementary begins classes on Tuesday, Sept. 4

Bus routes

Buses will be rolling on Tuesday, Sept. 4 to bring elementary grades 1-6 to the Tower-Soudan School. Kindergarten students will begin classes on Thursday, Sept. 6.

Attendance

The attendance policy is four excused absences per quarter. If your child has been absent, please send a note or call the office and explain why. If we do not receive a note or a phone call within 24 hours, their absence will be considered unexcused. If your child is absent for medical reasons, they must have a doctor's statement.

Food program

For the food service program, student PIN

numbers are the same as last year for returning students; new students can inquire at the office for their PIN. Beginning school year 18-19, Tower-Soudan School will no longer be implementing the CEP school breakfast and lunch programs, because the percent of students needed to qualify fell below the eligibility mark. Starting Oct. 15, 2018, students will no longer automatically receive breakfast and lunch free of charge. Households MUST complete and submit an application for educational benefits to determine if they qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

New this year, the meal application for educational benefits can be easily accessed online through your Parent Portal account. Meal applications can also be picked up from and returned to the Tower School.

Please note

If your child is going somewhere other than the usual way home, you need to send a note or call the office no later than 1 p.m. If we do not receive a call or note from you, your child will ride home on their regular route. No child will leave the school with anyone other than a parent or guardian unless a note has been sent or a phone call has been made to the office. Please send a note or call the office if you know your child will be leaving school early. The school office number is 218-753-4040.

TS Learning Readiness Open House Sept. 5

TOWER- Sneak-A-Peek at the Tower-Soudan Learning Readiness Program on Wednesday, Sept. 5 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Early Childhood classroom at Tower-Soudan Elementary.

Learning Readiness is for children who are four years old by Sept. 1. There is no cost to attend. Classes are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and last the entire school year.

Families will have an opportunity to tour the classroom with their child, meet the teacher, Mary Larson, and ask questions. There will be a brief orientation and time to complete registration. Class will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 11 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Contact Mary Larson for further information at 218-753-4040 ext. 6113 or email mlarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

ECFE Open House Sept. 6

TOWER- Early Childhood Family Education invites families with children from birth to five years old to an open house on Thursday,

Sept. 6 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School, Early Childhood Education Room.

ECFE is a two-hour educational program in three parts including a parent-child activity time when parents will have the opportunity to do hands-on activities with their children, a parent discussion time when parents meet with other parents and a licensed parent educator to discuss child development and parenting strategies, and a child-activity time when children have a chance to play and work on their social skills with a licensed early childhood educator. ECFE classes begin Thursday, Sept. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For more information, email Mary at mlarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

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FIND It Here

SENIOR DINING

New "meals on wheels" option for senior dining this year in Tower

TOWER- This year, Vermilion Country School will be providing Meals on Wheels deliveries to homebound seniors age 60 or older living in the city limits of Tower or Soudan. Meals are available Monday through Friday on days the school is in session. Cost for each meal is \$4.

To register for Meals on Wheels, or for more information, please call AEOA Senior Nutrition at 218-735-6899.

This program is funded under contract with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission's Area Agency on Aging as part of the Older Americans Act Program.

Vermilion Country School

and AEOA also sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. All meals include salad bar, fruit, choice of beverage and dessert.

Reservations are appreciated the day before, or morning of, but walk-ins are always welcome. Take-outs are available. Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$5.75. There are no income guidelines.

Meals are served from 12 noon - 1 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-753-1246, ext. 1003

for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

The menu for the first week in September is:

Monday- Labor Day- No school, no lunch served

Tuesday- Chicken Noodle Soup, Cheesy Bread Sticks, Marinara Sauce

Wednesday- Beef Fried Rice, Bread Stick, Peas

Thursday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll

Friday- Chicken Chow Mein over Brown Rice, Fortune Cookie

Klobuchar, Smith, Nolan Announce More Than \$80,000 for Infrastructure Improvements at Tower Municipal Airport

WASHINGTON, DC - Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Tina Smith, and Representative Rick Nolan today announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded Tower Municipal Airport a grant of \$81,000 for infrastructure improvements.

"These critical investments in our infrastructure help create good jobs on the Iron Range while enhancing public safety," Klobuchar said. "This award will benefit all who travel through Tower Municipal Airport."

"Airports are drivers of economic development," said Smith. "I look forward to seeing the improvements to Tower Municipal bring additional opportunities to the Iron Range."

"This funding for the Tower Municipal Airport will help strengthen our rural economy and keep our travelers safe," Nolan said. "By investing in the Tower Airport, we are investing in good-paying local jobs, tourism, fire safety, and the Iron Range."

This grant will help fund airfield guidance signage, airfield navigational aids, and perimeter fencing.

Week of Sept. 3

Monday
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m.

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

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

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (drill) and third (business meeting) Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Next meeting is Thursday, Sept. 27 at 4:45 p.m. Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

Big Truck Night on Thursday, Sept. 13



Isaac Tuchel checks out one of the Breitung Fire Department rigs at last year's Big Truck Night event. file photo

SOUDAN- Tower-Soudan ECFE and Breitung Township invite you to Big Truck Night on Thursday, Sept. 13 from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Soudan Park and Recreation Area. Come check out big rigs like

fire engines, ambulances, dump trucks, dozers and more. Hot dogs and refreshments will be available. The event is free and open to all families with young children. Contact ECFE at 218-753-4040

ext 6113 for more information. Listen to WELY for event cancellation due to inclement weather.

Read It Here

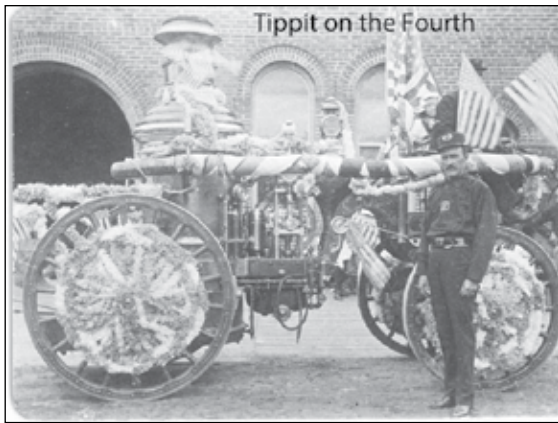
Fridays: 4-6 PM
at the train depot

TSHS annual meeting and dinner set for Tuesday, Sept. 18

TOWER- Would you like to know more about the history and future plans for the fire hall, which is the oldest historic public building north of Duluth? Please attend the Tuesday, Sept. 18, Tower-Soudan Historical Society annual meeting "Historic Fire Hall Restoration, Our History and Our Future." The meeting is free and open to the public. It will include a video tour of the fire hall, highlighting historic photos, existing conditions, and future restoration plans. Presenters will be historian Leone Graf and grantwriter Nancy Larson.

Leone Graf has a MA degree in Historic Preservation and a BS in construction, as well as extensive hands-on work experience. She has a background in historic restoration and restoration construction, has managed projects for other registered buildings and national landmarks, and is meticulous in applying her expertise and historic restoration methods in projects. She has experience as a curator with Savannah Georgia's Coastal Heritage Society and their two national landmark facilities. Currently she serves as president of the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Nancy Larson is a citizen volunteer and vice-president of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.



She has over 30 years of community and economic development experience. She directed the St. Louis County Community Development and Housing activities for 16 years and facilitated the development of several housing projects in northern Minnesota. She was instrumental in establishing and managing the St. Louis County Housing and Redevelopment Authority for 15 years. Currently she is the CEO of Community Coaching Inc., a planning and development and health/wellness corporation in Minnesota. She assists nonprofit organizations and communities in planning and creating projects, and develops grant applications to secure financing. Larson grew up in Tower and has many memories of the Tower fire hall when it served as Tower's recreation building. She travels each winter and lives in Soudan and

Lake Vermilion's Ely Island in the summer.

The event will be held at the Tower Civic Center and starts with social time at 5 p.m. There will be a silent auction. The free presentation focusing on the historic fire hall starts at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at approximately 6:30 p.m. and features a champagne chicken and beef au jus buffet catered by Chef Marko Stefanich. There is a \$15 cost (payable that evening) for the dinner, which is open to all. Dinner reservations are required and must be made in advance; please call TSHS at 218-753-5021 by Monday, Sept. 10, and leave a message with your name, phone contact, and number of attendees.

Immediately following dinner, members of the Historical Society will hold their annual meeting with a summary of the year's activities, election of board members, and voting on a bylaws amendment.

TSHS membership dues for 2019 will be accepted at the annual meeting. A single membership is \$10, and a family membership is \$20.

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the TIMBERJAY



The Tower-Soudan Timberjay and Cook-Orr Timberjay are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website at www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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Official Newspaper:

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

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

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

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Libraries

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

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St.
WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, Ledgerock Community Church, Ely - use 15th Street entrance.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.
BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St..
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Ely Community Center Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tower by appointment.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS
Gardner Humanities Trust offers grants

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust's second grant cycle of the year has a grant application deadline of noon on Friday, Oct. 26.
"The Trust has again spent some time reviewing a couple of the grant applications," said Keiko Williams, the Trust's executive director. "The Trust tries to review and update different grant programs each year so that the guidelines and application are more clear."

Applicants should note that the Individual Artist and organization Project Grants have been updated. Youth Grant applicants are reminded that they need to schedule a grant review meeting with Williams in order to go over their draft application. "This should really help the individual youth to make their applications as compelling as possible," she said. Youth Grant applicants must call and schedule their grant review meeting by Monday, Oct. 1.

Artists and groups can apply for grants in the



Watercolor class at the Ely Public Library, taught by Dafne Caruso, as "community impact" portion of her Trust Individual Artist Grant.

following four categories:
> Individual Artist Grants encourage developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending, concrete opportunity;
> Organization Project Grants support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. Grant support is

intended to make it possible for organizations to present or produce a fine arts activity;
> Youth Grants are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts. The youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes,

lessons or mentorships;
> Operational Funding Grants fund high-quality, established Ely area organizations that produce or present fine arts activities or provide services to artists.
Individuals and organizations that would like to have a draft application reviewed can contact Williams by mid-October.

ber. The office is open for any one who would like to stop by, usually 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Grant forms and eligibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at www.gardnertrust.org. Those without internet access can contact Williams by phone at 218-365-2639 or email at info@gardnertrust.org to have an application mailed to them. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731 or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E. Chapman Street.

The purpose of the Trust shall be for the enhancement, growth and improvement of: The Ely Public Library; arts and artisans of Ely and surrounding area, to include the performing arts, the visual arts and literature; creating and funding of scholarships, educational and artistic grants; and the cultural and aesthetic environment of the city of Ely and its surrounding area.

Tuesday Group schedule

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Sept. 4 - Labor Day Break
Sept. 11 - Meet New Elyites

AROUND TOWN

World Press forum hosted in Ely



ELY - Journalists from around the world gathered here last week to hold a public roundtable discussion on foreign policy and global politics. The journalists' visit is part of the World Press Institute fellows program touring the United States this summer. Ely has been part of the tour for more than 30 years that includes New York, Washington, D.C., and other major U.S. cities.

The 2018 World Press Journalists who visited Ely include:
> Josefina Pagani, Argentina, agricultural and economics reporter for La Nacion newspaper in Buenos Aires;
> Rafael Gregorio, Brazil, political reporter and editor for Folha de S.Paulo newspaper in São Paulo;
> Yana Nikolova, Bulgaria, reporter and special correspondent for

NOVA TV in Sofia;
> Jenny Jannari, Finland, head of staff for Kauppalehti Optio business magazine in Helsinki;
> Jalees Andrabi, India, special correspondent for Agence France Presse news agency in New Delhi;
> Lidiana Rosli, Malaysia, business journalist at New Straits Times newspaper in Kuala Lumpur;
> Saw Nang Lwin,

Myanmar, reporter and producer for The New York Times newspaper in Mandalay;
> Joana Azevedo Viana, Portugal, digital desk editor for Renascença Multimedia Group in Lisbon;
> Alexey Kovalev, Russia, managing editor for Coda Story Russian online digital media in Moscow.

the TIMBERJAY

The Ely Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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

Official Newspaper: City of Orr, Townships of Bearville, Breitung, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.

