

Restoring Big Rice...See /4B

Inside:

Volleyball...See /1B

Embarrass Car Show...See /2B

Rouses honored... See /3B

# The TIMBERJAY

VOL. 30, ISSUE 34 August 30, 2019

\$1<sup>00</sup>



## CITY OF TOWER

# Complaint against fire chief aired in public

## Altenburg offers rambling, accusatory defense

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— Tower Fire Chief Steve Altenburg offered a rambling and, at times, accusatory defense of his actions in the face of a complaint by a female member of the fire department that she had been singled out for discriminatory treatment by Altenburg. The complaint also

alleged that Altenburg had used inciteful and disrespectful language during a recent fire department training, openly suggesting that the city would be better off if Mayor Orlyn Kringstad and *Timberjay* publisher Marshall HelMBERGER would kill themselves.

Kringstad noted that the council had intended to give preliminary consideration of the complaint in a

closed session, as is required by law, but Altenburg exercised his right to have the matter discussed in public.

Discussion of the issue came moments after Breitung police ejected *Tower News* commentator Tony Sikora from the meeting for inappropriate conduct. Sikora had asked for a copy of the complaint

See...TOWER pg. 9



Breitung Township officer Jim Battin ejects Tower News commentator Tony Sikora from the Tower City Council meeting on Monday. photo by J. Summit

## SUPPORTING THE ARTS



## 'Nature' is theme of unique performance in Ely

Story and photos  
by Keith Vandervort

The story of the friendship between Ralph Waldo Emerson, the prominent 19th century essayist, and Henry David Thoreau, author of "Walden," played out in dramatic fashion here last weekend as part of a unique presentation on the grounds of

See...NATURE pg. 11

Above: Actors portraying Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau headlined "Nature" at Hidden Valley last weekend. Right: Ely-area choir members participated in the outdoor play.



## CITY OF COOK

# Council gives preliminary OK to eight-percent levy increase

by MELISSA ROACH  
Staff Writer

COOK— The city council here, last week, gave preliminary approval to an eight-percent levy increase for next year. The decision, which will be revisited before a final levy is set in December, came following City Administrator Theresa Martinson's presentation of the proposed 2020 budget.

The proposed budget projects operating revenues, including local government aid and property taxes, at \$572,780 next year, with expenses projected at \$584,650. Those numbers are likely to be refined over the next few months and city officials stressed that they hope to trim the levy increase as they do so. "We are just putting it at eight percent with the intent to reduce it," said Martinson.

Martinson said she will continue to meet with department managers to review budgets, looking for ways to lower the preliminary levy. The city's Truth-in-Taxation meeting is set for Dec. 19.

Spending in many areas will be similar to 2019. "So, virtually the same budget from last year," Martinson said.

The 2020 proposed budget does not include funding for any of several items on the city wish list, such as alley paving, siding for an addition to City Hall, the IRRR residential and commercial redevelopment program, or Community

See...COOK pg. 10

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING

# Cook Farmers Market Customer Appreciation Day set for Saturday

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

COOK— The temporary closure of the Zup's Grocery Store in Cook has been a mixed bag for vendors at the local farmers market here.

Vendors weren't certain if the

lack of a local grocery store would boost business at the market or simply send more people out of town for their food shopping. So far, however, vendors say they've seen an uptick in sales.

"It's been a good year," said Kelly Dahl, an organizer of the market. "Our vendors have been

pleased with how busy the market has been."

Missy Roach, from Bear River Farms, agrees it's been a great year at the market.

"Sales have been very good this year," she said, "and I feel like

See...MARKET pg. 10



## Great Styles for Men and Women

### Your Friends in the Great Northwoods!

218-365-6745 Daily 6 - 9 pm piragis.com 105 N Central

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950  
editor@timberjay.com



# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Crane Lake Labor Day weekend celebration underway

CRANE LAKE- Labor Day Weekend kicks off on Friday, Aug. 30 for a weekend of great shopping deals. Pick up a map at Anderson Canoe Outfitters and complete the Trading Post Run and you will enjoy end-of-season discounts and sidewalk sales at area businesses. In the evening, dine at Voyagaire Lodge enjoying an all-you-can eat Fish Fry from 5 - 9 p.m.

Saturday events include a pancake breakfast at the Chapel (8 -11 a.m.) and a very popular afternoon guided hike (1 - 5 p.m.) beginning at Handberg's Marina. Pine Point Lodge will be sponsoring a Kids Fishing Contest during the weekend as well.

Sunday morning is the weekend highlight featuring the 5th annual Crane Lake 5K Walk/Run. Be at Nelson's Resort to register between 8 - 8:30 a.m. The race starts promptly at 9 a.m. Registration forms are available at area businesses; cost is \$25/ adults and \$20/kids 12 and under. Last year about 55 people participated in this Fun Run. And many of them enjoyed the popular Bloody Mary Bar available afterwards. Please call Brenda at 993-2295 if you have questions. This year, the 5K is dedicated to five-year-old Haakyn Mohr and his fight against cancer.

Sunday afternoon the Trading Post Run wraps up with a popular Ice Cream Social from 1 - 3 p.m. at Handberg's Marina where prizes will be awarded at 2 p.m. Bring your completed Trading Post Run map to win cash prizes.

On Labor Day Monday, enjoy a visit from the Dream Machines, a local car club that will be rolling in to Voyagaire Lodge for lunch (weather permitting) with their amazing classic cars.

## Vermilion Dream Quilters meet Sept. 5

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet on Thursday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Catholic Church Social Hall in Tower.

The September program is how to prepare your quilt before bringing it to your quilter, with a panel discussion featuring several local long-arm quilters. Susan Covey of Cabin Quilting in Cook, Linda Bergerson, and Corrine Hill will share preparation tips for both your quilt top and back. These steps will help you partner with your quilter to get great results.

If you have a Pillow Case kit for Veterans in Hospice, please complete it and bring it to the September meeting. If you aren't familiar with the "burrito" method of construction, check out our July minutes for a tutorial link.

Guests and visitors who are interested in quilting and creative sewing are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

## MSO has openings for strings, low brass, and more

VIRGINIA- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra starts rehearsals for its 42nd season on Monday, Sept. 9 in Eveleth-Gilbert High School's band room. We have openings in all strings sections, low brass, and others. The year's programming includes Beethoven's Fifth, Mozart's Requiem, Schubert's Unfinished, Handel's Royal Fireworks, and much more. Go to [www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org), and find "Join Us" for all the details.

## TOWER

# Moving day for Lamppa Manufacturing



It's been a busy week for employees at Lamppa Manufacturing in Tower. Commercial movers spent several days moving the heavier equipment into the new manufacturing building on Hwy. 135, while staff worked to get the new space ready to start manufacturing their one-of-a-kind wood-burning furnaces and sauna stoves next week. Pictured is Tower Mayor Orlin Kringstad handing over the keys to the building to Lamppa Manager Dale Horihan. Also pictured are employees (from left) Taner Stage, Andy Trucano, Steve Raj, and Mike Larsen. photo by J. Summit

## New Welcome to Tower sign installed

by BILL STONE  
Staff Writer

TOWER- It's finally here. Tower's new welcome sign has been installed, but it will be a few more months before the rock-work base and landscaping are completed. The sign is located at the corner of Hwys. 169 and 135, at the west end of town.

Work on the sign began over two years ago. The project was funded by an IRRR grant program which also included interior and exterior renovations at the Tower Civic Center, and landscaping work on Main Street.

The installation of the sign, which

was designed and built by Kara Polynier at Ely Design Works, was delayed due to issues with permitting from MnDOT, which had to approve the sign's location. A second, smaller sign will also be installed at the east end of the city.

The showplace quality sign which is meant to complement ongoing development work in the city, including the new harbor, new Hwy. 169 bridge, and the planned town home development.

The city has applied for a second, smaller grant to help fund the installation of sign lighting and a rock base with flowering shrubs.



## EMBARRASS

# Community Night Out: Pat Surface Concert, Sept. 8

EMBARRASS- On Sunday, Sept. 8 from 4 to 7 p.m. you are invited to a free concert of delightful music along with the opportunity to sit on the lawn at the Seitaniemi Homestead and Housebarn and purchase a tasty helping of homemade chili and cornbread, along with a slice of the best pie you can find anywhere in Minnesota. Coffee will be served. This event is organized by Sisu Heritage.

Pat Surface comes to us with some of the best sound around; he entertains and gives enjoyment for all ages. You can visit with your friends and neighbors and explore the housebarn site, listen to the music, and enjoy supper with your kids or your better half. Several Sisu members will be available to guide you on the tour and answer your questions. If the weather turns rainy, we will have the Sisu tent set up on the grounds.

The free musical event begins at



4 p.m. at 8162 Comet Rd., two miles to the north off Hwy. 21 between Embarrass and Babbitt. Signs will be up to show the way to the historic site. Community Night Out is the annual end-of-the-summer event presented by Sisu Heritage during the second weekend of September. Community Night Out serves as a fundraiser for Sisu Heritage to assist with restoration and preservation of older log buildings and farmsteads in the community. Freewill donations from those who attend are appreci-

ated and the proceeds from the meal are also used for this cause.

The details of this Sunday afternoon event have been planned by the volunteers of Sisu- pies of many flavors and design will be baked with love, and the beef chili is prepared from Linda's famous recipe, along with Jeannine's delicious buttered cornbread. You won't want to miss it.

Any questions, call 218-984-3012.

## Sons of Norway to meet Sept. 5

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday,

Sept. 5 in the Virginia City Hall clubroom for the annual Lapskaus Supper. The serving committee is Mary Yapel, Richard and Phyllis Starich, and Nancy Rosen. Anyone interested in Norwegian

heritage and culture is invited to attend.

## Range Fiberart Guild meets Thursday, Sept. 5

VIRGINIA- The Range Fiberart Guild

will meet on Thursday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 901 4th St. S in Virginia.

## SAUNA SATURDAY

Saturday, August 31

4 to 8 p.m.

Gruben's Marina  
Lake Vermilion

FREE Mobile Sauna will be fired-up, lakeside  
Bring your swimsuit and beverage of choice

5 p.m. Informal presentation and question and answer session with sauna expert (and Pine Island resident) Glenn Auerbach, who is the editor at [www.saunatimes.com](http://www.saunatimes.com), an organization dedicated to all things sauna. Auerbach is also a sales rep for Lamppa Kuuma Sauna Stoves.

The event is free and open to the public

Visit our Labor Day Sale including  
10-50% OFF our Wine, Beer and Spirits.....  
While you enjoy Sauna Saturday!



4296 Arrowhead Point Rd, Tower  
218.753.5000  
Grubens@DLC3.com  
[www.grubens.com](http://www.grubens.com)



Photo: Peggy Kronick

## LIVE MUSIC

EVERY FRIDAY

7 to 9

## SNOWBANK LODGE

Drive out the scenic Ferberg Road and relax with a glass of beer or wine while listening to the mellow sounds of Barb Hall.

Dinner is also available with

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

218 - 365 - 6032

For more information: [info@snowbanklodgeandoutfitters.com](mailto:info@snowbanklodgeandoutfitters.com)

# End of Summer SALE

- Up to 50% off Lake Vermilion clothing and gifts!

- All REMAINING INVENTORY of Crest pontoons and Lund boats.

**LUND** **CREST**

- Stop by to check out our deals!  
- See our website to view our current boat inventory.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND HOURS: Fri, Sat 8-6; Sun & Mon 9-4  
(218) 753-4190 • 6143 Pike Bay Dr, Tower • E-mail: [aronsonboatworks@frontiernet.net](mailto:aronsonboatworks@frontiernet.net)

ELY SCHOOLS

# Board okays school survey

## Taxpayers will be asked views of facility upgrade options

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – School Board members here Monday night signed off on a community survey that will soon be sent to ISD 696 taxpayers to gauge their support for a facilities renovation project.

Following months of task force workshops, deliberations by the board over financial considerations, and reviews of potential architectural plans and options, the public will now be asked to weigh the needs of the students in the Ely schools against a potential increase in their property taxes.

The project, estimated to cost at least \$5 million and possibly as much as \$20 million, will require a voter-approved bond measure to become a reality.

The draft survey was not made public this week, but through the board's discussion, it appears that the survey gives options for how much of a renovation project the taxpayer is willing to support, and what sort of renovation options have the most support.

"There is no basic (renovation) plan until you get the results back and you decide what you want to do," Abrahamson said. "There are options to the plan and choices to be made."

Any property tax increase would likely be for a 20-year period, Abrahamson said. "Tax impacts are based on a property's taxable market value, and not what the owner may think their property or their business is worth," he said.

With the board's final approval, the survey will be sent to the printer by the end of this week, and will be emailed to staff early next month, followed by distribution via email to parents. Mailed surveys to all district taxpayers will be distributed the week of Sept. 16, Abrahamson said. Surveys should be returned by Oct. 14.

Survey results will be presented to the school board by the consulting firm School Perceptions at a special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. in the school media center. School board meetings are open to the public.

The school board will use the results of the survey to construct questions for a bond referendum that could be held in February or April of next year. The board will hold public information sessions prior to a vote.

The facilities project discussion all started with an idea to build a better connection between the school buildings on the Ely campus. "For years, the safety and security of our students traveling between buildings has been a focus of the district,"

Abrahamson said. "This remains our primary concern, though we may also realize savings in heating costs because we won't be opening doors to the outside in the dead of winter multiple times a day."

Other concerns that arose during facilities discussions include the maintenance and upkeep required for the century-old buildings. "There is a great sense of community pride in our historic buildings, and maintaining them is a priority," Abrahamson said.