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

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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

Highway 1 traffic restricted

REGIONAL - A resurfacing and culvert repair project on Hwy 1 continues in Lake County. Motorists traveling on Hwy 1 between Finland and Isabella will be restricted to a single lane of traffic controlled by flaggers as a resurfacing and culvert repair project continues.

The lane restrictions will be in effect through late September.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2018



intense horseshoe match anxious for the clink times two a double ringer

OUR COMMUNITY



Kids flock to Ely Folk School's canoe event
'Youth & Family Day' at the Ely Folk School's birch bark canoe project last Wednesday drew dozens of kids and adults from Ely Community Resource and the Wild Within Daycare. Activities included crafting miniature canoes and canoe paddles and paddling a traditional Ojibwe bark canoe at Semer's Park beach. Mayor Chuck Novak greeted families, canoe artisan Erik Simula explained how bark canoes are made and Ojibwe youth from the Bois Forte community shared drum songs led by Jordan Gawboy. A special guest was Erik Torch with the Northland Foundation that helped support this summer's EFS birch bark canoe project. A similar event is planned for Saturday, Sept. 15 at the Bois Forte Tribal Center on Lake Vermilion, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is invited. photo by Brad Carlson

OUTDOOR THEATER



Sod House Theater comes to Ely

ELY- Sod House Theater presented a bluegrass-infused adaptation, of "An Enemy of the People," in Ely last weekend. The production played at Semer's Park pavilion on Saturday and Sunday.

Written by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Darcey Engen, Luverne Seifert, Brian Laidlaw, and Ashley Hanson, Sod House Theater will join forces with local talent to celebrate summer and community through the experience of live, site-specific theater.

The classic play, "An Enemy of the People," examined how a community responds when a local doctor threatens to expose that the water it relies upon for tourism is being poisoned. The play questions how far a community will go to protect their town's secret in order to avoid financial ruin.

"We've chosen communities to perform that have recently experienced water pollution issues, and whose lakes and rivers are a major contributor to their

The shore of Shagawa Lake at Semer's Park was the setting for a production by Sod House Theater last weekend. photos by K. Vandervort

tourism economy," said Luverne Seifert, co-artistic director of Sod House Theater. After each performance, water experts from local organizations facilitated conversations centered on local water issues in hopes that the play and community dialogue will inspire water conservation.

Sod House Theater is a Minneapolis based theater group that tours professional productions

to greater Minnesota communities. Founded in 2011 by co-artistic directors Darcey Engen and Luverne Seifert, Sod House has presented several reimagined classics including, "The Cherry Orchard," "The Visit," "Peer Gynt," "Urinetown," and the original "Hoopla Train with Yard Master Yip and his Polkastra."



Ely Public Library

Ely Library events for September

Preschool Storytime - every Friday morning at 11 am.

Monday, Sept. 3 - Library Closed for Labor Day
Wednesday, Sept. 5 - 6 p.m. - Adult Summer Reading Party - for adults

This event is for adults who participated in the summer reading program. We will gather for discussion of books read over the summer, some snacks, and prizes for those who met their goal. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Friday, Sept. 7 - 6:30 p.m. - Land of Stories Late Night - for grades 4-8

Do you know Queen Red Riding Hood? How many things have you collected for your wishing spell? Come for a night of fairy tales and magic - trivia, games, and a special team puzzle. You will need to fill out a registration form in advance for this event as numbers will be limited. Sign up early to be sure to be on the team that you want. Contestants will also be required to place their phones and other personal items into a locked container for part of the evening (similar to doing an Escape Room). We encourage you to dress up for the evening. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Monday, Sept. 10 - 3 p.m. - Friends of the Library Book Discussion - for teens and adults

The title for discussion is *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn. You do not need to be a member of Friends of the Library to attend.

Thursday, Sept. 13 - 3:30 p.m. - Movie Matinee: *Curious George* - for all ages

Looking for a fun way to spend the afternoon? Join us for popcorn and a movie at our monthly Movie Matinee series. Each month we have a fun family-friendly movie for you to enjoy in our meeting area. This month's title is *Curious George*. We'll have the popcorn ready for you. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Friday, Sept. 21 - 3:30 p.m. - Pinterest Projects - all ages

A program for creative patrons of all ages. This is part of a series of programs based on a crafting theme. The theme for this month is CDs. This is the perfect craft session for you if you find yourself pinning lots of ideas on Pinterest that you never go back and use. The library will supply materials. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Friday, Sept. 28 - 6:30 p.m. - NASA@MyLibrary: Apollo Missions to the Moon - elementary to adult

Learn a little more about how NASA went to the moon and what they found there. We'll take a virtual look at how materials brought back from the moon are studied and the special storage areas in JSC's lunar lab. We will have a lunar sample disc at this program for people to look at actual moon rocks and regolith (soil) samples that the astronauts brought back. This program will be geared toward teens and adults, but interested elementary students are welcome. This program is part of our NASA@MyLibrary partnership. The NASA@MyLibrary project is led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. Partners include the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, Pacific Science Center, Cornerstones of Science, and Education Development Center. NASA@MyLibrary is made possible through the support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate as part of its STEM Activation program. Lunar sample disc on loan from NASA.



BACK TO SCHOOL



Ely Washington Elementary School student Lucy Lutherns was helped by her mom, Devon, last week in finding her name on the classroom assignment list for the new school year. All Ely students begin their first day of classes on Tuesday, Sept. 4. photo by Keith Vandervort

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Crane Lake News and Labor Day events by the Singing Teapot Dames



Labor Day weekend is upon us. How did it get here so quickly? Traditionally, this weekend is the last hurrah of summer. Labor Day in the United States is a public holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September. It honors the American labor movement and the contributions that workers have made to the strength, prosperity, laws and well-being of the country. Speeches are usually made followed by picnics and barbecues. Those of us living on the lake notice a real slow down of activity after Labor Day weekend. Don't get too depressed, however, we still have plenty of celebrating to do.

Don't forget the Crane Lake Labor Day Events beginning:

Friday, Aug. 31

Fish fry at Voyageaire Trading Post Run beginning at Andersons to pick up your map

Saturday, Sept. 1

Pancake Breakfast at the Chapel

Guided Trail Hike by Lori Sanborn

Arrowhead Hunt at Pine Point Lodge

Music at Voyageaire

Sunday, Sept. 2

5th Annual 5K walk/run at Nelson's Resort beginning at 9 a.m.

Registration the day of race at Nelson's Resort from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Prior registration guarantees a race hat. Pre-registration call 218-993-2295

The Crane Lake 5K Run/Walk has registration of \$25. For adults 12 and under, \$20. For under 5, free. The race is followed by Nelson's Bloody Mary Bar

Nondenominational Church Services, Crane Lake Chapel 11:30 a.m. Come as you are

Ice Cream Social and Trading Post Run Awards at Handberg's Marine

There will be Labor Day sales at area gift shops all weekend

Join in all the fun of an end-of-summer weekend. If you wish for more information, visit cranelake.com, click activities, news and events.

Saturday night the sky was alive with lightning bolts and a downpour of much needed rain. What is lightning? The occurrence of a natural electrical discharge of very short duration and high voltage between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud accompanied by a bright flash and typically also thunder. Clouds may look fluffy and innocent, but they are actually active places.

At their most exciting, they can create the wondrous effect of lightning. At any time there are over 2,000 thunderstorms occurring

worldwide, each producing over a 100 lightning strikes a second. That's over 8 million lightning bolts every day. Each lightning flash is about three miles long but only about a centimeter wide. A lightning strike discharges about 1-10 billion joules of energy and produces a current of 30,000 – 50,000 amps. A single lightning bolt unleashes as much energy as blowing up a ton of TNT. A strike is actually made up of between three and twelve individual lightning 'strokes,' each lasting only a few thousandths of a second.

The storm did not dampen the spirit of the wedding for Harvey Parvi and Robin Hoyt at Nelson's Resort. The vows were recited in the lovely setting under pines in Nelson's yard. Pastor Craig Haberman officiated with the Lost Walleye Band providing musical entertainment. Hors d'oeuvres and dinner followed the ceremony with the band again performing for dancing and listening pleasure. It was a packed house, with many out of state guests. Everyone wishes Robin and Harvey many years of happiness.

Best wishes and congratulations are also sent to Emily Huggins and Michael Schwanke, who became husband and wife last weekend. They are planning on residing in the Crane Lake area. Welcome to the new couple, as well as hopes for a long and happy union. It is exciting to have some newly wed couples moving into the area.

We end this week's news with honors and a flag lowered on the passing of John McCain, a true war hero. The Dames are fans of McCain and Jeopardy so we add this McCain trivia. John McCain appeared on the classic quiz show, "Jeopardy!" in 1965, two years before becoming a prisoner of war in Vietnam and many years before his election to Congress. McCain, well-read and a trivia buff, won the first day's competition but lost the next day by failing to answer the Final Jeopardy question correctly. So, what was the Final Jeopardy question that tripped him up? The category was Literature, and the question was: "Cathy loved him, but married Edgar Linton instead." Emily Brontë buffs know that the answer is Heathcliff. However, McCain could only recall the name of the book and answered incorrectly as such: "What is Wuthering Heights?" John McCain died Saturday after battling brain cancer. He was 81. The nation mourns you, may you rest in peace, John.

Let us hear from you! Send news by e-mail to info@thelakecountry.com, by fax 218-757-3533 or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233 and it will be added.

Until next week the Teapot Dames are singing off.

MUSIC AND MINES



Cast members with Minneapolis-based Mixed Precipitation theater troupe perform at Cook's Country Connection. photos by M. Roach

Einer the Miner meets Springstein in Cook

by MELISSA ROACH

Staff Writer

COOK-What does the music of Bruce Springsteen, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the ghost of Einer the Miner have in common? The answer is found in the Minneapolis-based traveling theater troupe Mixed Precipitation, and their German Operetta performance of "Dr. Falstaff and the Working Wives of Lake County."

It's the mid 1970s and taconite processing plant discharge is polluting the water, destroying the way of life for the fishermen of the northern Minnesota Lake Superior town of Mineral Bay. While the fishing industry collapses, the owners of the taconite plant threaten to close the plant if the EPA steps in to regulate the discharge and protect the water.

As fear looms and hard times set in with lay-offs, the nefarious Dr. Falstaff comes to town to take advantage of the situation, creating more chaos, pitting the residents against each other. The women of Mineral Bay come to understand the "doctor" and his



intentions of discord. With the help of the fictitious ghost of the Einer the Miner, they concoct a hilarious plan to rid the town of him.

When the judge rules in favor of the EPA water protecting regulations, the residents must come together not only save the water and fishing industry and create new jobs, but to bring the town's people back together. Weaving the music of Bruce Springsteen throughout, the performance

tackles a difficult subject with comedic remedy, and soul-searching results as the residents band together, "In time of boom and bust, brace yourselves; tricksters will make fools of all of us."

The traveling performance was made possible with grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, and funding through the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Community Notices

American Legion Post 480 selling 52 Club dinner/drawing tickets

ORR- The Orr American Legion is holding a 52 Club dinner and drawing. Tickets are \$52; one ticket admits two people. Only 260 tickets are sold, so act quickly for your 52 chances to win. The drawing will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Orr American Legion Hall. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and drawing at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the following locations in Orr and Cook: American Legion Hall, Pattenn's Café, Pelican Bay Foods, Orr Muni, Norman's One Stop, Oveson's Pelican Lake Resort and Inn, VFW Post 1757, Auto Value, and Northwoods True Value Home Center, or call 218-404-5847. Tickets are on sale in the Tower area at Benchwarmer's and Lake Vermilion Houseboats. Proceeds go to scholarships, community projects, and charities.

Cook's NWFA Gallery Events in September

Kris Musto and Jeanne O'Melia will exhibit at 210 S. River Street in Cook, Minn. on Aug. 30th throughout September Wednesday, Thursday and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sat. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Using paint, fabric and found objects Jeanne and Kris are expressing their connections and concerns through artwork that plays joyfully with what it means to be gratefully alive in this big world we share. With love for color, texture and meaning. Opening reception on Thursday, Aug. 30 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Canoe on over and celebrate the experiences and images of the 'Adventures of Jeanne and Kris' exhibit in September.

Writer's Group Begins Saturday, Sept. 8th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Call for art work

Call for Art Work for October in honor of Sue Martin. Contact Shawna at 218 780-6510 for details.

NWFA is a 501(c)3 organized in 2010 to encourage the creation, display, performance and appreciation of the arts while providing art education opportunities for all ages. In memory of Susan Martin - founder and First President of Northwoods Friends of the Arts, a special exhibit will be held as part of NWFA's Member's Show in October.

Artists, please tap your creative energy and produce a work of art in her memory and her spirited goals for NWFA. Your creation may be for display only, sold at silent auction or for sale at another fund raising event for NWFA in memory of Martin. Items can be brought to Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery or mailed to NWFA, P.O. 44, Cook MN. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Shawna Kishel, 218-780-6510, if you have questions.

The opening reception will be on Oct. 5, from 6 p.m. to 8 pm.

Rocks, Trees, and Water will be the theme and it will be open to anyone who wants to capture the spirit of the northland she loved through any medium; pottery, painting, sculpture, photography, film, music or poetry.

She was an inspiration to many, a teacher and an artist. We loved her and will miss her and want to carry on her spirit by making this an annual event.

There will also be matted prints of Susan's work for sale, with the generous permission of her family.

Susan Martin, owner of "Moosebirds" on Lake Vermilion, was the main energy inspiring the creation of Northwoods Friends of the Arts during the year of 2010. More information online at www.nwfam.org

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

40th Anniversary Celebration draws over 350



Over 350 community members and friends (above) stopped by the Greenwood Town Hall last Saturday to celebrate the township's 40th anniversary. The township's first chairman, Lorne Turner (far right) talked to the crowd, and members of the Greenwood Fire Department did medical screenings (pictured at right are Rod Politano and Marilyn Mueller). The township's new playground got a workout as children and grandchildren checked out the slides, climbers, and swings. photos by S. Ukkola



REAL ID Cards

Senator Tomassoni: Minnesota REAL ID Cards Available October 1, 2018

ST. PAUL – Senator David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) today reminded Minnesotans that REAL ID cards will soon become available.

“Minnesota remains on track to begin issuing REAL ID-compliant cards October 1,” said Sen. Tomassoni. “When available, the new cards will become an acceptable form of identification for domestic air travel and to access federal buildings. If you have questions or would appreciate additional information about the new identification cards, please contact my office by phone at 651-296-8017 or by email using the form online at www.senate.mn/senator-tomassoni.”

Frequently asked questions:

What is a REAL ID?

A Minnesota REAL ID is a federally compliant driver's license or state ID that will look similar to your current

state drivers license, but would contain security enhancements intended to prevent tampering, counterfeiting, or duplication. They also include a bar code with data currently on your card such as endorsements or restrictions.

When do you need to get a new driver's license or ID card?

Minnesotans whose driver's licenses or identification cards expire before October should plan to renew their cards as they normally would. The optional REAL ID-compliant cards will not be available in Minnesota until October.

The renewed license will be valid for four years, barring a suspension or revocation.

Minnesotans will be able to apply for a REAL ID once they are available in October.

If they choose to apply for a REAL ID before their standard license expires, an early renewal fee would be charged and an additional four years would be added to the expiration date.

What do you need to obtain a REAL ID?

You need to bring proof of identity, date of birth, and legal presence in the U.S. You also need proof of a social security number and proof of current residency in Minnesota. For more information, please go to: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/real-id/Pages/requireddocuments.aspx>.

How much do the new IDs cost?

The cost for a REAL ID is the same as a standard driver's license (\$25.25) or ID card (\$19.25). The early renewal fee, set in Minnesota law, is based on how many months the REAL ID is obtained before a person's driver's license or ID card expires.

\$2 for a renewal 17 months before expiration; \$4 for a renewal 18-29 months before expiration; \$6 for a renewal more than 29 months before expiration.

Why would I want REAL ID compliant identification card?

When they become available in Minnesota, REAL ID-compliant cards will be an accepted form of identification for domestic air travel and to

access federal facilities.

These cards can be used as a valid form of identification and for lawful driving privileges.

These cards cannot be used as border crossing documents.

If you do not plan to fly on domestic airlines or visit federal facilities, or if you do not want to provide additional proof of identity or residency, you do not need to get a REAL ID.

When will I need a REAL ID card to travel?

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security informed the Department of Public Safety that Minnesotans should be able to use their standard driver's license or ID card for domestic air travel until 2020 since the state is on track to issue REAL ID-compliant cards Oct. 1, 2018.

What can you do with an Enhanced Drivers License (EDL) that you cannot do with a REAL ID?

The EDL can be used as a U.S. border crossing document and for land and sea crossings in certain countries.

The EDL can be used for domestic air travel and to access federal facilities now.

The EDL will continue to be an acceptable form of ID for federal purposes even after REAL ID compliant

cards become available. Obtaining an EDL requires additional documentation and an interview questionnaire.

Cost: driver's license \$40.25 / ID card \$34.25.



the TIMBERJAY

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Get Informed!
Get the Timberjay!

Bookmobile schedule
Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile.
Sept. 6, 27
Nett Lake – Community Center 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Crane Lake – Ranger Station 11:15 a.m. - 12 noon
Orr – Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 - 2:30 p.m.
Kabetogama – Town Hall 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768 218-741-3840, or check our website at www.alslib.info.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Vermilion Dream Quilters meet Sept. 6

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6 in the social hall at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower.

We've all had a busy summer with one of the highlights being our Trunk Show and workshop in August. If you attended, please bring your project for Show and Tell. We all made great progress and there was at least one completed top. Moving forward, our next program will focus on Edge Finishes presented by Karen Lamppa and other guild members. As always, please bring your projects to share - we all gain inspiration when we see what is possible.

Our hostesses for September are Diane Frerichs and Michele Sherwood.

Vermilion Dream Quilters is a guild with members from throughout the Iron Range and Arrowhead Region and is open to anyone interested in quilting and creative sewing. Members encourage and instruct each other and share tips. Guests and visitors are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

Finnish Americans and Friends to meet Tuesday, Sept. 4

HIBBING- Gary Kaunonen has done extensive research and authored books on the subject of the labor struggles on the Iron Range in the early part of the last century. Everyone is invited to listen to this integral part of our area history with implications that resonate with current labor issues. The meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. (across from the Hibbing Cinema). Coffee and a social time follows the presentation.

Sons of Norway meet Sept. 6

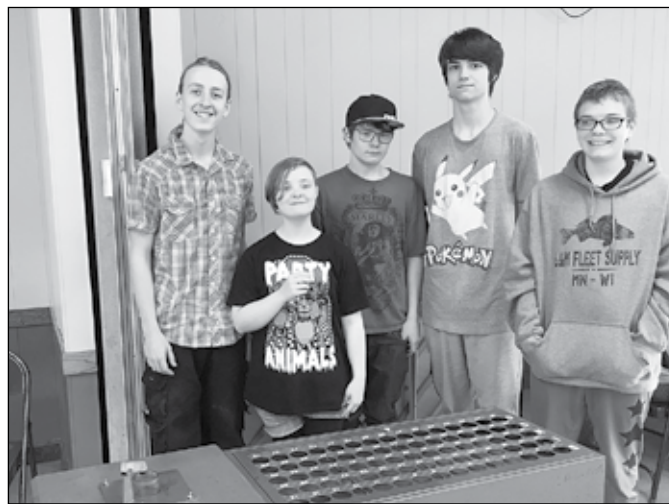
VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway, Haarfager Lodge 40, will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6 in the Virginia City Hall Clubroom for the annual Lapskaus Supper. The serving committee is Mary Yapel, Richard and Phyllis Starich, and Nancy Roseen. Anyone interested in Norwegian heritage and cultural is invited to attend.

Fiberart Guild to meet on Sept. 6

VIRGINIA- The Range Fiberart Guild will meet on Thursday, Sept. 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church located at 901 4th St. S in Virginia. Guest speaker is Sherri Kinkel, the owner of Material Girl Fabrics and Crafts in Virginia, who will talk about her product lines, services, and classes.

Joint Military Retiree Appreciation Day, Sept. 28

CARLTON- A Joint Military Retiree Appreciation Day will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28 at Black Bear Casino in Carlton. Retirees from all branches of the armed forces and their family members/guests are eligible to attend



Vermilion Country School students volunteer at bingo during the school year. The event is a fundraiser for the charter school. file photo

Bingo set for Monday, Sept. 10 at the Tower Civic Center

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, Sept. 10 at the Tower Civic Center from 11:45 a.m. - 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m.

Upcoming dates for bingo are Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3. There is no bingo in January. Bingo resumes the first Monday in February.

Bingo is cancelled in case of inclement weather. Call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 with any questions.

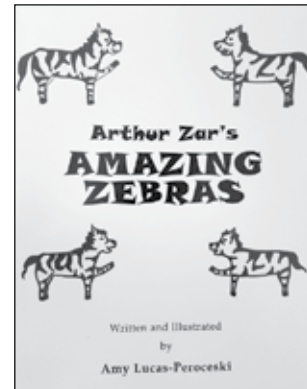
Arthur Zar's Amazing Zebras at Babbitt and Cook libraries

BABBITT- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present 321 Art Studio's "Arthur Zar's Amazing Zebras" by Amy Lucas-Peroceski, a free art and storytelling program offered for ages preschool to adult on Monday, Sept. 10 at 1 p.m. at Babbitt Public Library. The program will also be hosted at the Cook Library on Friday, Sept. 21, at 4 p.m.

Local author and artist Amy Lucas-Peroceski will read her book, "Arthur Zar's Amazing Zebras," and kids can help hunt for hidden letters in the zebras' stripes. Amy will also discuss her writing and illustration process, as well as show original notes and sketches.

The second part of the program will teach participants how to draw their own zebra on cardstock. 321 Art Studio artists will then demonstrate how to paint the zebra with water-soluble oil pastels. Adults will further enhance their zebra by adding background to their picture.

For the final 20 minutes, participants will be able to continue working on their own zebra with personalized help from artists. Questions will be



answered regarding art project materials along with the book writing and illustration process.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at alslib.info, find us on Twitter at twitter.com/ArrowheadLegacy, on Pinterest at pinterest.com/alexisleitgeb/legacy-events, or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

to receive updated information about retiree entitlement programs.

Pre-registration is required and must be accomplished by Friday, Sept. 21. The registration form is available online at http://www.mccooy.army.mil/Services/ACAP_Documents/HONORS_2018.pdf, and contains detailed information about the event. Direct any questions to 608-388-3716.

Family Forest Workshop and Field Tour, Oct. 6 at VCC

ELY- Healthy Forests, Healthy Habitat Family Forest Workshop and Field Tour is a program dedicated to the woodlands we

care for. Healthy forests are important to all of us - for the wildlife, recreation, family time, beauty, solitude, clean water and goods they provide. Learn about what makes a woodland great habitat, and find out about tools and opportunities to keep your land healthy. This event will be on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Vermillion Community College, 1900 E Camp St. in Ely.

The day will start with presentations on forest health and some of the tools available to forest landowners, followed by a catered lunch and a chance to talk with professional foresters, service providers, and other landowners. In the afternoon several nearby woodlands with examples of active forest management to improve forest health and wildlife habitat will be toured.

To register, please contact the East Range Joint Powers Board by

emailing erjpb@frontier.com or by calling 218-229-3671, so that we can plan for materials and lunch. You are encouraged to register by Tuesday, Oct. 2. All are welcome.