Potential funding help from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, through their Collaboration and Innovative Programming, innovative programming and academic collaboration was discussed at length over the summer. "For the IRRRB to support a facilities project like ours, they need to see community commitment," Abrahamson said.

Board member Tom Omerza stressed the importance of "keeping IRRR officials in the loop" on the results of the survey and how the Ely community feels about paying for school building renovations.

**Other business**

In other business during a short special meeting, the board:

See **SCHOOLS...pg. 5**



## Electrical upgrade in Lake Vermilion area

LAKE VERMILION— Crews have been working for the past several weeks to reroute the output from Lake Country Power's Vermilion substation, located just south of the Y Store, to the Lake Vermilion area. Currently the power is transmitted via a 46-kilovolt line owned by Lake Country Power, but the upgrade will transfer the distribution to a 69-kilovolt line owned by Great River Energy.

The upgrade is intended to improve reliability and increase service capacity, according to Lake Country Power spokesperson Tami Zaun.

In conjunction with the project, the Bois Forte Band has asked Lake Country Power to vacate its double circuit lines on the west side of County Rd. 77 and reroute those lines along the existing transmission corridor. The work is expected to wrap up in the coming weeks.

MINING

# State's largest newspaper urges Walz to suspend work on Twin Metals

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The state's largest newspaper, this week, called on Gov. Tim Walz to direct state agencies to suspend work on the proposed Twin Metals mine near Ely until the Trump administration releases scientific

data that federal officials had gathered as part of a two-year study that considered the potential impacts of the mine.

The Trump administration cancelled the study shortly before its completion and has refused to release the science gathered up to that point despite requests from Congress, news-

papers, and environmentalists to do so.

"Gov. Tim Walz ought to wield the immense leverage he has as the state's CEO to lift this contemptible veil of secrecy," wrote the Star Tribune's editorial board in their Aug. 23 edition.

"Walz should order the Department of Natural Resources

and the Pollution Control Agency to suspend permitting work involving the proposed Twin Metals Minnesota mine until the feds release the data."

The Obama administration had ordered the two-year study shortly before leaving office, and Trump officials had initially promised to complete the study

to ensure any future decision on Twin Metals was based on sound science. But the Trump administration subsequently reneged on that commitment. It cancelled the withdrawal study last year, just months before it was supposed to have been completed, and then

See **TWIN METALS...pg. 5**

**We go... THE EXTRA MILE to bring you the great service you deserve!**

**CABINETS**

**RUGS**

**BATH**

**Whether you live on an island, in town or in the woods... Let our friendly, knowledgeable sales staff assist you with all your decorating needs!**

- ✗ **Carpeting**
- ✗ **Kitchens**
- ✗ **Vinyl & Laminate**
- ✗ **Hardwood Flooring**
- ✗ **Ceramic Tile**
- ✗ **Window Treatments & More!**

*We'll go that extra mile to find what you are looking for!*

**EXTRA MILE**

**Don't wait 'til 2020 to see 20/20!**

With 25+ years of serving patients in the Virginia area, Dr. Jeff Melicher appreciates the values of community. Keeping his practice local with a 5-day-a-week Exam Schedule. Appointments are generally available within a week on a day of your choice.

**ADVANCED OPTICAL**  
Family Eye Care Center

Plaza 53 West/Virginia/Mountain Iron 741-3000 advoptical.com

**LAKES GAS**  
Prompt, dependable service since 1959

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Friday, Sept. 6 • 10 AM-3 PM**

**Brat or Hot Dog • Chips & Pop** (until gone)

Served by Cook Fire Department  
FREEWILL Donations Are Welcome

**20 lb. Cylinder Refilled for ONLY \$10**

Cylinder must have current certification  
Only good Sept 6, 2019 at Cook  
Lakes Gas - Limit one per customer.

★ **Register for Drawings**

Gas Grill • Hazardous Gas Detector

• **LIVE MUSIC** •

**218-666-2138**  
1821 Hwy 53  
Cook, MN 55723

CELEBRATING 60 years SINCE 1959

**BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You**

**FLOOR to CEILING**  
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron  
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690

floor-to-ceiling.com/virginia

Open Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri  
8 AM-5:30 PM  
Thurs. 8 AM-6:30 PM  
Sat. 9 AM-3 PM

Find us on facebook.

# OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Investing in Big Rice Lake

Funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund has been critical to many area projects

Kudos to the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund for the organization's significant investment in the future of Big Rice Lake, as we report this week. Few lakes in northern St. Louis County have been as important historically to the sustenance of both people and wildlife. The once-spectacular wild rice crops that grew here drew hundreds of ricers and tens of thousands of ducks and geese annually to this spectacular 2,000-acre lake tucked away in the Superior National Forest.

It was an enormous natural resource and we hope it can be once again, thanks to the \$845,000 that the Outdoor Heritage Fund has approved to undertake a planned restoration.

We recognize that the funding is no guarantee that the lake can be turned around. As officials from the Department of Natural Resources have acknowledged, it was their previous management efforts, which sought to stabilize water levels, that appear to have tipped the balance in favor of pickerel weed, thereby making the lake far less hospitable to wild rice.

Fortunately, DNR officials didn't simply shrug and walk away from this important resource. Instead, they have spent the last several years developing and implementing potential solutions, which are finally beginning to show promise.

The recent grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will now allow the DNR to get the lake's pickerel weed under control, allowing for the eventual return of wild rice.

The timing of this is critical. While it's not entirely clear how long wild rice seed can remain viable, most seeds lose vigor the longer they sit in dormancy. We know that some of seed is still out there, buried in the sediments, and could germinate once favorable conditions return.

That's key, since most rice lakes have their own

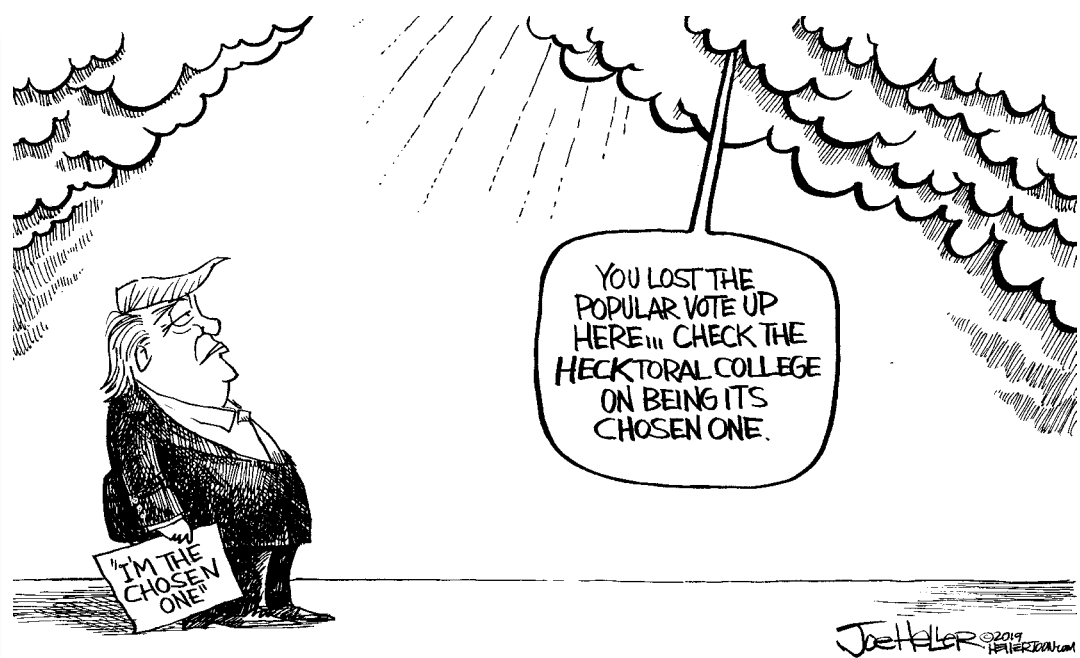
unique strain, and Big Rice was famous for producing not just abundant rice, but some of the highest quality wild rice anywhere in the world.

Simply reseeding the lake with rice from elsewhere is a far-less desirable option. By taking aggressive steps now, it may still be possible to save the Big Rice Lake genotype for the future.

It's a worthy project, designed to restore a natural resource that is iconic to the state's outdoor heritage. It is investments such as this that have prompted us to reconsider the value of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, approved by the state's voters in 2008. We opposed that amendment at the time, preferring to leave such investment decisions under the control of the state Legislature. But over the years, we've seen the benefits that have accrued to our region from passage of that amendment, and we recognize that most of those investments would have ended up on the chopping block in a Legislature too often consumed by other matters.

Minnesota voters showed that they truly care about the future of the state's natural resources and want to see them protected for both current and future generations. The small addition to the state's sales tax may have gone unnoticed by Minnesotans when making their purchases at a retailer, but the impact of those dollars in the development of trails, habitat, watershed protection, and so many other projects, has certainly been apparent. The prospect of restoring Big Rice Lake to its former value as one of the state's premier wild rice lakes, is just one more example of the importance of this unique funding stream to the state's outdoor heritage.

If this investment yields the benefits we all hope for, it will be a remarkable turnaround and prove, once again, that Minnesota's voters made the right call in 2008.



## Letters from Readers

### Greenwood doesn't need the insults

Concerning the Cook Hospital's financial woes featured in last week's *Timberjay*, I was disappointed but not surprised that the Hospital Board Chairperson hurled out a new version of an old trope: "We're carrying Greenwood Township on our back." This is in reference to Greenwood's not belonging to the Cook-Orr Healthcare Tax District. Maybe this scapegoating is just a sign of the times, after all, we listen to it every day on the national level with diminishing returns. In Minnesota, we certainly can and should do better than that.

For the record, the vast majority of Greenwood residents take care of their medical needs in Ely, Virginia and Duluth. Additionally, Greenwood, along with the townships of Breitung, Vermilion Lake, Eagles Nest, Kugler and the City of Tower make up the Tower Area Ambulance Service. The Service provides excellent responses, works closely with the Virginia Ambulance Service and is working toward a future that includes Advanced Life Support with paramedics.

The last time the issue of sneaky midnight State legislation forcing Greenwood and a few other townships into the Cook-Orr Healthcare Tax District came to light in 2015, Greenwood put the question directly on the survey that helped develop our Comprehensive Plan. Not to join prevailed by 481 to 84. Similar opposition was expressed by the other irrationally targeted townships, including Vermilion Lake Township. A report then by the St. Louis County Auditor stated that if Greenwood had belonged to the Hospital Tax District in 2015, it would have meant an additional property tax of \$99.16 for every \$100,000 in property valuation. It's worth keeping in mind that once a city or township joins a tax district, hospital or school, for example, there is no getting out or partway payment. Just ask Kabetogama Township. They tried unsuccessfully for years to get out of the Cook-Orr Hospital tax district.

The Cook-Orr Hospital and its board need to focus on the financial challenges that are outlined in the *Timberjay* article and skip wasting time on insults. Greenwood Township won't vote to join.

**Lee Peterson  
Greenwood Twp.**

### Poisoning the future not a fair price to pay for a paycheck today

Some who have seen my recent letters have asked if I'm retired. No. I'm still working, part time in California and remotely from here in Ely via Internet. At the age of 63, my goal is 30 hours a week or less. With a current staff of nine, we provide the educational background, training and writing skills to draft each environmental report for my review, signature and transmittal.

Others have asked what it is that we do. We provide environmental testing of all sorts: indoor air quality, soils contaminants, pre-demolition hazmat testing (primarily lead, asbestos and PCBs), water quality field testing, and management of remedial projects. We have been retained by most of southern California's major studios, property managers, universities and school districts.

The work is fun, sometimes exciting, often rewarding, and occasionally... heartbreaking. The Boundary Waters issue fits that last description. I enjoy all of the friends we've met and known since purchasing a home here in 2004. Most of these folks are also intelligent and kind. But some of them have bought into the idea that hard rock mining can be performed here without harm to the environment, even though there is no historical or actuarial evidence to support that notion. In the end, all such mines in the past have meant permanent, profound contamination to surface water, groundwater and soils.

Like most Americans, I also have a deep love and concern for our people, our wilderness and our national wilderness areas. And I've seen EACH of these decimated by mines such as the ones currently proposed (I was a union miner in the 1970s and

1980s). Heavy metals poisoning in children is real, it is under-reported, and the effects, including tremors, learning disabilities, cancers and other diseases may go undetected or improperly diagnosed for decades.

That's the primary reason I and others continue to express opposition to these mines, even as I, at least, maintain adamant support for union wages, the growth of tourism, and other non-mining alternatives.

Poisoning our children's children with heavy metals and toxic chemicals is not a fair price to pay for a temporary paycheck. I'm sorry. It's not.

**Duane Behrens  
Ely**

### Impressed to see real journalism in a small town newspaper

I've subscribed to the e-edition of the *Timberjay* for the past couple of years, as part of my plans to eventually move to the area. I have to say I'm continually impressed at how you and your staff are doing real journalism at a small-town paper.

**Bob Nemzek  
El Rancho, N. Mex.**

### Time to move to the 21st Century

Defying logic, the Greenwood Town Board refuses to allow installation of a computer that all can use in our town hall. More than one supervisor states that they have never heard of such a need. A Blandin Foundation grant would pay for most of the costs involved in the project.

I know many property owners and visitors experience outages with Frontier's internet service. The town hall computer would be on fiber and provide a viable solution for all.

If you support our township's participation in this program, please email every one of our township supervisors and copy our town clerk. Their contact info is on the Greenwood Township website. Time to move our township into the 21st century.