There is a \$10 fee at the door to help pay for lunch, materials, and transportation. We will be outdoors for part of the day, so dress comfortably for the weather. Bring your questions and something to take notes.

This event is organized by the East Range Private Forest Management Stakeholder's Group, which is a coordinated group of forest professionals from local, state, and federal agencies and non-government organizations, focused in North East Minnesota, that serve as a resource for private forest landowners to sustainably manage their forested lands and habitats.

Mesabi Community Band practice begins Sept. 6, new members welcome

MT IRON- Mesabi Community Band, under the direction of Paul Helfter, will begin rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at Merritt Elementary School in Mt. Iron. The band is in its forty-fourth year of performing concerts in Iron Range communities. The band membership consists of musicians from throughout the area, from Pongilly to Aurora, and Cook to Cotton. Members range in age from high school to mid-80s.

The band will perform on Thursday, Nov. 8 for the Our Salute to Veterans concert, and on Saturday, Dec. 8 members will join the Tuba Christmas performance.

The group is always looking for new members, especially trombone and percussion musicians. Dust off your instrument or drumsticks and join for a rewarding and enjoyable time with fellow musicians. For more information, call Holly at 218-744-5250, please leave a message.



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TOWER...Continued from page 1

“What is the current contract between Tower Vision 2025 and the city?” asked council member Lance Dougherty.

“There is no current development agreement,” responded Carlson, who noted that the previous agreement had expired and that the two parties have not come to agreement on the new terms.

Kringstad said his group had been willing to sign an extension of the agreement until the city made demands that put the developers at risk for costs the city had originally agreed to cover.

“What should have happened is that we simply changed the dates for begin construction and end construction,” he said.

Harbor committee chair Steve Altenburg, who is also running for mayor, said the request for a line of credit or some other backing by the developers had been made upon the advice of the city’s financial advisors.

The city did agree to explore a pay-as-you-go tax abatement plan, but that would still put the onus on the developer to pay for the infrastructure if tax receipts failed to cover debt service. Still, Kringstad said his team believes they can make that approach work. “That does solve this issue that’s come up for the city,” he said. “But when we first signed the agreement, the infrastructure funding was there.”

“We can’t afford to take on any more bonded debt,” said City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith.

“With the pay-as-you-go tax abatement, the developer takes out the bond, not the city. That means all the risk is on them.”

Dougherty expressed frustration with the delays and the mutual finger-pointing that has surrounded the project in recent months. “I don’t say much about this because it’s kind of been the harbor committee’s deal. ‘I’ll tell you, I’m tired of reading about this. To me, it’s so convoluted right now that I don’t know who to believe, who to trust or even if anything should be signed to move forward.’”

Fitton said his confidence in the project has diminished over the past two and half years, and he suggested, without foundation, that if the city were to approve infrastructure funding, Kringstad could come back to the city three months later seeking funding to build the town homes.

“At what point does this become entirely the city’s project?” he asked.

Fitton’s comments overlooked some of the project’s history, including that the city of Tower had originally attracted Kringstad’s group to the project by seeking development services, like architectural design, marketing, sales, and construction, while the city

intended to actually serve as developer and finance the project itself. The city changed course shortly after bringing Kringstad’s group on board, asking Tower Vision 2025 to serve as developer of the town home project, while the city agreed to finance public infrastructure. The city’s latest change now puts the potential financial risks of much of the public infrastructure onto Tower Vision 2025.

Kringstad took issue with Fitton’s comment, noting that construction of the project was always to be based on sales, not upfront financing, by the city or anyone else. “That has never changed,” he said.

Carlson said the harbor committee is asking that either the developer sign a letter of credit or the tax abatement option. “That’s where we’re at right now,” he said, adding that it’s up to the developers to take the next step. “The ball is in their court and has been for quite some time.”

Kringstad said he believes that his team can make the tax abatement approach work. We would like to help the city out of that situation, which has changed from the original agreement.”

Fitton chastised Kringstad for suggesting that his team was “helping out the city.”

“They’re getting the land for a dollar,” he said, and suggested, again without foundation, that

the project stood to net close to \$4 million profit. Fitton said he based that estimate on rough calculations he did on the project sales, assuming construction costs of 50 percent of the home price. In fact, the construction price for the homes, based on financials reviewed by this reporter, are well above 50 percent of the cost, and those costs don’t include expenses incurred for soft costs, including architectural design, engineering, marketing, sales commissions, insurance, and contingency. In the end, the project’s current projected margin is approximately eight percent, and most of those proceeds are promised to outside investors who have financially backed the project.

Kringstad said his group has already spent several hundred thousand dollars on the development. Fitton responded saying that the city paid for \$120,000 of that through a grant from the IRRRB and stated that Kringstad was now coming to the city asking for more.

Kringstad asked Fitton what he meant by that. “I would say that three-quarters of a million dollars is asking for more,” responded Fitton. Kringstad explained that those funds are for public infrastructure, which the city had agreed to finance as part of the original development agreement. Carlson concurred with Kringstad. “Those costs

were always going to be on the city,” he said.

“We’re choosing our words very carefully here,” said Kringstad. “There are a lot of pieces to this project and I’m not blaming anyone and I don’t think the city should be blaming us. Things happen along the way.” Kringstad said that finishing platting and applying for permits had made it impossible to meet the timeline in the original agreement.

Carlson said he understands the sense of frustration by some on the council who are less informed about the reasons behind delays in the project. And he suggested the council look at setting a deadline for the developers to accept the new terms of the agreement. The council agreed to give the developers until Sept. 25 to accept the proposal.

Other business

In other action, the council:

► Discussed sidewalk repairs at length, agreeing to seek quotes from local contractors for work on the sidewalk along the west side of the Scenic Rivers clinic (Spruce Street) as well as in front of the U-Betcha antique shop, where a woman recently fell face first due to rough sidewalk there.

► Approved the installation of a holding tank for wastewater at the airport pending a review by City Engineer Jason

Chopp. The single bid, for \$33,500, from CW Winger was significantly above earlier estimates for the cost of the project. The new holding tank was made necessary by the council’s decision last year to abandon the septic drainfield that used to serve the city’s campground and still serves the airport.

► Approved a 2018-19 propane contract with Como for 1.09.9 per gallon. The council also approved a motion to limit the employee propane discount to employees who receive a W-2 from the city.

► Agreed to send a letter to residents of North Third Street asking them not to park off-street in the drive lane. The narrow nature of portions of the road is creating problems for emergency vehicles and delivery trucks when two cars park on either side of the road. The council opted to seek the cooperation of residents of the street before considering other possible approaches to address the problem.

► Approved the location of the Welcome to Tower sign at the intersection of Hwy. 169 and Hwy. 135. The council also approved hiring CW Winger to do site prep, at a cost of \$3,000.

► Heard a proposal from Greg Dostert for the creation of a joint youth recreation board.

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CLERK...Continued from page 1

manner required. "After review of the test materials, the public accuracy tape did not agree with the predetermined results," writes Chapman. "In fact, it appears the test was incomplete because eleven ballots for each precinct were not marked using the AutoMark machine," Chapman continued. According to the investigation, Chapman said it appears that the blank ballots that were supposed to be used for testing were, instead, handed out to voters on election day. At the same time, Chapman noted that election officials in Tower conducted what partial testing they did do on a back-up disk, rather than the primary disk that election officials are supposed to use for the election.

According to Chapman, election officials must test the actual equipment and software

disks that will be used on election day. The back-up disks are only provided for use in the event that the primary disk were to fail on election day.

Chapman also cited major errors in the voting tabulations provided to the county by Keith after the Aug. 14 primary.

The process for elections is designed to ensure accountability in order to prevent errors or fraud. In order to do that, election officials must account for each ballot that they receive from the county and the numbers must add up at the end of the day.

On the summary report provided by Keith to county officials, it claims 370 total ballots were provided to the city by the county. "We're not sure where they came up with that," Chapman said during an interview this week with the *Timberjay*. "We recorded 150 pre-

cinct one ballots." The county also provided 50 ballots for precinct two, which should have totaled 200. The other ballots that the county provided were for testing purposes only.

Keith also listed eight absentee ballots on the summary sheet, while Chapman said it appears there were actually 25.

Perhaps the most glaring error was the discrepancy between the number of voters reported by election judges and the number of ballots reported in the ballot box at the end of the day. Based on signatures, a total of 131 city residents turned out to the polls on Aug. 14. According to Chapman, there should be the same number of ballots in the ballot box, yet Keith reported 345.

At the same time, Keith failed to submit any summary information for precinct two, as required

by state statute.

According to Chapman, Keith also mishandled absentee ballots, by mixing them into the ballot box "due to confidentiality concerns that the City Clerk had." Yet Chapman notes that state law "requires that absentee and polling place vote totals be reported separately."

City officials also mishandled the ballots and other election materials in the wake of the voting. "When election supplies were returned [to the county], all voted ballots were in clear unsealed bags and not in sealed envelopes signed by election judges as required."

Keith also sent all three summary envelopes back to St. Louis County even though election officials are trained and reminded that one of the three envelopes is supposed to be retained by the local election administrator so they can answer questions, and also serve as a back-up in case the other ballots are damaged in transit to county offices.

While Chapman said the occasional error or irregularity isn't that uncommon among the

172 precincts and 75 unorganized territories overseen by the county, he said the number and scale of mistakes in the recent Tower election was extraordinary. "I'll be honest, I don't recall seeing this many issues before," he said. And the problems may not have been limited to the recent primary election. "The investigation focused on the recent state and federal primary election; however, the auditor's office has been made aware of citizen concerns relating to previous elections," said Chapman.

Keith, at a special council meeting this past Thursday, attempted to put the onus on St. Louis County for failing to provide a "packing slip" that detailed all of the materials. Chapman said given the large number of precincts they serve for each election, producing a packing slip for each one would be a major undertaking that would serve little purpose. He noted that the election day ballots come sealed in plastic and both the number of ballots and the precinct are clearly labeled.

Keith had also sug-

gested earlier that the county had provided loose ballots along with the sealed ones. Chapman said the "loose" ballots are clipped together with a large black clip and are clearly labeled to be used for testing. It was, apparently, because city officials failed to conduct the required testing with blank ballots that so many were left over on election day.

"It's frustrating to me," said Chapman. "We cover all this in clerk training. It's really unacceptable that this many errors could happen." While the county supervises elections, Chapman said there is no question about which level of government is charged with ensuring that local elections are run properly. "Ultimately, it's the city's responsibility," he said.

According to Chapman's letter, the city of Tower will be expected to reimburse the county for the cost of the one-on-one training that Chapman and other county officials will provide to Keith and other election staff on Sept. 13.



ELY...Continued from page 1

comment but cannot attend Tuesday's hearing, or who wish to submit further evidence, are asked to submit their information and evidence to the PUC by going to www.mn.gov/puc and selecting Speak up! The docket number for

the case is 18-122.

Additionally, comments may be submitted to consumer.puc@state.mn.us or by sending a letter to: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Additional information on the case can also be found on the PUC website.

The specific room number for the hearing at Vermilion Community College was not available as of press time.




SEASONAL FUN

Ely's Harvest Moon Festival marks 25 years

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Ely's annual Harvest Moon Festival will feature a stunt dog show in celebration of the end-of-summer event's 25th anniversary. Three days packed with art and craft booths, music and stage shows, pony rides with petting zoo and great food all happens Sept. 7-9 in Ely's Whiteside Park.

"The Harvest Moon Festival is a juried art and craft festival and hosts a variety of original artisans and crafters," said coordinator Ellen Cashman. "Included in the 125 art and craft booths are many scrumptious food options to choose from including Asian cuisine, gyros, specialty drinks, brats, hamburgers, barbecue, fries and cheese curds. You won't want to miss your chance for a slice of the Kiwanis Club's fresh baked blueberry pie—they sold out early during the

County candidates forum set for Ely

ELY - The local branch of the American Association of University Women and the Ely Rotary Club will host a St. Louis County Commissioner candidates forum on Thursday, Sept. 20, beginning at 7 p.m. at Vermilion Community College Theater.

This informative evening allows community members to meet and hear both of the District 4 candidates, Paul McDonald and Bernie Mettler, answer questions and express their views on topics relevant to the role of St. Louis County Commissioner.

The objective is to inform as many people as possible of the positions of each candidate.

In addition to prepared questions by the AAUW Ely branch and Ely Rotary, written questions from the audience will be posed to the candidates.

One of these candidates will be elected to replace Tom Rukavina as the St. Louis County Commissioner for this district. The forum will be broadcast live on WELY radio.



The Singing Slovenes return to the 25th annual Harvest Moon Festival in Ely. They will perform at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9 at Whiteside Park. photo by K. Vandervort

Blueberry/Art Festival." On Saturday only, there will be a fall-themed farmers market, filled with baskets of chrysanthemums and fresh produce such as tomatoes, fresh dill, cucumbers and more. Try the artisan and ethnic breads, bagels and rolls, and Finnish baked goods such as tarts, cardamom bread, and apple strudel. "Take home some fresh Minnesota-grown eggs or meat such as beef, pork, chicken, lamb and goat," Cashman said.

"We have three days of great entertainment," she said. It all kicks off Friday with Timmy Haus, who performs a variety of genres from Paul Simon to

Johnny Cash to Counting Crows and more. "A north woods' solo artist with a spot-on voice, Haus has become a much sought-after Minnesota artist." Haus will be on stage from 1-4 p.m.

"On Saturday we are introducing a new show, the 'All-Star Stunt Dogs Challenge,'" Cashman said. "The world's number one Stunt Dog Show features dogs that have been rescued from pounds and shelters. They will be performing awesome big air stunts, athletic feats and high-jumping challenges. There will be three, 30-minute shows each day with an opportunity after each show to meet

and greet the pooches," she said.

On Sunday the "All-Star Stunt Dogs Challenge" will return for three more shows. "We will also welcome one of Ely's favorite singing groups. The Singing Slovenes, will be back for two performances. This non-profit group was formed to promote the Slovenian heritage through native costume and song," Cashman said. The Singing Slovenes will perform from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Another Ely favorite for the kids, is Willow River Ranch. "They will be back with their awesome ponies. Go for a pony ride

all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday. While they are waiting to ride the petting zoo and feeding the

goats," she said.

The weekend would not be complete without a refreshing beer. The Ely Jaycees will host a beer garden all three days so stop by, have a seat and enjoy a beer and conversation with friends.

The hours for the festival are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visit ely.org event calendar for details or stop by the information booth in the center of the park for a listing of all the weekend's entertainment.

The Harvest Moon Festival is sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce Merchant Committee.

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The committee to re-elect Rob Ecklund.
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CHURCH...Continued from page 1

of devotees of the St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, located along Hwy. 65, have made sure that this church building does not suffer a similar fate.

This month, family members of the long-lost Bramble community returned to celebrate the church's 100th anniversary.

"The last parishioner was my dad," Todd Lucachick said. His was also the last funeral held at the church in 2012. The Lucachicks built the church along with their neighbors, the Sorokies, and many other community members over the course of four years, beginning in 1915. Now three generations later, the Lucachicks are one of the few families left in Bramble, and they have taken it under their charge to make sure the church is preserved.

"I grew up with the church in the backyard," Lucachick said. "My dad was a bus driver for Orr High School. There hasn't been this many people in Bramble since Tikhvin Festivals in the 1970s when the archbishop from Chicago attended."

Those festivals drew an excess of 200 people to the church, and this month's celebration drew 225, much more than Bramble's current population of six.

Saving history

August's celebration nearly didn't happen. Much like the home-steading communities of the past, the church itself almost became just one more relic of days gone by. That was until a Grand Rapids priest got involved.

"The reason it is still there is because of Fr. Paul Berg in Grand Rapids," Lucachick said. "He got involved with it in 1967. He literally showed up to the neighbors who were about to hand it over to the historical society in International Falls. The society was going to give them 20 gallons of paint. The reverend thought they would give the church away and turn it into a museum."

Instead Rev. Berg arranged to help the community find its own paint, and the restoration of the church began.



Rev. Radomir Plavsic, pastor of St. Basil of Ostro Serbian Orthodox Church, Chisholm and St. Michael Orthodox Church, Hibbing, stands at the altar of St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Bramble.

photo by Fred Schumacher

The church only offered regular religious services for a few years. It continued to be used for occasional services and community functions for a few more decades but had largely fallen into disuse by the 1960s.

Lucachick points out that even in the congregation's heyday, it only held services during the summer months since a small stove in the corner was barely enough to keep the few parishioners warm through Christmas services in January.

Twenty years after the work began, the church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by Andrew Lucachick.

An old photo accompanies the original application, with the church still in need of much repair.

Those last repairs would be completed, and by 2011, the Lucachicks and their neighbors and many helpers had fully repaired the old dome and replaced the crosses that greeted visitors from its rooftop.

Finding family

For the Lucachicks and the few who stayed after most of the home-steaders left, knowing

where they came from was relatively easy with their history quite literally in their backyard.

Other though weren't so lucky, and their histories were nearly reclaimed by the Koochiching County swamps.

Marge Runnako (Polenik) is one of those people. She spoke excitedly about her family via phone from her home near Minneapolis.

"My grandfather came from Poland in 1905, and he went to Cleveland," she said. "When he was there, he learned about the land that was being given away in Koochiching County in northern Minnesota. He moved around 1909. He homesteaded on 160 acres in the county and found out that farming wasn't going to work out in northern Minnesota. It was too rocky. He stayed there until 1919 as a part-time iron mine blast man."

Other than that information, however, the trail of family history went cold.

The family had eight children, but they were too young to have learned much family history by the time their parents died. Runnako's grandmother died first, in 1927 from pneumonia, while her

grandfather was killed in a mining accident shortly after.

An early genealogical search by Runnako's uncle was unsuccessful, and it would be years before she herself picked up where he'd left off.

The second search began with a genetics test and a search through church records.

"When I tried to find church records, I knew they had belonged to a Byzantine church in Chisholm," she said. "I still had one aunt that was alive. I had her DNA

checked, and it was 100-percent Polish."

But Chisholm wasn't the church she was looking for. There had been another.

"I found a book about the Bramble Church," Runnako said. "My grandfather's name was written on it. I didn't know anything about the church until I found the book. Something moved me to type up my story."

And earlier this summer, her research led her to the Bramble Church's Facebook page, and to Lucachick. Soon, everything began to be more clear, and while the family history was still foggy, she was beginning to learn more details.

"Some locals took me to where my grandfather's land was," Runnako said. "I took some rocks as a souvenir. The experience brought me back to what their life could have been even though they weren't there for a long time."

And as she has learned more, the few stories and memories she heard and recall as a child began to make sense.

"Because I don't have a lot of stories, I can only surmise, she said. "There was a person named Louis Billow. When I found one of my uncle's baptisms, that person was his godfather. My grandfather was pretty involved, that he had a friend who was integral in starting the church as the godparent to my uncle. The church played a big part of their social life. When my grandfather came from Poland he played the clarinet and he and my dad and the older

kids would entertain. It was a nine-key clarinet, not made anymore. It said in that article (the book) that it was his prized possession he brought from Poland."

She added, "I felt like I was bringing my ancestors to life again. Walking on the boards of the church and knowing they had been there and seeing an authentic church service. And seeing how they'd worshiped."

Going forward

While the population of Bramble is sure to never return, the tenure of the church, no matter how little it is used, is far from over.

Lucachick said the church still has a yearly service the weekend after Labor Day, although it won't be held this year because of the earlier anniversary celebration.

With descendants coming from as far away as California and Georgia, the congregation is alive and well, even if it is scattered.

"I hope that this group will be able to keep the church going," Runnako said. "It is amazing they have done it for as many years as they have."

Lucachick said the work isn't done, and the small group of preservationists carry on their work to keep the building welcoming to the public.

"We're going to keep the little Bramble Church alive. That's our motto."

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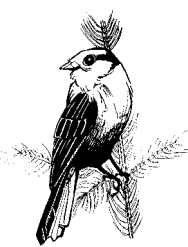
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VOLLEYBALL HOME OPEN

Grizzlies dominate in opening week

by Marcus White
Cook/Orr Editor

North Woods volleyball goes 2-0 against Mt. Iron-Buhl, I-Falls

FIELDTWP - The Grizzlies opened the girls volleyball season on a roll, topping International Falls 3-1 on Tuesday after defeating Mt. Iron-Buhl on Monday in straight sets.

“The way the girls played and came together as a team was great to see,” coach Gabby Sundquist said following this week’s action. “They played with intensity, they played smart and did a great job all around. There is still so much to work on going forward but it’s a great start to the season.”

Up against the Broncos on Tuesday, the Grizzlies took the first two games 25-16 and 25-8, before dropping the third 23-25. They got back on track in game five, routing I-Falls 25-11. Morgan



Burnett led the team on Tuesday with 42 set assists and two aces. Regan Ratai had 16 kills with nine good passes. Coley Olson had 20 kills, and Hanna Sandberg had two aces and seven passes.

Stats for Monday’s game were

unavailable at press time. The Grizzlies dominated throughout, winning 25-14, 25-16, and 25-20.

The Grizzlies next travel to Bigfork on Tuesday to take on the Huskies. Game time is 7 p.m.



Left: Kayla Tschida picking up the back row hit; right: Kate Stone up for the hit against MIB block Miah Gellerstedt. photos by C. Stone

FIVE SET SHOWDOWN

Battle in Babbitt

Wolves, Hawks take five sets to decide opening match

by Marshall Helmberger
Managing Editor

BABBITT— The Nighthawks took the deciding fifth game in a hard-fought season opener with Ely on Tuesday after the Timberwolves bounced back from an early two-game deficit. The Nighthawks won the first two, 25-23, 25-22, before Ely took games three and four, 25-22, 25-20.

But the Nighthawks claimed the win, taking the fifth game 15-12.

“What a match,” said Nighthawks Head Coach Jodi Rogers-Reichensperger. “I think on any given day this match could have gone either way. Ely did a great job mixing up line-ups and keeping us guessing.”

Both squads are bringing more experience to the competition this year. Ely has two returning seniors, setter Lida Dodge and hitter Kenzie Peterson, along with a raft of juniors. “They have great depth and utilized that to the maximum extent,” said Rogers-Reichensperger.

With just eight players on the roster, the Nighthawks are heavily-reliant on their four seniors and two juniors, along with freshman Hannah Reichensperger. Nighthawks junior Lara Poderzay led the way on Tuesday with 30 set assists and Reichensperger, with 14 kills and nine blocks. Senior Sophie Lenz tallied 12 kills and two blocks, while senior Chloe Aase added five blocks and three kills.

Lida Dodge led the



way for Ely with 22 set assists, followed by Brielle Kallberg with an even dozen kills. Jenna Merhar added nine kills while Erika Mattson tallied eight.

Ely will host Littlefork-Big Falls on Tuesday, while the Nighthawks are off until next Thursday when they visit Mt. Iron-Buhl.

Above: Hannah Reichensperger goes way up for a spike as Kenzie Peterson and Breille Kallberg try to defend. Right: Hannah Reichensperger goes for the dig.

photos by J. Greeney



Sports week

Football

Friday Sept. 7
North Woods at Mt. Iron-Buhl, 7 p.m.

Saturday Sept. 8
Ely at Chisolm, 1 p.m.

Volleyball

Tuesday Sept. 4
North Woods at Bigfork, 7 p.m.

Ely hosts Littlefork-Big Falls, 7 p.m.

Thursday Sept. 6
North Woods at Mesabi East, 7 p.m.

NE Range at Mt. Iron-Buhl, 7 p.m.

Ely hosts Cherry, 7 p.m.

Saturday Sept. 8
Ely and NE Range at Greenway Invitational, 10 a.m.