**Steve Rodgers  
Lake Vermilion, Tower**



## It's increasingly clear: It's time to step up for the country

When I consider the political situation in this country, I am astonished, angered, and frustrated, like many others. In spite of the reported approval ratings of Donald Trump, I find it hard to believe that many people really admire him or approve of his irresponsible, narcissistic, erratic



**BETTY FIRTH**

behavior. But then I never thought he could get elected. Those who care about the philosophical and functional integrity of America are appalled at his attacks on average Americans, minorities, immigrants, education, the environment, health care, unions, and voting rights while scoffing at

the legal and judicial system. If you hold it dear, he has probably attacked it.

In spite of the evidence of the reigning of ignorance, greed and just plain insanity at the highest levels of our government, I am heartened by the voices that I hear around me. I was particularly impressed by the collection of voices in the letters to the editor and the editorials in the Aug. 23 issue of the *Timberjay*. Sometimes I question whether my own letters and articles

accomplish anything beyond an outlet for my voice, like Lucy, shouting into the wind. Am I just preaching to the choir? Will those with a different viewpoint even bother to read it? These writers who took the time to compose their thoughts and send them in definitely make the case for it being worth the bother. Collectively, they provide a very articulate commentary about key issues that they value as citizens, areas where they believe we're going seriously astray, and the

need to stand up and be counted.

Tim Duff urged us to pay attention, get angry about what's happening in our country, and take action to effect change. Tim Munkeby wrote about the appalling and ill-advised federal cuts to education with many states, including Minnesota, following suit. He points out that funding education is an investment that pays off 16:1 in multiple ways to strengthen our country. He

See **STEP UP...** pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### Congress must act to trim Trump spending

The Trump administration wants to lower interest rates to stimulate the economy and weaken the value of the dollar to encourage foreign trade.

The problem is that the government needs money to meet its increasing financial obligations. The first ten months of fiscal 2019, government spending rose eight percent, but receipts only grew by three percent. It has also depleted its cash balance by a quarter of trillion dollars and, more importantly, the deficit for fiscal 2019 will exceed a trillion dollars. Estimates for foreseeable years are sustained deficits of a trillion dollars or more each

year. These deficits will have to be financed through issuance of Treasury securities.

In order to market this volume of Treasuries, interest rates will be pushed higher to attract investors needed to purchase the bonds. Treasury interest rates are a benchmark interest rate for municipal bonds, mortgages, corporate borrowing and other forms of borrowing. These higher interest rates will result in a slowing of U.S. economic growth.

Higher government interest rates are necessary to entice investors, many of whom already have a large percentage of their portfolios in Treasuries. High interest rates seemingly would attract foreign investors, espe-

cially in those countries which have sovereign debt yielding negative interest rates.

The administration, however, is also seeking to weaken the value of the dollar. The U.S. dollar currency index, with a basis of 100 established in 1973, measures the dollar against a "basket" of six world currencies and reflects the value of the dollar in the global markets. The index at present is 97, indicating that the dollar has depreciated three percent. The administration wants the index number to go lower so that a weak dollar will give foreign currencies more buying power for U.S. products.

In another words, foreign buyers can obtain a more favorable exchange rate for their local

currency conversion to U.S. dollars than prior to the "weakened" dollar. Hence, they can acquire more value or product in U.S. purchases, and provide a greater stimulus to the U.S. economy.

The prospects of a weakening dollar, however, would be a deterrent for foreigners to purchase U.S. Treasuries. The conversion rate from a foreign currency to dollars for the purchase of Treasuries might significantly decrease during the security's holding period. Consequently, when the proceeds from the investment are converted back to the local currency, there may be a significant monetary loss in the transaction, making the investment risky for

foreign participation.

The bulk of U.S. Treasuries are bought by domestic investors and institutions. A significant increase in the amount of U.S. debt will push interest rates higher causing the market price of the outstanding Treasury issues to decline, lowering the liquidity value of a portfolio. When liquidity values decline, portfolios often sustain monetary losses to meet redemptions and obligations to their beneficiaries.

If Congress does not soon exercise fiscal constraints, the United States economy is very likely to deteriorate into a recession.

**Gerry Snyder  
Ely**

### STEP UP...Continued from page 4

exhorted us not to feel helpless but to be aware, speak up, and educate our politicians.

Harold Honkola pointed out that the middle class was built by the unions' right to collectively bargain. With union membership and strength declining, corporate practices have created ever-widening income inequality with escalating levels of wealth for the very few. He urged us to recognize the importance of working together in cooperative social action to bring about change.

Steve Wilson wrote about just such an action, when 28 DNR wildlife managers joined forces in an unprecedented action to object to a new DNR policy that would enable and prioritize timber harvesting over wildlife in Wildlife Management Areas. They were given a gag order, but that didn't apply to Steve nor to us.

Marshall Helmberger went after the many-lay-

ered Trump fabrications about how well the economy is doing. In fact, punitive tariffs have made U.S. goods more expensive, increased the trade gap substantially, and slowed growth globally, possibly leading to recession. Huge corporate tax cuts and excessive increased military spending have pushed the deficit to a trillion dollars, double that of the Obama administration.

So why am I reiterating what was already published? It's very easy for us to read or hear information that is upsetting, grumble about it, and move on to our daily activities, for we all have to keep our lives on track. So, I'm repeating these salient points about a few of the issues to urge us to grab hold and do something. We can't individually address everything, but we can choose what speaks to our minds and hearts (and our outrage) and do something about it. Cooperatively, we can

have a broader and deeper impact.

I have often wondered how any Republicans can feel anything but mortification about the catastrophe in the White House. Their willingness to stick to a party line has definitely won victories for them, big business, and the wealthy over the years, but the current situation is beyond understanding. Finally, some Republicans are speaking out. Former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld, who has declared his candidacy for the presidency as a Republican, characterized Trump as unfit and "too unstable to carry out the duties of the highest executive office."

Former Congressman Joe Walsh, now a conservative talk show host, just announced he is running. He said that Trump is unfit, and that Republicans should have stepped up. "The country is sick of this guy's tantrum. He's a child." Walsh has been

compared to Trump with similar rantings. He says he now recognizes how wrong he was and apologizes. Not the most sterling character, but at least there is some breaking of ranks.

Rick Wilson may be the loudest and most visible opponent of all things Trump. He is well-known as the conservative political strategist and negative ad-maker who has successfully counseled political candidates, state parties, SuperPACS, and national campaign committees as well as corporate and government clients across the nation and the world. He has a regular column in *The Daily Beast*, has been published broadly and is a frequent guest on CNN, MSNBC, NPR, and the national networks. A friend handed me his book, *Everything Trump Touches Dies*, and I reveled in his castigation of Trump, the damage he has done to the country, and the Republican Party for supporting him. His broad

command of vituperative adjectives which he strings together with ease is truly impressive and warmed the cockles of my progressive soul even though I overdosed on his venting before I'd read half the book. However, I thought that this guy would get people's attention on the right when he claimed that the conservative movement had abandoned its principles for the worst president in American history. He has very different political views than I do, but he's doing something to clean up the mess, lobbying for a return to sanity in American politics.

So, what can we do, those of us who don't have the ear of a vast listening or reading audience? Well, what do you care about? What are you angry about? Do that...write letters, call politicians and candidates, support organizations with your money and your time.

What if a small group of rural citizens decided to get together and figure out

how to get people talking about the significance of the bedrock democratic values in their lives? What if they decided to listen to what people are concerned about? Wait, that actually has happened. The Northern Progressives meet monthly for presentations and discussions of critical issues at the Crescent Bar in Cook. North of the Divide is a group committed to breathing awareness into Democratic values and Democratic solutions. door knocking on all the doors they can reach, and presenting a forum on Oct. 12 in Ely.

Knowledgeable presenters will speak on key issues of income inequality, health care, climate change, and jobs and economic development, with time to listen to your concerns. Stay tuned for more details. What can you do? Join in. Help out. Meet some terrific people at Sulu's in Tower on Sept. 4 at 6 p.m.

### SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

► Hired Kris Winkleman for the Cafeteria Aide (cashier) position.

► Called back Cathy Braun to fill a vacant para-professional position.

► Hired Kristine

Marshall for the Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness Coordinator and Teacher position for the 2019-2020 school year.

► Hired Ruth Griffin for the long-term substitute

position.

► Hired Jennifer Stouffer for the Early Childhood Family Education Assistant position.

► Hired David Brown for the bus driver position.

► Hired Madeline Swenson for the Media Generalist position.

► Approved a lane change for Brenda Check-Olson.

► Accepted the resignation of Richard

Kovall from the part-time Cafeteria Aide position.

► Approved the Computer Science Principles course as an Advanced Placement course.

► Approved cooper-

ative agreements for volleyball and girls swimming with the Krekelberg Home School for the 2019-2020 season.

### TWIN METALS...Continued from page 4

issued new mineral leases to Twin Metals back in May of this year.

Twin Metals, which is owned by the Chilean mining giant Antofagasta, has promised to release a mine plan later this year. It must still go through environmental review and permitting but, according to the *Star Tribune*, the company is already working with state officials on pre-development work. That's the work that the *Star Tribune* is calling on the governor to end.

"It makes sense to halt work now," writes the paper. "Twin Metals is the likeliest beneficiary of keeping any damaging science from the aborted study under wraps. Unlike PolyMet, another Minnesota copper mine, the proposed Twin Metals mine is actually within the BWCA watershed, a reality that dramatically amplifies concerns about potential pollution."

Concerns about the Trump administration's secrecy were only intensified by Agriculture

Secretary Sonny Perdue, who was in Minnesota earlier this month for Farmfest. Perdue oversees the U.S. Forest Service, which conducted the study. When asked about the controversy, Perdue said he has no plans to release any of the science that Forest Service had gathered during the roughly 20 months the study was ongoing. And he suggested that it was the state of Minnesota that was ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety of the Twin Metals mine.

The secretary's comment didn't sit well with the governor. "It's outrageous that Secretary Purdue is refusing to accept any responsibility for a mining project in the Superior National Forest," said Walz, in a statement issued to the *Timberjay*. "As Governor, I have a responsibility to ensure that mining projects in Minnesota don't move forward unless there is a rigorous environmental review and permitting process. This is especial-

ly the case for a project that is so close to the Boundary Waters. The manner in which we do our work can either bolster or undermine the trust Minnesotans have in governmental decision-making. Cancelling the Forest Service's environmental

review and refusing to release the information gathered during the study undermines public trust in the process. The Forest Service should complete the study."

It's unclear what impact the recent newspaper editorial will have,

but it signals the distinction that many Minnesotans are making between the planned PolyMet mine, which the *Star Tribune* has generally supported, and the Twin Metals project. Former Gov. Mark Dayton, who supported the PolyMet project, was

outspoken in his opposition to the Twin Metals proposal and had ordered state agencies not to assist the company in advancing the project.



### Adult Day Services Offered

Cook Hospital 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook MN 55723



#### Adult day services is a program that offers:

- ◆ Respite care for caretakers
- ◆ Socialization and exercise for individuals
- ◆ Assistance with getting to medical or therapy appointments
- ◆ Health monitoring i.e. blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring
- ◆ Assistance with showers
- ◆ Veteran foot care
- ◆ Community shopping outing once weekly
- ◆ Create crafts, activities, and so much more!

If you or a loved one are 18 years of age or older and interested in what Adult Day Services offers or have further questions just give **Jessica Steventon** a call at **218-666-6240**

READ the Timberjay!  
www.timberjay.com

TOWER FARMERS MARKET

BLT Night: an annual tradition

by BILL STONE  
Staff Writer

TOWER- The ninth annual BLT Night was held at Good Ol' Days Bar and Grill on Friday Aug. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event was sponsored by the Tower Farmers Market and served 130-plus BLTs this year.

The annual BLT night was the brainchild of Chuck Neil of Embarrass. This event is held at the end of August to coincide with the local harvest of ripe tomatoes.

Bear Creek Acres Farm in Embarrass, operated by Mary Ann and Shannon Wycoff, provided the bacon. This year's lettuce was provided by

a number of local farmers and gardeners. The garden-fresh crop of tomatoes was supplied courtesy of Janna Goerdts's Fat Chicken Farm and local growers Chuck Neil and Mickey White and Michelle and Vic Gunderson. The bread was provided and lovingly baked by the popular Karl Jonas. The Jonas family has been producing their bread for the Farmers Market for more than a decade. The desserts were baked by market vendors Sharon Legg and Betsy Rantala.

The sandwiches included chips and dilly beans, and for a couple more dollars you could include dessert and a raffle ticket for a chance to win a

Harvest Basket loaded with local goodies from the Farmers Market vendors. The drawing takes place at the market in mid-September, so there is still time to buy a ticket.

Special thanks to Randy and Carol Semo for their generosity hosting this event and to all the volunteers who made it another successful one. "I do believe this was our biggest event to date," said one of the long-time volunteers Suzanne Winckler.

BLT Night proceeds will be shared with the Tower Area Food Shelf.

**Right: Claire Jonas helped serve desserts.** photo by S. Ukkola



TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Tower-Soudan Elementary begins classes on Tuesday, Sept. 3

TOWER- Buses will be rolling on Tuesday, Sept. 3 to bring elementary grades 1-6 to the Tower-Soudan School. Kindergarten students will begin classes on Thursday, Sept. 5. Bus routes will be similar to last year; if there are any changes in pick-up or drop-off times, parents will be notified. Parents of new students should contact the school for bus route information.

**Picture day:** Picture day will be Monday, Sept. 23 beginning with preschool and staff at 7:45 a.m. Picture retakes will be Friday, Nov. 1.

**Big Truck Night on Tuesday, Sept. 10-** Tower-Soudan ECFE and Breitung Township invite you to Big Truck Night on Tuesday, Sept. 10 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. Contact ECFE at 218-753-4040 ext. 6113 for more information. Listen to WELY for event cancellation due to inclement weather.

**TS Learning Readiness Open House, Sept. 4-** Sneak-A-Peek at the Tower-Soudan Learning Readiness Program (Preschool) on Wednesday, Sept. 4 from noon to 1:30 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. Children can ride the bus to and from school, and eat breakfast and lunch in the school cafeteria.

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 forms. Class will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 17 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Contact Mary Larson for further information at 218-753-4040 ext. 6113 or email mlars@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

**Early Childhood Family Education Kickoff on Thursday, Sept. 12-** Early Childhood Family Education

Open House is set for Thursday, Sept. 12 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Early Childhood Education Room at Tower-Soudan Elementary.

ECFE is a two-hour education program for children ages infant to five. Classes include parent-child activity time, parent discussion time, and child activity time. Classes begin on Thursday, Sept. 19 and will be held on Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Contact Mary Larson for further information at 218-753-4040 ext. 6113 or email mlars@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Tower-Soudan ATV Safety Class held

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan area has 19 new students that have completed the ATV Safety Course, both the online class at atvcourse.com, and the field day certification. With the help of 11

volunteer instructors, all 19 were able to pass the written and hands-on portion of the certification.

The class began on Aug. 22 with a two-hour classroom review; activities kept moving along with a two-hour strictly hands-on riding test and ATV maintenance checklist. The students did an outstanding job, along with the volunteers who really showed their interest and expertise in the field. Thank you again to everyone who was involved, and safe ATV riding.

On behalf of the Prospector Alliance ATV Club, we would like to give the sponsors a big thank you.

Prospector Alliance ATV Club for sponsoring the class; Ely Echo, Timberjay, and Tower News for running the class notice in their paper; the Lakoskey Family for the use of the Iron Ore Bar

Parking Lot; the City of Tower for allowing the use of the Tower Civic Center, and some of the props for the ATV courses; the Breitung Police for providing help with the class and field activities; the Tower Ely Area Conservation Officers for providing help with the class and field activities; and the Minnesota DNR for helping sponsor the class and providing classroom supplies, and assistance from Joan Broten.

We would also like to thank all our volunteers: Dan Broten, Mike Indihar, Jason Sanderson (Breitung Police), James Battin (Breitung Police), Sean Williams (C/O Ely), Anthony Broten, Gene Wright, Matt Tichel, Aaron Gornick, Mike Banovetz, and Joan Broten.

Vermilion Lake Annual Potluck Picnic on Sept. 15

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township will hold its Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Get-Together on Sunday, Sept. 15 at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall, 6703 Wahlsten Road.

The event will be held from 4 - 7 p.m., with dinner served at 5 p.m.

All township residents, former residents and friends are invited. Come and visit with neighbors and friends.

Please bring a casserole dish, salad, or dessert to share. Township supervisors will be grilling Polish, brats and hotdogs. The township will provide coffee, punch, buns, plates and plastic ware.

This year the Little Church at 6268 Wahlsten Road will be open for tours from 3:30 - 4:30

p.m. Supervisor Bruce Swieringa will be available to answer questions on the history of the building.

If you have any questions, contact one of the Town Board members: Bruce Swieringa at 741-1789, Sarah Schmidt at 750-2524, Phil Anderson at 749-3462, Steve Lotz at 753-4129, or Crystal Alaspa at 750-4752.

St. Martin's Quilt Ministry is sponsoring a quilt raffle

TOWER-St.Martin's Quilt Ministry is raffling a beautiful hand-crafted Christmas-themed quilt during the Annual Christmas Bazaar in November. The quilt is on display in the social hall of St Martin's; during the first two weeks of September, it will be on display at Jeanne's Card Shop. Raffle tickets cost \$5; only 200 tickets are being sold. The drawing will be held on Saturday, Nov.

16. You do not need to be present to win.

When you purchase a raffle ticket you are supporting the St. Martin's Quilt Ministry. The ministry supports life at all stages - from conception to the end of life:

➤ Our handmade quilts are given to each baby born in the parish, as well as homebound parishioners.

➤ We have provided a quilt to each of the current residents of the Vermilion Senior Living facility in Tower and will continue to gift each new resident.

➤ We work with the Women's Care Center in Duluth. Each May, we sponsor a community-wide Baby Shower for Life for the center. A Diaper Club has also been established to purchase diapers for the center. A shipment of diapers is sent to the center every quarter.

We thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

80th Birthday Party for David Hanson Saturday, Sept. 7 1-4 pm at Willow Valley Hall One Mile West of Gheen Corner on Hwy. 74 / Willow River Rd Public is welcome to attend

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL Because... We look forward to coming to school each day Vermilion Country School is a Grades 7-12 Public Charter School Transportation provided from Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass, Aurora/Hoyt Lakes area, Tower-Soudan/ Lake Vermilion. Call Today To Arrange a Tour • Openings available in all grades Call the school at (218) 753-1246 (lv. msg.) Or (218) 753-2950 (ask for Jodi) • email jherberg@vermilioncountry.org www.vermilioncountry.org

Cook VFW Open Daily at Noon CLOSED on TUESDAYS Happy Hour Daily 4-6 p.m. All Beer & Drinks Bar Menu & Pizza Available Event Rentals Welcome 218-780-6709 Pull-Tabs Sold Daily Lic. 00390 Sunday FREE Pool Thursday Bingo Early Bird 6 p.m. Progressive Prizes Friday 4:30-7 p.m. Hamburger Special Take-Out 666-0500

TOWER FARMERS MARKET VARIETY LOCAL FRESH Market OPEN Until Mid-September Fridays, 4-6 PM at the Train Depot

ZUP'S Inc. 315 Main St, Tower 753-2725 Fall & Winter Hours Starting Sept. 3: Mon.-Sat. 8-6, Sun. 8-3 Labor Day Monday Open 7 AM-3 PM



**Libraries**

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

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

**Support groups**

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely

**WOMEN'S AA** - Noon Mondays, St. Anthony Church basement, Ely

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

**AL-ANON** - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

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

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

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

**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION**

**GED** - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment. Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

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

**Sept. 3** - Joan Peterson - Gun Control Issues

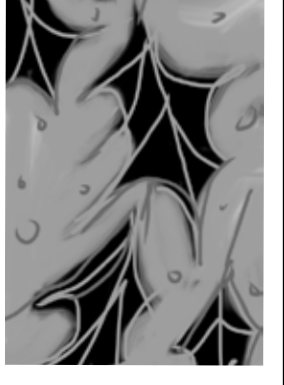
**Sept. 10** - Ely's Mayor Chuck Novak

**Sept. 17** - Lonnie Dupree - "Life in the Middle of Nowhere"

**Play Smear**  
ELY - Smear tournaments are held the first and third Mondays at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S 1st Ave E, starting at 6 p.m.

**Ely Free Clinic**  
ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is open every Thursday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the AFU Building, 111 S 4th Ave. E. For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, www.elycommunityhealth.org, or Facebook page.

**Breathing Out**  
by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



cool in the morning  
august nearing its ending  
soon leaves turn color



# International journalists visit Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - International journalists from the World Press Institute (WPI) visited Ely on Monday as part of their nine-week stay in the United States. Every year since 1991, media scribes are hosted by Ely-area families and participate in an open forum at the Miners Dry House in the Pioneer Mine complex.

The World Press Institute (WPI) chose 10 journalists from Algeria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, India, Romania, South Africa, Uganda and Uruguay to be fellows in its 2019 international journalism program.

The themes of this year's program included nuclear threats and security, journalism in the era of

President Trump, the U.S. Presidential election, and the role of social media in politics and journalism.

The participants spend more than two months in the U.S. examining the free press and media innovations and learning about America's social and cultural diversity and the political system.

After spending several weeks in the Twin Cities, and the Ely visit, the journalists are traveling around the country for five weeks, meeting with journalists, political, business and community leaders and policy experts. They will visit New York City, Washington, D.C., Miami, Austin, Texas, Chicago, and San Francisco before returning to Minnesota for the final week of the program.

The 2019 World Press

Institute Fellows include:

► **Algeria:** Hamdi Baala, reporter for HuffPost Algeria and host of "Offshore," a politics show on Radio M in Algiers;

► **Belarus:** Hanna Liubakova, freelance journalist for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Belsat TV and other media outlets in Minsk;

► **Bulgaria:** Rosen Tsvetkov, investigative journalist, news reporter and producer of documentaries for bTV in Sofi;

► **Finland:** Saara Koho, reporter and columnist for Talouselama, a weekly business magazine in Helsinki;

► **Hungary:** Gergo Plankó, journalist, video reporter and editor at 444.hu, an online digital platform in Budapest;

► **India:** Hakeem

Irfan, investigative reporter and principal correspondent in Kashmir for Economic Times newspaper in Srinagar;

► **Romania:** Sorana Stanescu, managing editor and coordinator of editorial beat covering rural development for DoR (Decat o Revista), a non-profit media organization in Bucharest;

► **South Africa:** Ms. Kate Bartlett, correspondent for Southern and East Africa for Deutsche Presse Agentur (Dpa) in Johannesburg;

► **Uganda:** Martin Kibaba, editorial manager, reporter and talk-show host at LifeFm radio in Kampala; and

► **Uruguay:** María Luján Scarpinelli, editor and multimedia journalist for Latin America at Agence France-Presse

## SUPPORTING THE ARTS

# Gardner Humanities Trust, Tofte Lake Center collaborate

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust and Tofte Lake Center, a retreat center for artists, are collaborating to provide week-long residency opportunities for one or two artists in the last two weeks of Tofte Lake Center's June 2020 season.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Ely artists who want to have devoted time to work on new written pieces, to compose new music, work on dance or choreography, do visual art work and more," said Keiko Williams, executive director for the Trust. "This is an amazing experience to get unhooked from normal routine and

immerse oneself in nature and artistic work, as well as the stimulation of being around other artists."

Artist residencies at Tofte Lake Center (TLC) are interdisciplinary in nature, and balance group activity, personal work time, and facilitated conversation with the exchange of work and performance. TLC strives to include artists from diverse backgrounds and communities. Residencies are structured around the artists' specific project needs. Days are self-directed and could include individual/team work. Access to dramatical conversations and feedback with TLC

Director and Dramaturg Liz Engelman are available to any artist who is interested.


"We're delighted to have Tofte Lake be a place that connects our local artists with artists from across the country, and vice versa," said TLC's Engelman. "Our retreat center encourages cross-disciplinary collaboration, and we'd like to expand this to be cross-communities as well."

Ely artists who are interested in the TLC artist residency can apply through the Trust's Individual Artists Grant Program. Artists will need

to clearly address their artistic project, goals for the week, project needs, and "Why TLC now?" A work sample that relates to the artist's work is also required (up to 10 pages of writing, up to 10 minutes of music/video excerpts, up to 10 visual images).

More information about the Individual Artist Residencies can be found at <http://toftelake.org/individual-group-residencies> beginning Oct. 1, 2019.

Questions about the Trust grants can be directed to Keiko Williams at 365-2639 or [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org). Deadline for grants is Wednesday, Sept. 25 at noon.



**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](mailto:editor@timberjay.com). Visit our website: [www.timberjay.com](http://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 Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales	Jay Greeney

**Official Newspaper:**  
City of Ely, 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.

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

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

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

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

# Cora Olson wins Fine Arts scholarship



Ely's Music and Drama Club named Cora Olson as the recipient of the 2019 Zellar Richter Fine Arts Scholarship. Cora is a talented sophomore student who used her \$200 award toward a week-long dance camp called "Just for Kix." During her camp she was able to take classes that taught and explored many genres of dance. The Ely Music and Drama Club offers three fine arts scholarships every year to students in 5th to 11th grade. These scholarships can be used toward fine arts experiences, conferences, lessons, or camps. Applications are available through the Ely High School arts staff or Ruth Lah at [rlah@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:rlah@ely.k12.mn.us). Ely Music and Drama is a non-profit study group that meets monthly. If you are interested in joining this organization or have questions please contact Jodi Martin at 235-3955. submitted photo

## Having fun in nature

Having fun in nature Professional actors from "Nature" and teachers conducted a family workshop Friday afternoon at the Ely Arts & Heritage Center. Participants played theater games, wrote in a journal, and just had fun outside on the Trezona Trail. submitted photo





SULFIDE MINING



From left, U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber, Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, TMM CEO Kelly Osborne, State Sen. David Tomassoni, TMM Director of Operations Dean Debelitz, State Rep. Rob Ecklund, Iron Range Building and Construction Trades Council President Mike Syversrud, and Babbitt Mayor Andrea Zupancich. submitted photos

# Twin Metals Minnesota, labor come together in Ely

ELY – Officials with Twin Metals Minnesota and the Iron Range Building and Construction Trades Council signed a formal project labor agreement for the construction phase of the planned underground mine, if and when the project completes its environmental review, obtains needed permits, and proves financially viable.