Cross Country

Thursday Sept. 6
North Woods & NE Range at Naush-wauk-Keewatin 2 p.m.

Ely at Virginia, 10 a.m.

Get Informed!
Get the Timberjay!



ORR EXPO

Orr Center gearing up for 2018 Orr Center Expo

ORR- The Orr Center is hosting its third annual Sustainability and Homesteading Expo on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. There is a \$1 general admission fee, and some of the main classes have a \$10 fee to attend. All of the other workshops are free of charge with the entry fee.

Learn about modern homesteading, organic gardening, preserving food, homemade products, renewable energy, natural health, green building, sustainable agriculture, and much more. There will also be dozens of local exhibitors featuring eco-friendly products and services.

Featured classes include Jerry Ford, founder of the Minnesota Garlic Festival. He will share knowledge of how and what types of garlic to grow in our area from 12 – 1:15 p.m. Class fee is \$10.

Marshall Helmsberger, Publisher/Editor of the Timberjay and avid homesteader will hold a workshop, Building your own Solar Greenhouse. He will



describe the principles of designing a greenhouse that is well-suited for our northern climate. The greenhouse can easily extend your growing season from March 1 to December 1 with little or no supplemental heat. This class is offered from 10 – 11:30 a.m., and the class fee is \$10.

Jackie Clay Atkinson, author, speaker, and homesteader, will teach two sessions of a hands-on workshop on Fearless Pressure Canning. Learn

how to safely pressure can meats and vegetables, and never be afraid of pressure canning again. This class will be offered from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and again from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Class fee is \$10.

Jeff Purdy, solar expert, master electrician, and homesteader, will share his expertise in living off-grid for over 20 years, and answer your questions on how to plan your own solar system. This class is offered from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., and class fee is \$10.

Ryan Hueffmeier, Director of the Boulder Lake ELC in Duluth, will lead a class on Earthworms, a View from Native to Created Ecosystems from 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. Class fee is \$10.

Free classes include Shoreline Best Management Practices at 9:15 a.m., Identifying Forest Invasive Species at 2:30 p.m., Review of the 2018 Severe Storm Season in Minnesota at 2:30 p.m., and Vermi Composting 101 at 3:15 p.m.

Pre-registration is recommended for classes with fees to guarantee a seat and

handouts. Email info@orrcenter.com or stop by at the Orr Center Thrift Store Monday, Wednesday, or Saturday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. to sign up. The complete class schedule is available online at <http://www.orrcenter.com/copy-of-orr-center-expo>.



Snowbank Lake fire contained after weekend

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

The fire began around the Pickeral Bay area last week

ELY- Cooler temperatures and rain showers earlier this week helped to contain a wildfire on Snowbank Lake that started Aug. 23 in the Pickeral Bay area.

According to Sarah Shapiro, a customer service representa-

tive with the U.S. Forest Service LaCroix Ranger District, the fire was in “containment status” as of Wednesday afternoon.

Over the weekend, as many as 10 U.S. Forest Service fire fighters were working to set up containment lines.

A brief thunderstorm early Monday morning and rain early Tuesday did help alleviate some spreading of the blaze.

The USFS sent firefighters to the reported fire late last Thursday on Snowbank Lake at the end of the Fernberg Trail

east of Ely.

According to USFS Assistant District Ranger Tim Engrav. “The fire was found on the shoreline in Pickeral Bay and was burning in mixed conifer trees and heavy blowdown fuels from the 2016 windstorm that hit this area,” he said.

“An initial assessment of the fire was done Thursday night, but due to fading daylight and dangerous dead standing trees on site, firefighters were not able to safely engage the fire” he said.

Firefighters arrived on scene

at the fire early Friday morning to make an assessment and engage the fire. “Fire activity was reported to be moderate with creeping and smoldering,” he said. “The fire area has only received a trace amount of precipitation so far today.”

Part of the fire did reach into a Black Spruce swamp that helped to slow the spread.

One helicopter began water drops. A second helicopter was ordered and arrived later Friday morning. Eight firefighters were on-site at the fire to coordinate

the bucket drops and begin work on cutting fire lines,” Engrav said.

There were no closures in place due to this fire but a Trail Advisory was posted on the Kekekabic/Snowbank Trails. The fire was located a mile north of the Kekekabic/Snowbank Trail, so hiking the trail was not recommended.



2018 BOAT DECONTAMINATION STATION LOCATIONS/TIMES

- Ely Area: Van Vac Road Public Landing: Daily, 8 AM-6 PM
- Sandy Point Public Landing: Fri-Sun, 8 AM-6 PM
- Lake Vermilion Tower: Y-Store: Thurs-Sun, 8 AM-6PM
- Lake Vermilion Cook: Country Store: Thurs-Sun, 8 AM-6 PM
- Gilbert/Eveleth Area: Lake Ore-Be-Gone: Fri-Sun, 10 AM-6 PM





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ELY SCHOOLS

Ely School Board studies options for connecting buildings

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Security and safety cited as top concerns; grant funding may be available

ELY - School Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson told Ely School Board members this week that the application for a \$1.3 million Minnesota school safety grant could be a good start in helping to fund a school building project aimed at connecting the

three campus buildings for increased security and student safety

"I'm told that we have a pretty decent shot (at getting the funding) with what we are attempting to do," he told board members at a study session Monday night. "If we were to get the green light on this, it would significantly

change the plans for you down the road."

School Board members are considering architectural plans to connect the three campus buildings, Memorial School, Washington School and the Industrial Arts building, at the shortest distance between the structures. With the

anticipated demolition of the former heating plant building, a natural courtyard would be developed leading to a single, secured entrance during school hours through the front entrance area of the Industrial Arts building.

Schoolboardmembers have not reached an agreement on how much they want to include in a facilities renovation project that would require bond referendum approval from taxpayers. "While (the plans) are not perfect, I think they have a lot of food for thought," Abrahamson said. "Every time you get a new plan it is going to have more questions than answers."

The board is considering the idea of adding another full-size gymnasium, renovating the school cafeteria, media center, and locker rooms. Relocating the band and music rooms is also being considered, along with revamping the parking lots, demolishing the boiler plant and rerouting and improving infrastructure. Estimated costs of at least \$6 million to \$8 million have been discussed for the entire project.

Board members are in the process of determining what is "needed" versus what is "wanted" in the facilities project.

"I know many of you have had many questions,

and this is just the beginning of the discussion," Abrahamson stressed. "You can do any number of things."

Preserving the existing architecture of the front of the Industrial Arts building was one of the considerations offered by the design firm, Architectural Resources, Inc., of Hibbing, in connecting the three buildings. Abrahamson said that doesn't have to be a determining factor in how the buildings are connected. The new front entrance could be brought out into the courtyard, preserving the location of the recently-remodeled band room, and a day-use check-in office could be established.

He asked board members to consider ideas in determining what the plan should include. "Is the building connection idea acceptable where it is farther back rather than more forward, and is it worth pursuing those discussions?" he asked. "These plans are here to spur discussion. Maybe the real option is somewhere in between the two options."

Board member Rochelle Sjoberg wondered if the board is doing due diligence in procuring a design firm for the project. "Keeping the community and taxpayers in mind, I feel the board has not had a topic of discussion of who the architect will be. Is ARI it? Is that what we are doing for a



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See...SCHOOL pg. 5B

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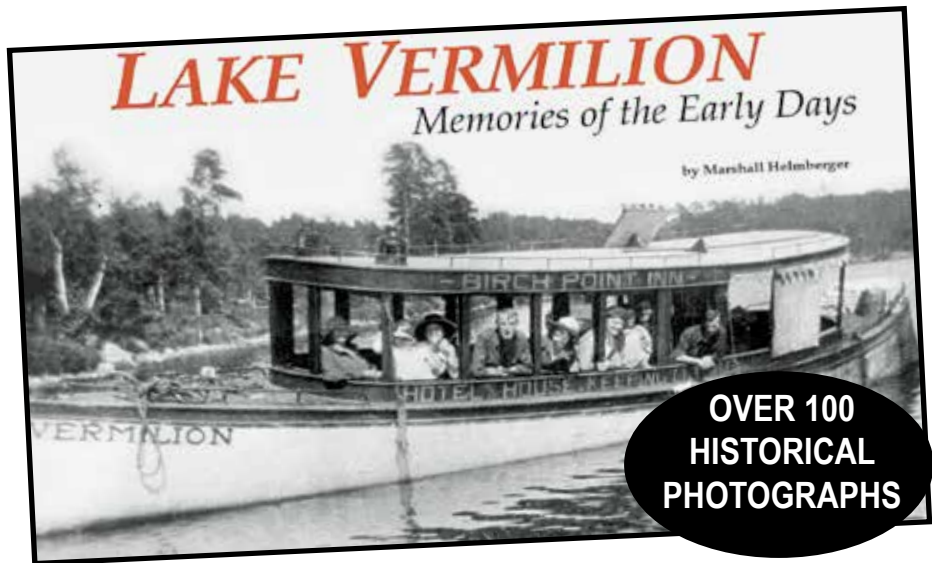
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ORR CENTER EXPO

Not exactly your Italian grandmother's garlic

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

Learn how to grow north-friendly garlic varieties

ORR - Garlic is a staple of all things Mediterranean, but that's not really its history. One Minnesota farmer is bringing his message of garlic's true origins and why northern Minnesota is an ideal location to grow this popular food to the Orr Expo on Saturday, Sept. 8.

"Most people think garlic came from hot climates," Jerry Ford said, "It did not. It originally came from the Himalayas in China above 7,000 feet where the temperature never gets above 50 degrees. There is even a garlic festival in the country of Finland."

Over the centuries, trade between Asia and Europe made garlic a staple of warm climates where it was adapted to the tropical climate. But the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is working to dispel the myth and bring garlic to Minnesota growers like Ford, who heads the Minnesota Premium Garlic Project.

"We're not encouraging people to be garlic farmers, we are encouraging people who are farmers to grow garlic," Ford said. "Growing garlic here is very different than other places like China or California where it is

a commodity crop. The garlic we tend to sell here is for the table."

While the project itself has focused on the farmers, Ford said his presentation at the Orr Expo will be geared towards gardeners.

He said seed garlic thrives in cooler climates like that around the Arrowhead, and that within a season or so, most gardeners and farmers will have their own stock of seeds to be used each season.

The biggest barrier to the crop is threefold, Ford said, with people using the wrong seed, or planting at the wrong place or time. He added if you want to know the details, you'll have to attend the expo.

Ford did let it slip that if you want to plant garlic for next year, you should do it now since garlic sits in the ground all winter and is harvested in spring.

Ford said there are many misperceptions about growing garlic in Minnesota, because it isn't commonly grown in the region. "It mostly comes from Missouri or California where the culture is very different," he said.

And when done right, the benefits of locally grown garlic can be felt for

months after the harvest.

"Local garlic will store for a long time," Ford said. "Garlic harvested in July can still be eaten that next April or later if it is stored properly. Garlic is different every year in terms of flavor. It has a vintage to it like wine."

He added garlic wine is actually vinted in the central part of the state, near Hutchinson. The wine is used for cooking, however, it is served once a year at the Minnesota Garlic Festival.

And while garlic may never be a major Minnesota

crop, Ford said it has the potential to be a big player in local farmers markets. "I want people to know to buy locally and get it from their neighbors," he said. "If a gardener grows their own, they'll have their own seed stock." And he said that seed stock will be the best to use.

Ford's talk will be on noon on Saturday Sept. 8 at the Orr Center, located in the former Orr School. The cost is \$10.

More info on the expo can be found at orrcenter.com.



Jerry Ford is show here harvesting garlic scapes on his farm in Howard Lake, Minn. submitted photo

SCHOOL...from page 4B

\$7 million or \$8 million project?" she asked.

Abrahamson is planning to present his recommendation to the board at the regular September meeting on how to proceed with the project. He said he has done research on other architectural firms. "While ARI is the most local, there are several firms in Duluth and in the Twin Cities," he said. He offered to send a list of several firms to the board for consideration.