The company estimates that project construction, if approved, would produce several million labor hours and

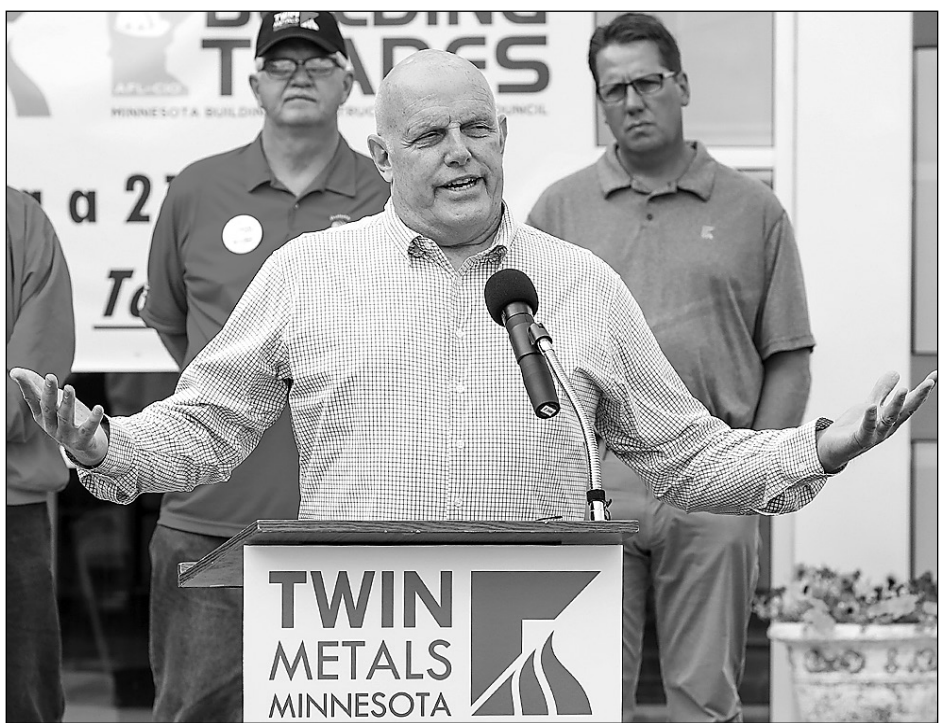
will be similar in scope to the construction of U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, according to TMM Public Relations Manager Kathy Graul.

Twin Metals Minnesota CEO Kelly Osborne and Mike Syversrud from the Iron Range Building and Construction Trades Council formally signed the agreement last week during a ceremony at the Ely office of Twin Metals.

“As we prepare to file our mine plan of opera-

tions, it’s important that we further solidify our partnership with labor and ensure that the construction phase of our project will be completed by professionals whose specialized skills are essential to the premier quality work we insist on,” Osborne said.

The project’s future remains in question, as mineral leases critical to the project are under legal challenge from a coalition of Minnesota businesses and the Wilderness Society.



Twin Metals CEO Kelly Osborne, above, said, “We are proud to partner with Minnesota’s union trades, crafts people and laborers, just as we did when we built our core storage facility in 2013.”



Mike Syversrud, left, of the Iron Range Building and Construction Trades Council, said, “We are thrilled to celebrate this milestone, which will ensure union workers and their families can continue to live and thrive on the Iron Range as the Twin Metals underground mine project comes to life.”

## News In Brief

### Have coffee with a cop

ELY – Join members of the Ely Police Department at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for Coffee with a Cop.

The program was started as a community-police initiative to build relationships between law enforcement and the community they serve. “This event will provide a way to meet a police officer from the Ely Police Department in an informal and relaxed setting,” said Chief John Lahtonen.

Feel free to stop by, grab a cup of coffee and have a chat with the police officer, who will have discussion topics on hand for those who just want to listen.

## LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

# Blues Fest rocks Winton this weekend

WINTON – The 2019 edition of the Boundary Waters Blues Festival is underway at the Longbranch in Winton. Three full days of music are featured on the main stage through Sunday. For almost two decades, the Boundary Waters Blues Fest has been entertaining the people of the north woods with some of the best blues music and top musicians from across the country and beyond.

The 2019 Boundary Waters Blues Fest premieres the addition of the new craft beer sampling tent. Attendees will be able to sample many craft beers from all around the area, including Castle Danger Brewery and Bent Paddle Brewing Co., among others.

“Aside from the beauty of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, what really sets this event apart is its family friendly, back yard blues party atmosphere,” said organizer and promoter Mike Jankovec.

“Any Boundary Waters Blues Festival veteran can tell you, we have the most unique and friendly blues festival anywhere, and the music quality is always over the top,” he said.

### The lineup

#### Friday, Aug. 30

- 1-2:30 p.m. - Tommy Wotruba
- 3-4:30 p.m. - To be announced
- 5-6:30 p.m. - Mojo Stereo
- 7-8:30 p.m. - Bridget Kelly Fik
- 9-10:30 p.m. - P.K. Mayo

#### Saturday, Aug. 31

- 1-2:30 p.m. - Calico Tango
- 3-4:30 p.m. - Jim Stairs
- 5-6:30 p.m. - Brihan Jon Band
- 7-8:30 p.m. - Brian Naughton
- 9-10:30 p.m. - Annie Mack



Vince Agwada closes out the 2019 Boundary Waters Blues Festival on Sunday. submitted photo

#### Sunday, Sept. 1

- 1-2:30 p.m. - Dave Lambert
- 3-4:30 p.m. - Virgil Caine
- 5-6:30 p.m. - Tommy Bentz
- 7-8:30 p.m. - Head Honchos
- 9-10:30 p.m. - Vince Agwada

For more information and tickets, go to [www.elyblues.com](http://www.elyblues.com), call 218-349-5520, or email, [info@rangeblues.com](mailto:info@rangeblues.com).

## Yesterday’s news, this week

from the archives of

### THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

August 29, 1919

### Lower personal valuations

A loss of \$3,236,268 in the total assessed valuation of personal property in St. Louis County is shown in the first abstract of valuations compiled by the county auditors office for presentation to the board of equalization.

This year’s figures give the total assessed valuation of personal property at \$26,661,788, but with an estimated deduction for tax exemptions amounting to \$1,691,400, there remains but \$24,970,388. Last year’s figure was \$28,970,655.

The city of Duluth and all towns in the county with the exception of those possessing heavy mining properties show a gain in assessment.

All of the cities and towns having mining companies with huge personal property holdings show a decrease. This is due to a diminishing of ore stock piles this year compared to last.

### Welcome home

Cards have been received in this city inviting everyone to participate in the Welcome Home Celebration for the soldiers, sailors and marines of the Aurora-Mesaba-Palo district and the opening of the soldiers and sailors community club house at Aurora and Twin Lakes on Monday.

A parade at Aurora and a celebration at Twin Lakes will help to mark the day. E.T. Sandberg is chairman of the celebration and A.E. Hill is the secretary.

Our citizens are also invited to the celebration for returned soldiers and sailors and the dedication of the monument in Chisholm on Monday. An elaborate program is promised.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

# “Fish, Flora and Fauna” reception and art exhibit, Sept. 6 at NWFA

COOK- An extraordinary exhibit by artists Jim DeVries and Jane Wertanen will be unveiled and celebrated beginning with a reception on Friday, Sept. 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery in Cook.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a special drawing for the winning raffle tickets for the Lake Vermilion Trail Fundraiser. This future trail will be a paved scenic route for healthy, safe, non-motorized, year-round transportation and recreation connecting Cook and Tower/Soudan. See information at lakevermiliontrail.com.

The exhibit will be available for viewing during regular business hours throughout the month of September at Northwoods Friends of the Arts, 210 S River St.

Jim DeVries is a smooth painter. He uses pen and ink drawings with watercolor paint and acrylic paint to produce realistic “Fish, Floral and Fauna.” He works as a naturalist at the Laurentian Environmental Center by day, and has become a painter by night. Jim receives

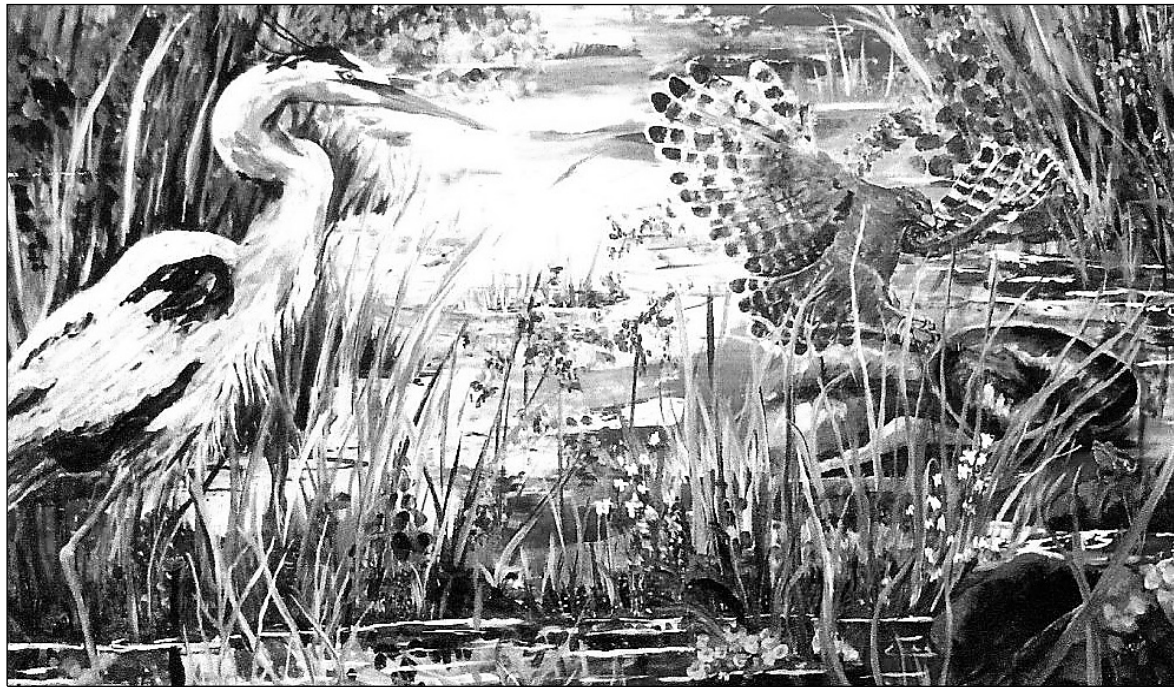
most of his inspiration from the outdoor places where he works and plays. DeVries resides in Britt with his wife and daughter and has been a member of NWFA since 2016. You can find Jim most Saturdays at “Open Studio Art” sessions at NWFA in Cook, when the other parts of his life don’t get in the way.

Jane Wertanen’s oil and acrylic paintings of the outdoors are textured with vibrant color. She grew up on the Mesabi Iron Range, a product of four generations of iron miners. Jane’s early years were spent working in both Aurora and Eveleth where she was inspired by co-workers to seek more education. In midlife her art education began at Mesabi Community College, continued at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and was completed at the Savannah College of Art and Design. While living in Georgia and Florida, Jane became an art educator, sharing her love of art with young students from preschool through high school and college students

to senior citizens in community education programs. “...These paintings are my visual shout of joy, gratitude and a celebration of life,” she said.

Right: This dog drawing by Jim DeVries will be on display this September at NWFA.

Below: Shallow Water Hunters by Jane Wertanen. submitted photos



## Art, Antiques and Antiquities Sale, Aug. 31

COOK- On Saturday, Aug. 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. enjoy shopping for new “Art, Antiques and Antiquities” at Northwoods Friends of the Art, 210 S River St. in Cook, next to Dream Weaver Salon. Enjoy the sale, the farmers market, and a snack from the Cook Lions traveling grill shack on main street. This will be a huge end-of-summer art fundraiser. Come in and see all the beautiful art objects for sale in the back room.

The NWFA Gallery has been open for almost ten years and exhibits about forty artists year-round. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Saturday hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and there is a recurring “Open Studio Art” during which time artists gather to work together on individual projects. Get more information online at nwfamn.org or email nwfamn.org@gmail.com for questions.



This wicker bag and bird house are just some of many items that will be available for sale at the Art, Antiques, and Antiquities Sale at NWFA on Aug. 31 submitted photos

### CRANE LAKE NEWS

# Labor Day Weekend events and well wishes



Good morning, gals. It’s raining like crazy here right now. Sunny days are still ahead (we hope). Have a great week.

My goodness, how did it get to be Labor Day weekend already? Seems like we just had the 4th of July. Where does the time go? Kids will be back in school, and plans for next summer are but a distant thought, with far too many other activities, games, dances, and occasions to celebrate between now and then. Have a great school year, kiddos!

One of our local sons has returned! Welcome home, John Sanborn! John is back from the Marines and we are happy to see him come home. I’m sure he will have many stories about what he has done and people he has met that he can regale us with. Thank you for your service, John.

Congratulations and “job well done” are sent out to Sawyer Sul-

ivan. Sawyer and family have just returned to Minnesota after going to Spain for the World Archery Tournaments. Though Sawyer was eliminated from individual honors, the U.S. Archery Team in the age group of 15-17 year-olds, of which Sawyer was a member, did bring home a Gold. The U.S. was one of 47 participating countries. Hooray, Sawyer!

Ruth Carlson has reached the milestone of six years following a diagnosis of cancer, and she is ready to celebrate with friends. A “survivor’s celebration” is planned at Nelson’s Bar at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5. A cash bar will aid in enhancing the celebration, so please come and enjoy the moment with Ruth. (P.S.—she just got a great report from her doc and does not have to return to see her for six months!)

After appearing at the Alibi Bar in Gilbert last weekend, John E. Cash is playing at Kettle Falls over Labor Day weekend. You will find him on the porch area, with his guitar and special brand of entertainment for country western music buffs. He will perform from 2-6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7 and 8, so a nice boat ride might be on the agenda. John E. Cash plays nationally as well as locally; we are

lucky to be able to enjoy his talent.

Lots of other activities are occurring over Labor Day weekend. You will want to check out the fantastic end-of-season discounts and sidewalk sales at local businesses. Enjoy the Trading Post Run by getting a map at Anderson Outfitters to guide you so you don’t miss out on any of the bargains. Then enjoy the fish fry at Voyageaire Lodge from 5-9 p.m.—all the fish you can eat!

Saturday, Sept. 7 events begin with the delicious Pancake Breakfast at the Crane Lake Chapel from 8-11 a.m. All the syrup you want!!! Then to “walk off” some of that syrup, join in on the guided hike from 1-5 p.m. beginning at Handberg’s Marina. The kids can enjoy the Fishing Contest sponsored by Pine Point Lodge during the weekend as well.

On Sunday, Sept. 8, if you still have energy and you need to wear off a few more calories, be at Nelson’s Resort to register between 8 and 8:30 a.m. for the 5th Annual Crane Lake 5K Walk/Run event. The race starts promptly at 9 a.m. and boasted 55 participants last year. Many of them enjoyed the popular Bloody Mary Bar available afterwards; the Dames heard some just

raced right to the Bloody Mary Bar! The Walk/Run is dedicated to Haakyn Mohr and his fight against cancer.

The Chapel welcomes all to attend services at 11:30 a.m., come as you are! All are welcome!

Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. is the wrap up of the Trading Post Run with the popular Ice

Cream Social at Handberg’s Marina from 1-3 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 9, before heading home, have lunch with the Dream Machines and their amazing classic cars at Voyageaire Lodge (weather permitting). There will be lunch and drink specials for all.

Sounds like another great, fantastic, and

wonderful Crane Lake weekend!

Until next week, the Teapot Dames are singing off!

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

**Stay informed on Cook-Orr happenings by picking up a copy of The Timberjay at the following locations:**

- Northwoods True Value Hardware
- Lucky Seven Convenience Store
- The Country Store
- Pelican Bay Foods

**The Timberjay Newspapers  
Tower-Soudan, Ely, and Cook-Orr**

**Check out our e-edition and find us on Facebook**



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









**NATURE...**Continued from page 1

Hidden Valley.

Professional actors, along with local musicians and singers, combined their talents to offer five performances of "Nature, a Walking Play," written by actor Tyson Forbes, a direct descendant of Emerson.

"Nature" has been performed to great acclaim at over 20 parks and arboretums nationwide. The 2019 tour features nine venues, that began in Rochester and continued in several other Minnesota locations, as well as Iowa and South Dakota. It will be performed at The Old Manse estate in Concord, Mass., after the Ely stop-over.

"Nature" focuses on the shared belief that nature is a source of spiritual respite and renewal. The dramatic elements of Emerson and Thoreau's relationship, including a falling apart, were recreated in scenes that transported the audience, as they made their way along the grounds of Hidden Valley, into the rural landscape of the 1800s.

Forbes believes their views are as valuable today as ever. "Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau were authors, friends, and radicals of their time, calling on their peers to think for themselves, live more deeply, and be agents of change. I believe their words and ideas are as relevant and necessary now as they were then, and I am thrilled to be able to share this story of their friendship and history," he stated.

Bagpipes, ancient flutes, drums, and rich choral arrangements, featuring many local singers, were woven into the script providing for a unique outdoor experience for hundreds of audience members. The scenes were set in four locations among

**The Ely "Nature" performance featured professional actors and musicians from the Minneapolis area, some of whom are Guthrie performers.** photos by K. Vandervort

the forest trails and fields at Hidden Valley. The action unfolded around audience members as they followed the ensemble through the natural beauty of the north woods landscape.

"Nature" featured professional actors and musicians from the Minneapolis area, some of whom are Guthrie performers. They were joined by a community chorus of Ely area singers, and Mattie Lindsay, a young actor from Ely taking the role of Emerson's daughter, Elly.

Ely-area performers practiced under the direction of music director Mike Rouse, chorus manager Billie Rouse, local production manager Johnnie Hyde, and local workshop hostess Sandy Brandy. The week before the Nature performances, the Ely performers and the Twin Cities-based actors rehearsed together to prepare for the opening last Thursday.

The chorus included Duane Bieber, Linda Ganister, Jean Gendreau, Kahsha Hyde, Dan Johnson, Tatiana Riabokin, Andrea Strom, Todd Crego, Barbara Garza, Cal Herrala, Beverly Johnson, Vaughn Knapp, Wendy Lindsay, Sara Skelton, and David Wigdahl. Young singers included Payton Erzar-Tyndall, Tuuli Koivisto, Neva Levens, Sova Meyer and Sylvia Shock.

The Ely "Nature" performances were sponsored by the Northern Lakes Arts Association, Ely Folk School, Raven Words Press and the Ely Arts and Heritage Center.



**YOUR BOAT CLUB**  
YOUR BOAT CLUB, LAKE VERMILION

**2nd Annual LABOR DAY BASH!**

**FREE PIG ROAST & CORN FEED**

**Sunday Sept. 1, 2019**  
**Noon to 5PM**

Make a day of it, and come by boat! Everyone is invited!! The YBC Marina on Lake Vermilion and enjoy **FREE food, games, & live music!**

**20% OFF**  
ALL IN-STOCK TUBES AND ACCESSORIES

**WINTERIZATION SPECIALS NOW!!**  
VERY LIMITED INDOOR STORAGE LEFT! CALL NOW TO RESERVE A SPOT!

**\$11/ft. Shrink Wrap**  
AND  
**\$150 Outdoor Storage**  
Book now! Limited inside storage spots available. Call for details.



**YBC Lake Vermilion**  
**218.753.3033 • 1 Marina Drive, Tower, MN 55790**  
Service • Storage • Slips • In/Out Service • Rentals • Memberships • Gas • Accessories • Bait



4296 Arrowhead Point Rd, Tower  
**218.753.5000**  
Grubens@DLC3.com  
www.grubens.com

**Labor Day Sale!**  
*Thanks to you, we are having a great year, but the leaves will be changing color soon!*

**Join Us...August 30 to September 8**

- Beer, Wine & Spirits 10% to 50% off
- Hats from \$5 each! Closeout clothing & more!
- Ice Cream Cones: Buy 3, Get 1 FREE

\* Sale limited to inventory on hand.

Our stores will be closing for the season on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.** Marine Services including winterization and storage with limited hours will be available throughout September and October. Cabins available year round.

*Thanks for your support!*

# During Harvest Moon Festival • Ely SHOP THESE FINE AREA BUSINESSES!



**Ely's Whiteside Park**  
**September 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Fri. & Sat. 10-5 & Sun. 10-3**

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual**



**A Juried Art and Craft Festival with Live Entertainment**  
**125 Artists and Crafters and a Saturday "Fall Harvest Market"**  
Food Court with Fresh Baked Blueberry Pies.  
**Live Entertainment featuring the "All-Star Stunt Dogs Show" Fri., Sat & Sun.**  
LIVE MUSIC:  
Friday, "Timmy Haus"  
Sunday, "The Singing Slovenes" with guest appearance by Kerry Christensen, Yodeling Master.

**Children's Activities, Pong Rides Every Day & Petting Zoo**



Visit us on Facebook @ElyHarvestMoonFestival or visit our web site [www.ely.org](http://www.ely.org)  
Sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce Events and Promotions Committee



**ZUP'S**  
FOOD MARKETS

**YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP!**

303 E Sheridan, Ely • 218-365-3188  
M-Sat 7-8; Sun 7-6  
*New Hours Coming This Fall*



**POTLUCK**

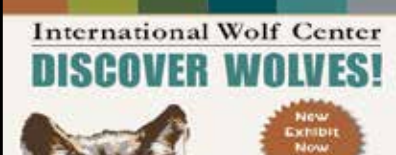
*Vintage & Modern Kitchenware*

101 E. Chapman • Downtown Ely  
218-235-6135  
Open: Tues.-Sat 10-5, Sun. 11-2



**Ely Northland Market**

1230 E. Sheridan, Ely  
218-365-3216  
"Stop in for all your grocery needs!"



**International Wolf Center**  
**DISCOVER WOLVES!**

New Exhibit Now Open

- Daily Programs
- Live Ambassador Wolves
- Wolf Den Store

1346 Highway 169 • Ely MN 55731 • WOLFORD



**ELY BIKE & KICKSLED**

- SALES
- SERVICE
- ACCESSORIES

Open: Tuesday-Saturday  
125 N Central Ave., Ely  
218-365-BIKE (2453)

**Joe's Marine & Repair**

*Serving the Ely area for over 44 years!*

25 W. Chapman St.  
365-6264



**The Timberjay**  
414 Main Street, Tower  
218-753-2950  
[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)



**Breakfast  
Lunch  
Dinner**

**Beer & Wine Available**  
145 E Sheridan  
218-365-4855



**SEE BEARS**  
*guaranteed!*

**NEW EXHIBITS!**

**NORTH AMERICAN BEAR CENTER**  
NORTHWOODS ECOLOGY HALL  
1926 Hwy 169, Ely MN • (1 mile west of Ely)  
For hours and more info, visit: [www.bear.org](http://www.bear.org)

**Mike's Liquor**



- Mankato Brewing
- Earth Rider
- HUGE selection of Minnesota brews

365-5087 • Hours: M-Sat 8-10  
401 E. Sheridan St., Ely



**Your Full Service Fireplace Shop**

Specializing in Wood & Gas Stoves, Fireplaces & Inserts  
21 plus years experience!

(218) 365-5013  
[www.hearthstonecorner.com](http://www.hearthstonecorner.com)  
1203 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN  
Showroom Hrs: M-F 10-5, Sat 10-2

**Blomberg's Cenex**



Gas & Convenience Store

46 Sheridan St, Ely  
218-365-6765

**JACK DANIELS BAND!**



**SEPT. 6 & 7 • 8-11 PM**  
\$5 cover goes to band

M-Sat 10 AM-1 AM, Sun Noon-7 PM  
17 E. Sheridan St. Ely • 365-3896



**Art Created Locally**  
427 E Sheridan St, Ely  
218-365-7300



**SUPER SIDEWALK SALE**  
Labor Day thru Harvest Moon Festival!  
129 N Central Ave, Ely, MN  
9-5 M-Sat, 10-5 Sun



**ICE COLD AT THE MUSEUM**  
2002 E SHERIDAN ST (EAST END)  
OPEN DAILY 10AM-5PM  
ALSO AT HARVEST MOON  
BOOTH 33



**20% OFF**  
All Garden Art!

Hours: M-Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4



**Quality Outdoor Clothing**  
Made with Pride in Ely, MN

205 E SHERIDAN STREET  
ELY, MN 55731  
844-ELY-MADE (359-6233)  
[www.WintergreenNorthernWear.com](http://www.WintergreenNorthernWear.com)

**ELY FLOWER & SEED**

**Fall Plants & Planters are here!**  
Including Asters & Mums  
CHECK OUT...

**Our Special Clearance Pallet**  
(priced as marked)

145 W Chapman St, Ely • 218-365-6555  
OPEN: M-Sat 9-6



**A Place To Gather & Connect**  
FREE WiFi

Gourmet Coffees & Teas, Breakfast, Lunch & Desserts  
We Serve Bridgeman's Ice Cream

4th & Sheridan St, Ely  
218-365-BEAN  
Open 6:30 AM Daily



2030 E. Sheridan St.  
Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-3149

**END OF SUMMER SALE**  
**15-40% OFF**  
Clothing, Footwear, Used Gear & More





# SPORTS

Serving northern  
St. Louis County  
since 1989

## SWIMMING

# NER-Ely swimmers solid in season opener

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

Take at least second in every event against strong Broncos squad

INTERNATIONAL FALLS — Eighth-grader Esther Anderson topped the field in the girls 200 freestyle, helping to lead the Northeast Range-Ely swim team to an impressive overall performance even as they slipped to a strong Broncos squad here on Tuesday, 92-69.

“It was a strong first meet for the team,” said Head Coach Lynn Gulbrandson. “We had solid races and times the entire

meet.”

While the Broncos took the top spot in all but the freestyle, Nighthawks swimmers posted second-place finishes in every event to keep pace in points throughout much of the meet. Brooke Pasmick, Alli Bee, Lily Tedrick and Abby Koivisto posted a strong finish in the 200-meter medley relay with a time of 2:13.86. Freshman Morgan McClelland finished just behind Anderson in the 200

freestyle with a time of 2:33.72 for second. Anderson finished the race in 2:32.56.

Tedrick, a freshman, took second in the 200-meter individual medley, with a time of 2:46.36, just 0.22 seconds behind the Broncos’ Macey Marcotte. She also took second in the 100 fly with a time of 1:13.03.

In the 50-meter freestyle, Pasmick, a senior, finished just 0.64 seconds off the first-place pace with a time of 27.93 and

she finished 1.15 seconds off the top mark in the 100 backstroke, with a time of 1:13.60.

Koivisto, an eighth-grader, took second in the 100 freestyle with a time of 1:08.75, while McClelland took second in the 500 freestyle with a time of 7:03.67. Ninth-grader Kelly Thompson took second in the 100 breaststroke, with a time of 1:30.35.

In other relay events, Koivisto, Thompson, Tedrick,

and ninth-grader Cedar Ohlhauser took second in the 200 relay with a time of 2:00.66. Pasmick, McClelland, Ohlhauser and Anderson combined for second in the 400 relay with a time of 4:40.54.

The Nighthawks visit Mesabi East next Thursday, Sept. 5, with a 5 p.m. start.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Ely downs Nighthawks 3-1

Wolves’ depth overcomes strong NER net play in season opener

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY — Hannah Reichensperger’s height and blocking ability kept Northeast Range in the hunt Tuesday night against Ely, but the Timberwolves’ depth ultimately proved the difference in a 3-1 season-opening victory.

The Wolves took it 25-20, 23-25, 25-19, 25-8.

“It was a little bit of a bumpy start,” said Ely Head Coach Andrea Thomas. “NER’s block shut us down at times, especially in the first two sets.”

Both teams showed signs of first-game jitters. Ely struggled early in the second set, falling behind 11-20 before regaining their composure. They battled back to lose the set 23-25, but their regained momentum carried them through the rest of the match. “McKenna Coughlin and McCartney Kaercher were very consistent servers for us tonight,” said Thomas.