Board members also discussed the superintendent's time responsibilities to the district and how facilities project management would impact that.

Abrahamson is under contract to work 144 days per year, or about 12 days each month throughout the year. "In the three years that I have been here, I have averaged 165 work days each of those years, and I'm okay with that," he said. "I don't want to split hairs. I want to do the job."

He asked the board to consider his duties and what, if anything, he is not doing that they want him to do, or what he shouldn't be doing. He noted that a project manager to get to the point of "shovels in the ground" would cost both time and money.

Abrahamson provided the board with information on a community survey service, from School Perceptions, of Slinger, Wis., that could provide additional data on how a bonding referendum for the facilities project might be received in the community.

The cost of the survey would be about \$10,000.

With the retirement this week of Jeff Jankowski as facilities and transportation director, as well as Penny Jankowski from her superintendent's assistant position, school board members discussed the immediate need for the services of someone to keep the school buses and district vehicles in working

order until a permanent replacement can be found.

Just three applications were sent to the school district office. "We really need to acknowledge the fact that what we posted would be very difficult to fill in its entirety," Abrahamson said. One of the requirements of the job is to be licensed in diesel engine mechanics.

"It is also a fairly complex kind of job in that there is maintenance as well as transportation, with supervision for both," he added.

He suggested putting someone in place on an interim basis to lead the transportation and maintenance responsibilities "while options are explored, job descriptions are explored or whatever," Abrahamson said.

He noted that he had talked to a candidate last week who is a mechanical engineer and who supervised fleet operations at Minntac for 35 years. "This person has actually retired twice, but likes to solve problems," he said. The person was also the second candidate for the part-time Ely School District superintendent in 2016, according to Abrahamson.

"There is one other candidate, a current employee of our school district who could do some of this while we spend time determining if this is one or two positions," he said. He suggested making an appointment to fill the at-will position on a partial, interim basis for the current employee. "This is a large position. There are not a lot of candidates out there who possess what we ask for," Abrahamson said.

An appointment to fill the position would need the approval of the school board, probably by calling a special meeting to take the action.

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

SR, Cherry construction tops list of district projects

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Construction projects made up most of the conversation at the St. Louis County School Board's Tuesday meeting. Natalie Hoff, of ICS, a consultant working with the school district, gave an update on the estimated \$11.79 million renovation project at the district's South Ridge and Cherry schools. "This, for now, is preliminary of what we could do, and what we need to do," said Hoff. "We'll have more details at a later date."

South Ridge includes the removal of two classrooms to create a small addition to accommodate four new classrooms. The new rooms would be used for pre-K classes.

At Cherry, the project would include rearranging a number of classrooms, offices, and the school's fitness center. The goal is to put similar services, like nursing and counseling offices, along with the student resource officer, in a more central location while also mitigating congestion in the school's common area.

Additional work will be done on the school grounds to move the bus

drop-off and pickup area while also expanding the amount of parking on the campus.

Schoolboard members Chet Larson and Chris Koivisto questioned the plans asking whether they would account for drainage problems at the Cherry School, which has resulted in periodic flooding on the school grounds.

Hoff said the plans did take drainage into account and noted the new plan was a cheaper and better alternative to the original plan to install a lift and pumping station at the school and would use drainage tiling along the new paved surfaces to drain the water

more efficiently.

The plans also looked at a district-wide shortfall in classroom space, especially for pre-K programs.

Cherry Principal Michael Johnson said the district as a whole did not have enough room to meet pre-K demands of district families, and there is a waitlist in place forcing many to open-enroll out of the district.

Construction is slated to occur next summer for completion by the 2019-2020 school year.

NE Range Roofing Project

Justin Maaninga, also

with ICS, briefed the board via an email sent to Superintendent Reggie Engebretson.

Maaninga said the roofing project was delayed from recent rain, and the project was to be completed by the middle of September.

He reported that ceiling tiling plastering in the school's band room would be completed by the end of the week.

Superintendent report

Engebretson said the school district would be filing five grant requests Wednesday for the state's

new safety grant program. Unlike past grants, which allowed districts to apply as a district, the current program requires each school file its own individual request.

Schools may be awarded up to a half million dollars to improve school safety. Adding school resource officers, however, is not part of the program.

Statewide more than \$25 million is available in funding, and unused funds must be returned to the state to be re-allocated in the next bidding round.

ELY

Ely works on rules for food trucks and peddlers

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - City of Ely staff continue to hammer out the details of an updated ordinance regulating mobile food trucks, peddlers and transient merchants in the city. City Council members reviewed a draft of the ordinance at a study session Tuesday night.

"We've worked on this for quite some time," said Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. "We have some deficiencies in our ordinances and know they don't adhere to state statutes."

He said he is seeking dialogue from the council and citizens as the city staff works their way through the update process with a goal of having new rules in place by next spring. "We want to make sure we do this right, rather than quickly," he said.

The city's planning and zoning administrator, Tim Riley, and the city attorney, Kelly Klun, dug into the state rules and many city ordinances around the state to see how the issue is being handled in other communities. "We are trying to shape it down for the best fit for the city of Ely," Langowski said.

"We don't feel it is a good idea to be more restrictive than the state, but we certainly can't be less restrictive or we are just ignoring state law," he said.

Ely does not have near the challenges of large numbers of food trucks and vendors as other communities. "The couple of food vendors that were out there are very aware and brought their concerns to the council," he said. "We don't want to harm any of the existing businesses and want to be receptive to their concerns."

The primary concern for updating the city ordinances is to comply with the state Department of Health rules concerning the handling, storage and selling of food from a mobile vehicle or cart, according to Riley. "The number of food trucks that we have here is very small," he said. We don't have issues like competition for space."

The city of Ely is receptive to the idea of making designated spaces available at city-owned locations like Whiteside Park, Semer's Park and the softball fields for mobile food vendors. "The only other choices for the vendors is to have permission from private property owners in the commercial district on Sheridan Street to set up in their parking lot," Riley said.

The time allowed for a mobile food unit to remain in one location is also being considered in the updated ordinance. "Mobile food units are supposed to be mobile," he said. If they are in one location for more

than 21 days, they will need a different type of license from the Department of Health."

According to state statute, ownership of the mobile food unit has to be the same as the site where the unit is parked for more than 21 days. "For example, if I owned a grocery store, I could leave my own mobile food unit on my own property year round," Riley said.

He noted that it is up to the city to craft their own ordinance in such a way as to accommodate or discourage mobile food units here. "I don't know what your position is, but there are several ordinances across the state that have been written either way," he said.

Currently, the city of Ely ordinance allows a mobile food unit to be onsite for just 14 days. "As a minimum, we should adhere to state statute and allow for 21 days," Riley said.

City staff is also considering what to charge for mobile food unit permits. A peddler's license is now \$25 per day in the city. "We don't have fees for a food vendor so we now charge them \$25," Langowski said. He suggested charging mobile food vendors an annual or seasonal fee, or crafting a fee schedule. "This has always been a big grey area for us," he said. "This is not complaint-driven, rather looking at how we want to handle it."

Food vendors that are in town for events such as the Blueberry Art/Festival in July and the upcoming Harvest Moon Festival, as well as the Tuesday Night Farmer's Market, are registered and permitted through the Chamber of Commerce and must adhere to their rules.

City staff continues to work on the draft ordinance for mobile food units and transient vendors. Two ordinance readings at a City Council meeting, and a public hearing are required before any ordinance can be approved.



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EMBARRASS REGION FAIR

Local vendors find audience at Embarrass Fair

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

EMBARRASS – Hundreds of people packed into tiny Embarrass this past weekend for the annual Embarrass Region Fair.

And large crowds mean good business for local vendors.

“You run into people you haven’t seen in a while,” Greg Northrup with Greg and Matt’s All-A-Round BBQ Sauce said. “You also get to introduce your product to new people. It’s a good experience.”

That product, as the title might suggest is BBQ sauce, and Northrup said local vendors often have stories to back up why they’re at the fair selling what they make – and he, being from Ely, is no exception.

The small sauce company was started up after one of the sauce’s namesakes, Matt, passed away a few years ago.

Northrup gained permission from friends and family to go public with the sauce he and his friend had made in private for years, and a company was born.

Since then Northrup has developed a second recipe for Blueberry BBQ

Sauce, some he calls “an experiment that went right,” and is currently working on a third iteration for a peach variant.

His hobby has taken him from his kitchen to farmer’s markets and fairs around the area from Ely to Tower and Embarrass.

Right now the business is a hobby, but one day, if he’s lucky, Northrup said it would be fun to see some of his sauces appear in local grocery stores.

It wasn’t just sauce up for grabs at the fair. Claire Pastika from Ely is a Tastefully Simple rep, and she hopes to get the word out on the company, which is based in Alexandria, to locals.

“It’s a fun thing to do,” she said noting that her sale of the items stems from her love to cook.

Pastika added that the exposure the fair brings to local vendors allows them to expand their business elsewhere, whether it be into people’s homes for party visits, or through a business relationship that lasts beyond what the fair can bring, allowing customers buy products when they need them, rather than just when the vendors are out in public.



Pictured clockwise from top: Kicking up dust at the mud run; Families checked out animals in the barn; Antique trucks at the car show; Prize-winning pumpkins; and Greg Northrup selling his sauce at the Tower Farmers Market.
photos by M. White and P. Wettering



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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

HUNTING

Bear hunters to find challenging conditions this year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A bumper crop of berries, nuts, fruits, and other wild foods is likely to challenge the skills and patience of bear hunters when they head to their stands for the season opener on Saturday.

“Natural food availability will likely decrease bear visits to hunters’ baits early in the season,” said Tower DNR Area Wildlife Manager Tom

Rusch. “Summer bear foods may still be plentiful going into September.”

According to Rusch, hunter success is directly related to natural food abundance, which is why he expects a reduction in hunter success from the astonishing 50-percent success that hunters experienced the past two years, when natural foods were relatively scarce. Historically, 20-40 percent of bear hunters have been successful in any given year, but hunters appear to have had higher

success since the DNR reduced the number of bear permits, which has reduced hunter competition.

This year, the DNR will issue 3,350 permits— the same number as last year. It’s well below the numbers issued several years ago, when the DNR was attempting to reduce a burgeoning bear population. These days, after several years of high harvest, the bear population remains well below

See BEARS...pg. 9B



Left: This year’s abundant crop of wild foods should make hunters’ baits less attractive to bears in the region, providing a challenge to hunters. file photo



Left: Jim Hilfers, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, stands with his boat partner and fellow vet Darwin Mickle, who served in the Army during the Vietnam War. The two were among dozens of area veterans who enjoyed a morning fishing on Lake Vermilion last Thursday, thanks to the Take-A-Vet-Fishing event organized by the Lake Vermilion Guides League.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

HONORING VETERANS

Giving back

Take-A-Vet-Fishing making memories for those who served

FORTUNE BAY MARINA— The parade of veterans made their way down the docks, some slowly, some helping others, as they headed out Thursday morning for a few hours of fishing on Lake Vermilion.

The annual Take-a-Vet-Fishing event, organized by the Lake Vermilion Guides League and Fortune Bay Resort Casino, brings military veterans from around the area for fishing, fellowship, lunch, and a heaping helping of thanks for their service.

It was the fourth annual event this year, and the march of time was clearly taking its toll on many of the participants, particularly the pool of area World War II vets, who were down to just five, a drop from the nine who were able to make it last year.

But on a day with blue skies and a pleasant breeze, the prospect of a few hours on the water was enticing enough to reignite the can-do attitude of these aging warriors. As part of the program, they heard a short speech keynote from David Morrison, Bois Forte Secretary-Treasurer, a benediction and the entrance of the color guard. Then, the several dozen participants posed for pictures before making their way to the boats, each with

its own volunteer guide, in hopes of putting a few walleyes in the live well.

And the guides delivered, as the vets came back with plenty of fish in many cases.

Guide Dave Schaeffer’s boat did better than most, picking up 33 fish that morning, including 11 walleye and 19 small-mouth bass, along with a handful of jumbo perch.