Coughlin served up ten aces in the match, along with ten kills, while Kaercher tallied 25 set assists and five aces. Brielle Kallberg notched 12 digs, six blocks, and five kills, while Erika Mattson posted seven kills and five aces. Jenna Merhar added five kills, five aces, and three blocks.

Reichensperger blocked eight shots for the Nighthawks and posted 16 kills, while Jenna



Smith was solid on defense with 17 digs. Lara Poderzay added 19 assists and Maude Lenz added nine digs.

“Overall, it feels good to get

the win, but we definitely have some areas to focus on in practice

See VOLLEYBALL...pg. 2B

**Nighthawks sophomore Hannah Reichensperger, #5, goes up high to block a shot from Ely senior Brielle Kallberg during action Tuesday night in Ely.** J. Greeney

## GIVING BACK

# Vets enjoy a day on Lake Vermilion

Fifth annual Take-A-Vet Fishing event drew more than 100 area veterans

by BILL STONE  
Staff Writer

LAKE VERMILION — The weather was ideal as dozens of volunteers came together last Wednesday, Aug. 22, to give 108 area veterans another chance to land a few walleyes as part of the fifth annual Take-A-Vet Fishing event held at the Fortune Bay marina. The Lake Vermilion Guides League is the primary sponsor and organizer of the fun day on the lake.

The day started with the Cook VFW Color Guard’s presentation, followed by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by Mary Jo Ralston. Pastor Bradley Felix of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Virginia offered a blessing for the event.

Every year offers something new for the vets, and this year they each were presented with



a hat that commemorates the event and a personal lanyard that identified the vet and their branch of the service. Eight of the vets had served in WWII, including the oldest participant, Jim Charles, a still energetic 96-year-old veteran of the U.S. Navy. Charles, a retired DNR conservation officer who lived many years on Lake Vermilion, now lives in Twin Cities.

“The fishing wasn’t great this year as it was with previous events, but it was still a great time,” said Don Reinhardt, who served in Korea.

Making it all possible were 44 boat operators, along with 32 volunteers, according to event coordinator and volunteer Kathy Rouleau-Hanson.

All the vets had the opportunity to eat their fill of fish as part of

the annual shore lunch hosted by Fortune Bay Resort Casino, with fresh fish, side orders and beverages. Whatever was left over was bagged up and sent home with veterans who needed it.

**Participating vets posed for a group photo before heading out on the lake.**

submitted

## CROSS-COUNTRY

# Ely boys dominate at Virginia Invite

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

VIRGINIA — The Timberwolves thoroughly dominated the Virginia Invitational boys cross-country meet here on Wednesday, claiming five of the top ten finishes to literally run away with first place in a field of nine teams.

Seniors Luke Olson and James Schwinghamer finished second and third respectively. Olson finished 16 seconds behind Virginia phenom, ninth-grader Cameron Stocke, with a time of 16:37.7, while Schwinghamer crossed the line at 17:03.7. Junior Emmett Faltsek finished in sixth, while classmate Jasper Johnston took eighth. Sophomore Gabriel Pointer finished tenth.

As a team, Ely finished with a score of 29, far ahead of Virginia’s second-place score of 93.

“The boys team did very well,” said Head Coach Jayne Dusich.

Meanwhile, the Ely girls runners took fifth place

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

## Sports week

### FOOTBALL

**Thursday, Aug. 29**  
North Woods hosts I-Falls, 7 p.m.

Ely at MI-B, 7 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 30**  
Northeast Range at Bigfork, 7 p.m.

### VOLLEYBALL

**Tuesday, Sept. 3**  
North Woods hosts Bigfork, 7 p.m.

Ely at Littlefork-Big Falls, 7:15 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 5**  
North Woods hosts Mesabi East, 7 p.m.

Northeast Range hosts MIB, 7 p.m.

### SWIMMING

**Thursday, Sept. 5**  
Northeast Range at Mesabi East, 5 p.m.

EMBARRASS FAIR



The classic car show at the Embarrass Fair drew a steady stream of visitors on Sunday and was an opportunity for many folks to remember the earlier days of the automotive era.

photos by P. Wattering



# Oldies but goodies



BUILDING SUSTAINABLY

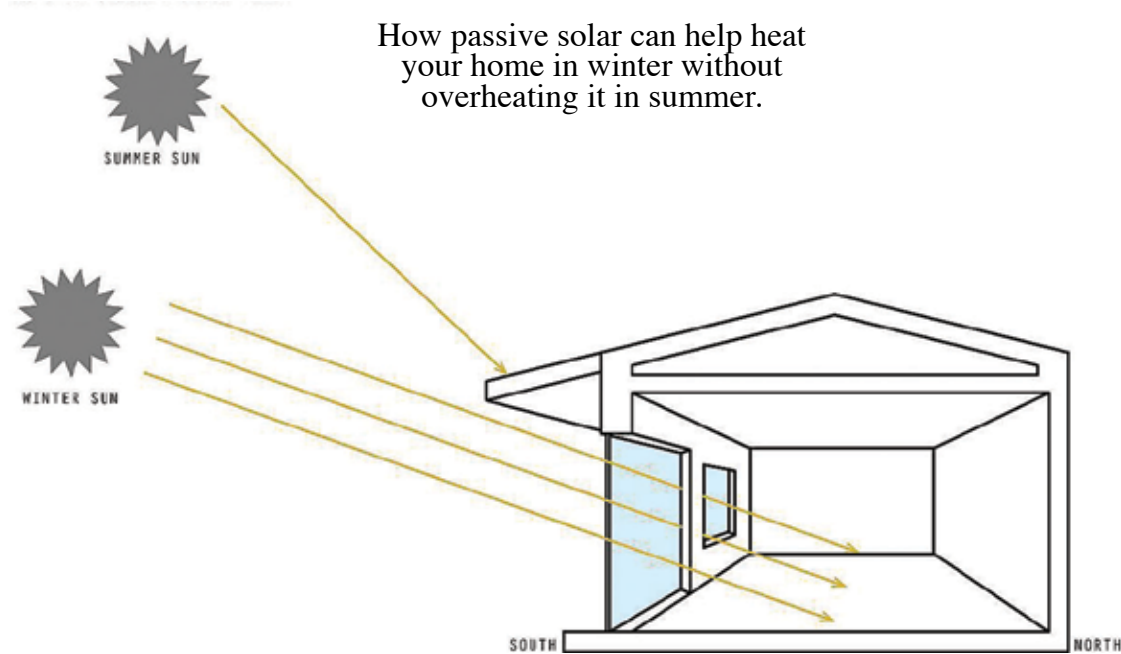
# Passive solar provides sustainable heating

by HANNAH NIXON  
Contributing writer

Welcome to round three of the six-part series exploring the foundations, so to speak, of sustainable building. As a recap, environmental advocate and builder Andy Hill is walking us through the important features of energy-efficient design and using his real-time retirement home construction as a demonstration. Two weeks ago, we explored the "Perfect Wall," a systematic design previously coined by the Cold Weather Institute in Fairbanks, Alaska, that Hill incorporated into his own project.

Now, we're graduating from walls to windows. The sunshine that pours warmth and joy through our windows is, at times, a force to be reckoned with. It has the power to heat but equally to overheat. By designing with passive solar concepts, sustainable designers and contractors like Hill can regulate the sun's effects to reduce energy consumption both winter and summer.

Unlike active solar, which uses the sun's power to create electricity or heat water, passive solar, uses a combination of site location, window placement, and varying window compounds to regulate how the sun's rays themselves interact with our homes. "When considering window placement, for example, it's important to remember that the sun's rays most effectively heat our homes when angled through windows so that the sunlight strikes the maximum thermal mass inside the home. Imagine a ray of sunshine extending



How passive solar can help heat your home in winter without overheating it in summer.

across the length of your living room floor. Here, thermal mass absorbs heat and in turn raises the home's indoor temperature."

Thus, says Hill, "the square footage of the windows correlates directly to the square footage of the house where heat can be absorbed."

However, here in the Northwoods, we know that design will have to account for changes in the sun's angle from winter to summer.

"You're playing with the sun's angle," says Hill. "Maximum light equals maximum heat." In the northern hemisphere, the most direct sunlight comes from the south. Therefore, south-facing windows most effectively utilize sunlight. The summer sun sits higher in the sky than the winter sun, and as a result will enter homes through the window at a sharper angle and reflect directly

onto a home's floor, generating heat that is typically unwanted in the warmer season. A rooftop overhang is a simple solution to this problem, by creating a barrier between the summer sun's angle and the windows.

The winter sun sits lower in the sky, allowing its rays penetrating south-facing windows to extend across the length of a home's floor, eventually striking the interior north wall. This setup allows sunlight to extend all the way through a home, which is a defining aspect of passive solar design. So, says Hill, "when choosing our site location, we were looking for a property that sat far back against the north side with dominant southern exposure." Hill also describes the importance of considering flora in site location. If a home has nearby deciduous forest, for example, residents can count on more sun exposure from

that direction in winter, when those trees aren't flaunting their greenery. Hill calls this "working with nature."

After site location and window placement, the second most important consideration is window composition. Passive solar design involves window glazing, a method that allows windows to either gain or repel light and heat dependent upon the gas utilized. "Changing the gas filling changes the performance of the window," says Hill. Another composition tactic for defending against heat penetration is the use of energy-efficient glass coatings, one type of which is called Low-e. Low-e glass limits the amount of infrared light, or heat energy, entering a home; it is an all-in-one for illumination plus climate control.

In summary, Hill's new gas-filled, low-e, triple-paned windows aid in maintaining a



Andy Hill sorts through some of the new triple-pane windows he is using on the ultra-efficient new home he is building in Ely. submitted

constant indoor temperature. The windows' glazing mixture, he says, "is designed to let heat in and keep heat in. A house in Florida may still elect passive solar, but their mixture will let light in and repel heat."

But, what would design be without style? The European-style windows Hill selected are unique in that their opening mechanism angles inside (think pull versus push), and also tilts open in order to further control the angle at which the sun is entering the home.

So, open your Northwoods home up to the south, choose the windows best for your site location, and let the light in. With a smile, Hill makes a final, less scientific recommendation, to place a window facing east near your dining room table. "Folks in the Northwoods want a sunny breakfast spot," he says. "This makes for a cheery home."

## WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

in a field of seven, with ninth-grader Zoe Devine finishing in seventh place overall, with a time of 21:28.5. Phoebe Helms (18th) and Sydney Durkin (19th) both finished in the

top 20 with times of 23:12 and 23:16.5 respectively.

"Zoe had a good first race along with Phoebe," said Dusich. "And Sydney had the best race for

her so far."

The Wolves runners will be back on the course on Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Eveleth-Gilbert Invitational, starting at 3:30 p.m.

## VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

before our matches next week," said Thomas.

Despite the loss, Nighthawks Head Coach Jodi Reichensperger said her team felt good about how they played. "We knew going

in where Ely stands. I anticipate they will be in the top three in our section," said Reichensperger. Having lost four starting seniors from last year, Reichensperger acknowledged there's some rebuild-

ing to be done. "There's nowhere to go but up for this team. Right now, they show a lot of promise."

## Sports briefly

### North Woods rallies to beat Broncos 3-2

INTERNATIONAL FALLS— The Grizzlies rallied in the final two sets here on Tuesday to notch a 3-2 win in their season opener against the Broncos. The Grizzlies dropped the first set 25-20, but recovered to win the second set 25-16. When the Broncos won set three 22-25, it took

back-to-back wins, 26-24 and 15-11, for North Woods to take the match.

Senior Coley Olson led the way with 12 kills, followed closely by Karlyn Pierce with ten kills and five blocks. Morgan Burnett managed the offensive play with 12 set assists and five ace serves, while Kayla Tschida tallied seven blocks.

North Woods hosts Bigfork on Tuesday. First serve is set for 7 p.m.

## STATEWIDE HONORS

# Hitting the high notes...



## Mike and Billie Rouse honored with statewide choral award

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Local musicians Michael and Billie Rouse were presented with the Advocate for Choral Excellence (ACE) Award from the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota (ACDA-MN) earlier this month at their annual summer banquet at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

The ACE Award program, first established in 2008, is designed to celebrate the efforts of people across Minnesota who have done outstanding work for their communities, serving the choral art. Seven such advocates from all corners of the state were honored at the 2019 event.

“Mike and Billie have inspired singers throughout the region through their work,” said Bruce W. Becker, Executive Director ACDA of Minnesota. “As the choir director for the Ely School District, Mike works tirelessly to provide opportunities for his choir students, bringing them to invitational events at regional universities, inviting guest artists to music festivals, and leading them in concert, contest, and stage events. Of course, Mike’s personal story continues to inspire his students and the community alike, including our state’s choir directors.”

Mike Rouse reacted to the surprise of his nomination for the award and the honor of attending the banquet. “We were surrounded by the most amazing collection of high school and collegiate choral directors and the MMEA State Choir. Music was coming from everywhere and it was all just amazing, and then (the award presentation) happened,” he said.

“This (honor) belongs to every student singer, teacher, director and guest artist (Monroe Crossing and Carrie Newcomer). This belongs to the dedication of Crystal Poppler and Wells Fargo for their endless support. This belongs to Irene Hartfield for her accompanying,” he said.

“This award belongs to the talents of Dr. Matthew Faerber, Dr. Michael Smith, Dr. David Mennicke, Dr. Bret Amundson and of course, our beloved Dr. Matthew Olson. This belongs to the staff of UMD Alice Pierce, Rachel Inselman and Elias Mokole. This belongs to everyone who hosted our guests: Heide and Helmut Buettner and the Adventure Inn. This belongs to every business that has supported us in big ways and small - Zup’s, Ely Northland Market, Plum Bun Bakery, and The Front Porch to name only a few,” Rouse said.