Ray Anderson, one of the older vets at the event, may spend his time in a wheelchair, but he showed he could still slay the walleyes, pulling in the bulk of a nice haul of ten eater-sized fish from a pontoon piloted by guide Rob Bryers.

Ray Berg and Don Reinhardt had a big day on the water with guide Doug Ellis. “We got to keep 14 and we threw a bunch back,” he said. The two longtime pals, who both served in Korea, haven’t missed a Take-a-Vet-Fishing day since it started. “And I hope to make it back next year, God willing,” said Berg. Reinhardt and Berg were on their way up the hill to the shore-lunch, put on by Fortune Bay while their guide was busy cleaning their fish to take home.

“It’s a pretty nice deal,” said Reinhardt. “We sure appreciate it.”



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Second from bottom: Ray Anderson, seated, poses with boat mates and nearly a dozen walleye after returning from fishing with guide Rob Bryers.

Bottom: The remaining five members of the World War II generation to attend this year’s event.

Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
WOODLAND SUNFLOWER



The Woodland Sunflower, *Helianthus strumosus*, can be found still in bloom most often along the edge of woods or road ditches in our area.

This tall wildflower grows anywhere from two-to-six feet tall and is typically topped by several flowers, ranging up to four inches across. It’s large, bright yellow petals suggest sunflower, although the flower center is not as broad as sunflowers grown for seed production. Its leaves are long and narrow, although they can be quite variable. Watch for them in bloom well into September.

Fishing reports

Ely area

The walleye bite is still active around the reefs and sunken islands in eight to twenty feet of water by day and on adjoining flats in four to eight feet in the evening. The early bite seems to be on minnows and as the day progresses, the bite turns over to crawlers on a spinner and slow trolled crank baits. When using cranks, size apparently matters, as some of the bigger walleyes are striking larger size Rapalas up to number 11s. This is also the go-to bait for late evening action, and some folks are also having success using lighted bobbers with a minnow after sunset.

Smallmouth bass are still smashing top water offerings when the lake surface is calm, then the action seems to go deeper with small cranks and soft baits when the chop is on the water. Spinner baits are working their magic too, but be prepared for the occasional pike to inhale your lure and run off with it. Pike will readily take spoons too, but their favorite seems to be live suckers fished under a float.

Many good numbers of trout are being reported from lakes like Miners, Tofte, and the Galcier ponds. The simplest way to catch them is to suspend a crawler under a bobber, but tiny crank baits and spinners will do the job when casted along shorelines in six to ten feet. Some rainbows have been caught exceeding twenty inches in length.

Courtesy Babe’s Bait, located at Ely’s west entrance

Fishing reports



Robbie Kavoukjian of Bloomington caught this monster smallie while fishing Burntside Lake with Ely guide Steve Foss. The bass tipped the scales at a whopping 5.5 pounds.

Kab-Nam area

As we head into the last holiday of the summer season fishing continues to be strong.

Fall like weather has hit the northland recently and looks to stay that way into the foreseeable future.

Highs barely into the 70s and lows in 50s and even high 40s has dropped water temps a bit which has fish in a more aggressive and shallow bite pattern.

Walleyes are active just about everywhere right now. They seemed to have moved off the reefs, so shoreline structure is a good place to start in your quest. Whether you are pulling cranks, using live bait rigs or jigs, fishing has been consistent throughout Kabetogama. Mix in a great small mouth bite and you are going to have fun. While a jig and minnow

were the way to go the last couple of weeks, leeches and crawlers seem to be working the best. Recently, soft bottom areas have been producing well as we have just had a significant midge hatch. Pulling spinners and slowly dragging jigs through these areas can be quite productive. Look to the northwest side of the lake as well as any of the bays in 12'-20'.

Friday and Saturday from 9-3 are customer appreciation days and our community garage sale so stop into Gateway for your map and enjoy a hot dog and pop for a buck!

Have a safe Labor Day weekend!

Courtesy Gateway General Store, Lake Kabetogama

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

| Friday | | | | Saturday | | | | Sunday | | | | Monday | | | | Tuesday | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|--|
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| 64 55 | | | | 72 54 | | | | 70 53 | | | | 71 58 | | | | 70 56 | | | |

| 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. |
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| 08/13 | 86 | 56 | 0.00 | | 08/13 | 87 | 55 | 0.00 | | 08/13 | 87 | 63 | 0.00 | | 08/13 | 88 | 66 | 0.00 | | 08/13 | 86 | 63 | 0.00 | |
| 08/14 | 86 | 60 | 0.00 | | 08/14 | 87 | 57 | 0.00 | | 08/14 | 87 | 61 | 0.00 | | 08/14 | 73 | 57 | 0.00 | | 08/14 | 87 | 57 | 0.00 | |
| 08/15 | 74 | 44 | 0.00 | | 08/15 | 73 | 44 | 0.00 | | 08/15 | 72 | 52 | 0.00 | | 08/15 | 75 | 46 | 0.00 | | 08/15 | 73 | 44 | 0.00 | |
| 08/16 | 79 | 45 | 0.00 | | 08/16 | 78 | 44 | 0.00 | | 08/16 | 75 | 51 | 0.00 | | 08/16 | 82 | 54 | 0.00 | | 08/16 | 72 | 45 | 0.00 | |
| 08/17 | 84 | 46 | 0.00 | | 08/17 | 83 | 44 | 0.00 | | 08/17 | 79 | 58 | 0.00 | | 08/17 | 81 | 57 | 0.00 | | 08/17 | 89 | 45 | 0.00 | |
| 08/18 | 83 | 51 | 0.00 | | 08/18 | 82 | 50 | 0.00 | | 08/18 | 81 | 59 | 0.01 | | 08/18 | 75 | 61 | 0.00 | | 08/18 | 82 | 52 | 0.00 | |
| 08/19 | 76 | 57 | 0.00 | | 08/19 | 76 | 60 | 0.00 | | 08/19 | 75 | 61 | 0.00 | | 08/19 | 73 | 61 | 0.00 | | 08/19 | 76 | 60 | 0.00 | |
| Totals | | | 13.71 | | Totals | | | 13.78 | | Totals | | | 21.95 | | Totals | | | NA | NA | Totals | | | | 16.30 |

WHAT'S IN YOUR BOATHOUSE?

by **ROBERT MATSON**
Columnist

I always enjoy featuring Ely vintage boats. Here's one owned by Dallas Kalina. It's a 1969 Larson 15-ft bow rider, powered by a 1985 90HP Johnson outboard. Dallas won this boat by bidding on Do-Bid.com. He's only 19 years old, so this is his first boat. He says everything is original except the flooring and the motor. Even the seats are perfect even though they are 49 years old! Dallas replaced the rotten flooring and laid down new carpet, but other than that it only took some polishing to make her look new again. The old fashioned horn still beeps



loud as ever, he says. Larson is a Minnesota-made boat and the 49-year old "Dog House 1" attests to their quality of manufacturing. *If you would like to see your*

boat featured here, contact me at 218-343-5719, or email at rcmely@frontiernet.net.

BEARS...Continued from page 6B

the DNR's goal of 20,000 bears statewide. The current population is estimated at 12,000-15,000 animals, which is roughly half the population estimate of ten years ago. Rusch said the population

recovery has been slow, in part because it's difficult to restrict bear harvest to males, as is possible with deer. According to Rusch, the average harvested female bear is just three to four years old, too young

to have successfully bred in most cases. That limits the ability of the population to recover.

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FOOD SAFETY

Cottage Food Producer Food Safety Training set for Sept. 8

DULUTH- Are you familiar with the current Minnesota Cottage Food Law requirements for selling homemade cottage foods? Join University of Minnesota Extension food safety educator Suzanne Driessen at the Keep it Legal! Keep it Safe Cottage Food Producer class in Duluth on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Gary New Duluth Recreation Center. The class meets the Minnesota Department of Agriculture food safety training requirements to register

as a Minnesota Cottage Food Producer to sell homemade baked goods, candy, home-canned peaches, pickles, salsa, jam and jellies and more.

The course focuses on food safety practices for all processes covered under the cottage food law including drying, baking, confections, jams and jellies, acid and acidified fruit and vegetables, and fermentation. Participants learn how to produce, package, label, store, and transport a safe food product. Wonder if your product is an allowable

non-potentially hazardous food? Bring it along to the class and have it tested to see if it meets exemption requirements under the Cottage Food Law.

Registration materials are available at <https://extension.umn.edu/event/cottage-food-producer-food-safety-training-duluth>. For more information, contact Karla at 507-337-2808 or engel114@umn.edu.

The Wilderness Partners with Folds of Honor in support of Patriot Golf Day

VERMILION RESERVATION- In 2017, a record \$7 million was raised for Folds of Honor through Patriot Golf Day donations and fundraisers hosted by golf facilities nationwide. The Wilderness at Fortune Bay will partner with Folds of Honor in support of Patriot Golf Day. Golfers who visit the Wilderness at Fortune Bay beginning Friday, Aug. 31 through Monday, Sept. 3 will be asked to join a Closest to the Pin contest on hole 17. The donation entry fee is \$5 to Folds of Honor. Each day the winner of the contest will receive a round of golf for two at The Wilderness. In addition, The Wilderness will donate \$1 of every green fee and 10% of all Pro Shop sales over this weekend in support of Folds



FOLDS of HONOR

of Honor.

Patriot Golf Day started in 2007. It is held over Labor Day Weekend and encourages golfers across the country to give a little extra to help fund Folds of Honor scholarships. Many KemperSports properties are participating nationwide.

“We are honored to partner with Folds of Honor,” said Ryan Peterson, General Manager. “So many service men and women have given every-

thing to protect our freedom and Patriot Golf Day gives us a chance to do our part to help those families have a bright future.”

Patriot Golf Day has become one of the largest fundraisers for Folds of Honor, a non-profit that has raised more than \$47 million and awarded more than 16,000 educational scholarships to family members of fallen and disabled service members. Many KemperSports properties are active with the mission and play an integral part in raising funds and awareness for this great cause. Please visit the Folds of Honor website at www.FoldsofHonor.org.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Conrad Rones

A Celebration of Life for Conrad Rones will be held on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 12 noon at McKinley Park Campground. Conrad Joseph Rones, 79, of Soudan, entered into rest at St. Mary's in Duluth on Tuesday, July 31, 2018. Conrad is survived by his wife, Celesta; daughters, Kelly (Dan) and Cheyenne (James Andrew); sons, John (Esther), Harry and David; eight grandchildren; and

two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother and sister.

Louis Theil

Louis Theil, 87, of Babbitt, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018 at Diamond Willow. Arrangements are pending with Range Funeral Home.

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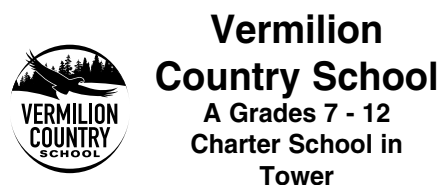
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True Care Medical Therapy Center is accepting applications for a part time Occupational Therapist. Must be fully licensed to practice in the State of Minnesota. New graduates welcome to apply. Resumes can be sent to info@truecaretherapy.com. For more information contact Lisa at 218-666-2697. 9/14

Newspaper Delivery Route



The Timberjay is looking for a part-time employee to help with our newspaper delivery route on Thursdays. Approx. 4.5 hours of work starting at 9 a.m. Must have reliable transportation (mileage will be paid). Sorting newspapers for post office and newstand deliveries. Please call Jodi or Marshall at 218-753-2950 for details.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

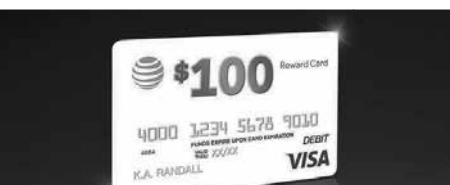
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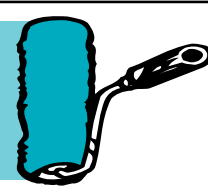
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