He added, “This honor belongs to ARAC and The Gardner Humanities Trust. It belongs to some amazing volunteers like Muffin and Gail. It belongs to our photographer John. It belongs to the great coverage by The Timberjay and The Mesabi Daily News



**Pictured here from, from left, are: Dr. Richard Robbins, from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and current Northeast District Chair for ACDA-MN, Billie Rouse, Martha Rouse (mother to Michael) and Michael Rouse.** submitted photo

and Ely-TV, and the *Echo*. It belongs to Music Boosters and every guest that traveled far and near to hear their kids sing and further support the education and continuation of choral music. Thank everyone (even if I didn’t list you individually). We have been blessed.”

A former student, Hanna (Morgan) Illies, who graduated from Northeast Range High School in 2012, said, “Mr. Rouse is an outstanding teacher. He provided opportunities for his students to grow through the power of song and the talent it takes to bring us together through the shared choir experience. I do not feel as though I have a great singing voice and didn’t even want to join the choir because I was a band kid, but thank goodness I did.”

She added, “One of the highlights of my senior year in 2012 was when the Northeast Range Choir went to state competitions in Duluth. Even though I can not remember the song from that day I will never forget the overwhelming feeling of joy and peace that surrounded me as we sang together filling the auditorium with a beautiful unified voice. A voice that would not have been shared on that stage without Mr. Rouse taking the time to work with us, mentor us, and train us as individuals to use the power of our voices to uplift the human spirit. He is an extremely talented man who has shared his enthusiasm for music all while making the individual student feel heard and valued.”

Todd Crego, a 2010 graduate of the former Tower High School, related this story about the Rouses. “When I moved to Tower in Indiana, I met Mike on the second day of school for choir class and Billie shortly thereafter. We bonded over the fact we were all from Indiana,” he said. “They were some of the first people in this area to help me feel welcome in the community. Because of Mike I became involved in the local theater in Ely beginning with

2009’s “The Music Man,” and I was the first student from Tower High School to be invited to the UWS Honor Choir. The Rouses helped instill a love of music for me that persists to this day.”

Former Ely School District Superintendent Alexis Leitgeb celebrated the “absolutely outstanding” choice in choosing the Rouses for the state honor. “I was the superintendent in Ely and was blessed with the opportunity to hire Mike Rouse, probably the best hire I ever made in my 20 plus years in education,” she said.

She related how the couple applied for and received a Perpich Center for Arts Education grant for a middle school music theater class program. “The amazing accomplishments of this class were beyond belief,” Leitgeb said. “Mike couldn’t audition who was in the class. He worked with who signed up, including special education children. Tears came to my eyes as I watched non-verbal children, severely autistic students, and behavior disordered children on stage. One student, severely autistic, was in choir and Mike and Billie saw his potential. He later took first place in solo in a state choir contest.”

She also noted that when the couple saw the need for new risers for the choral program, they immediately found a donor. “Their concert at December, The Nutcracker, was amazing. They put on a phenomenal production, with quality singing, and without more than the bare minimum in funding,” Leitgeb said. “They never ask for anything for themselves. They give everything they have to children and music.”

ACDA of Minnesota is a professional organization serving over 750 choral directors who lead choirs in academic institutions (K-university), communities, and houses of worship throughout the state.

## Meet Mike and Billie Rouse

*Below is from the introduction of the 2019 ACE award to Mike and Billie Rouse from Dr. Richard Robbins current Northeast District Chair for ACDA-MN*

“It is my privilege to present this year’s ACE award for the northeast district to Mike and Billie Rouse, nominated by Mary Whitlock. I’ll mention that they are joined tonight by Mike’s mother, here from Indiana.

“Mike is the director of choirs and general music for the Ely Public Schools. Billie, his wife, wears many hats, working with Mike to create opportunities for student success. They also facilitate the Boundary Waters Choral Festival, an event open to students in the small choirs of their region, most of whom have never sung with more than 20 singers, assisted by numerous guest faculty.

“This year’s guest artist, Grammy-winning songwriter Carrie Newcomer, said about their work, ‘I encountered young people who...had experienced something resilient and true, life giving and connecting, and [who] saw first hand what can happen when we work and sing as strong individuals and together as one.’

“But Mike and Billie’s personal journey is just as inspiring. In 1972, during his junior year of high school, Mike was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, and given about five years to live. He had the first of his surgeries, after which he had to give up singing. Still, he continued to defy the odds, majoring in piano in college, marrying his high school sweetheart Billie, both of them embarking on successful careers, Mike as a piano technician, and Billie as a florist.

“Since then, Mike has seen many “five-year” predictions come and go; he inspires many as he continues to battle cancer, with regular visits to Mayo, or as he calls it, the spa, punctuating his work. We are fortunate that Mike and Billie loved vacationing in Ely, and decided to leave their successful careers in Indiana and move to the Northland, with Mike finally being convinced to take a job teaching choir.

“They don’t stop -- Billie recently mentioned to me a time that Mike had tumors removed on a Thursday, and was back to work on Monday because the students had a concert coming up. He had to be there.

“Alexis Leitgeb, (former) superintendent of the Ely Schools, told me that hiring Mike Rouse was the best decision she ever made - in her words, “Mike and Billie never ask for anything for themselves. They give everything they have to children and music.” What a gift.

“I’ll end with a short story Mike shared about coming to teach at Ely. ‘Although I had directed adult choirs [he said], I had never really thought about directing school choirs because I was concerned that I wouldn’t be able to model mouth shape effectively for the students ... but the principal was persistent ... so I sent my transcript and a few weeks later, I received my Minnesota State Teaching License in the mail, ironically, the very same week that I received my AARP card. Well, as it turns out, my students have been able to progress despite the limited motion in my face.... I now tell my students that, when I was around their age, I lost my voice to cancer ... but through them, I have regained my voice ... they are my voice! I have been so lucky to have lived this long, and had music (as well as Billie) as a constant companion. I can’t imagine my life in any other way ... I am so blessed.’”



## Financial Assistance Available to Improve Your Woods

Eligible activities include:

- Preparing sites for tree planting
- Planting and protecting seedlings
- Creating wildlife openings
- Clearing blown down trees
- Getting a Woodland Stewardship Plan



# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## HUNTING

# Dry conditions should aid bear hunters

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

Bear season gets underway Saturday morning, runs through Oct. 13

REGIONAL— Where there's food, hunters should find bears when they take to the woods on Saturday for the start of the black bear season in Minnesota. A dry summer has meant a spotty food supply in the woods, and that could be good news, or bad, depending on where hunters make their stands.

"It seems the bears are moving into those areas where there is food, and in those places the bears are really pounding the baits," said longtime hunting guide Dennis Udovich, who had baits for the past two weeks in

preparation for clients. But where foods are scarce, the bears seem scarce as well, notes Udovich.

While poor food years generally make hunters' baits more attractive, Udovich notes that bears are mobile and will move out of areas with insufficient food. Bears are in what's known as hyperphagia this time of year, which generates an intense desire for food as they seek to build up their fat reserves before heading into the winter dens later this fall.

Udovich, of Greaney, said traditional bear foods like blueber-

**Right: Black bear season opens on Saturday.** file photo

ries and raspberries were tougher to come by this year due to the limited rainfall the past two months. "Chokecherries have been decent, but not as good as last year," he said. He said there appears to be a good crop of American hazel in the Orr and Greaney area, but that species of hazel is a lot less common east of Hwy. 53. "There are a few plums

See **BEARS...**pg. 5B



## WILD RICE

# Major state grant to fund Big Rice restoration effort

A total of \$845,000 earmarked in hopes of bringing back wild rice

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**BIG RICE LAKE**— Twenty-five years ago, Minnesotans launched canoes here by the hundreds each fall in hopes of gathering their share of what was once one of northern Minnesota's highest-quality and most reliable wild rice crops. In a good year, when viewed from the shore, Big Rice and its 1,917 acres looked like a vast field of grain— one that fed both people and huge flocks of migrating ducks and geese.

Today, the lake still attracts a few duck hunters come the season, but the throngs of ricers have mostly gone elsewhere, as the lake's once-robust stands of rice have all but disappeared.

Wildlife managers from the Department of Natural Resources have acknowledged that management changes they initiated nearly two decades ago played a major role in the decline of the lake's wild rice. In more recent years, however, they have been working to restore the lake's former abundance and those efforts have now gotten a major boost from an \$845,000 grant from the state's Outdoor Heritage Fund earmarked entirely for the



**Top: An aerial view of Big Rice Lake, once a premier wild rice lake in the region.**

**Above: An airboat with cutting blades works on a dense patch of pickerel weed.** Courtesy MNDNR

**Right: Pickerel weed up close**

restoration of Big Rice Lake.

As habitat project funding goes, it's unprecedented in this part of Minnesota, according to Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch. "It's the biggest habitat project ever for this area, bar none," he said. Wildlife habitat projects typically come with price tags of a few thousand dollars, so Rusch still seems shocked by the sum involved with this effort.

Melissa Thompson, a wildlife lake specialist with the DNR's Tower area office, said

the five-year funding package should allow the agency and its partners, including the Bois Forte and Fond du Lac Bands, to make major strides in recovering the lake's rice crop.

Over the past five years, managers from both the DNR and Fond du Lac have made some progress in battling pickerel weed, which appears to be the biggest factor behind the decline of wild rice here. Using giant blades attached to the rear of an air boat, crews have been shearing about 100



acres of pickerel weed each year.

"We've been doing that five years now," said Thompson. "Each year, we target about 100 acres and each of those areas has to be cut twice a year for two years in a row." While such an effort would likely be sufficient on most wild rice lakes, which tend to be relatively small, it barely makes a dent on a lake the size of Big Rice. Thompson estimates that at least 1,000 acres of dense pickerel weed exists on the lake, so shearing 100 acres in a season can barely keep pace with the spread. And since the remaining pickerel weed continues to make seed,

See **BIG RICE...**pg. 5B

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**GIANT SUNFLOWER**



The **Giant Sunflower**, *Helianthus giganteus*, is one of our most common native sunflowers, although it's rarely found in the deep woods. This is a wildflower of more open country, such as roadsides, old fields, or, as in the case of the above example, on the edge of a recent clearcut.

These plants can easily grow head high in our area and sport a number of bright yellow flowers that can spread four inches across.

There are several species of wild sunflowers in Minnesota, but only three, including this one, are found regularly in our region.

The giant sunflower can be told from a similar species, the sawtooth sunflower, by the slight fuzziness of the plant's stem and leaves. The sawtooth sunflower is generally hairless.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

Lake trout have garnered the attention of more and more anglers recently as they find out that these fish can be caught without investing a ton of cash on equipment. Many anglers have found that all one needs to do is get the lure down to the fish, whether it be by adding some extra weight by using a sinker or two on a three-way swivel or adding a Dipsy Diver to get their offerings down into the strike zone. A Dipsy Diver will get your lure down to fifty or sixty feet, which is right where you want to be at this time of year with just a small investment. Downriggers, by contrast, involve spending a hundred dollars or more for the downrigger equipment. A Dipsy setup will cost you less than thirty dollars if you already have a rod with some backbone to hold up to the extra load on the line. Tie on a large deep diving crankbait or spoon, and you're good to go. Vary your trolling speed from 1 mph up to 2.3 mph and just move along in water depths down to a hundred feet. Best lakes to provide action are Burntside, Snowbank, outside the BWCA, or Basswood, Thomas, or Knife inside those boundaries.

Courtesy Babe's Bait, located at Ely's west entrance.

**BIG RICE...**Continued from page 4B

it's tough to gain much ground without a more concerted effort.

The new funding will allow the DNR and its partners to do much more starting this year to focus on three primary objectives, including:

➤ Ramping up the shearing and removal of pickerel weed. Both the Fond du Lac and Bois Forte will be committing additional time for the use of their own equipment, including air boats and a harvester barge which allows crews to break up and remove pickerel weed that's too thick for an air boat to get through. The DNR will also be purchasing its own air boat, at an estimated cost of \$70,000, and will have two full-time seasonal tech workers to operate the craft. That will allow the DNR to shear much more of the pickerel weed each year. "It's a big lake and this gives us the opportunity to really make some headway," Thompson said.

The air boats, and a second craft known as a "harvester barge," which is used by the Fond du Lac band, will also be used to scarify the lake bottom in order the break up the thick mats of accumulated vegetation lying underneath the vast beds of pickerel weed.

Thompson said that work has already been tried on a more limited basis on Big Rice, with favorable results. "You can see the areas where we've done that and the abundance of rice is better," said Thompson.

The good news is that it appears there is still enough residual seed in the lake sediments to rebuild the

rice crop over time. It just takes the right conditions to help it grow.

➤ Restoring the lake's outlet to obtain a more natural fluctuation of water levels. If there's one single event that marked the deterioration of the rice crop here it was the installation of a rock weir at the outlet on the lake's west end. DNR staff had installed the weir in an effort to improve rice yields and, at first, the approach seemed to work. But over time, the greater stability of the lake's water level appeared to favor the development of pickerel weed over wild rice. Year-by-year, the pickerel weed spread across more of the lake, wiping out once productive rice stands.

As part of the restoration effort, the DNR will be removing the weir and sediments which have accumulated around the outlet over the years, allowing the lake level to fluctuate more naturally, which they hope will again tip the balance back in favor of wild rice.

➤ Improvements to the lake's public landing. The funds will help deepen the launch site as well as remove some large rocks further out from the landing that have been an impediment to some of the larger craft that the DNR will be using in the restoration effort.

It's a major investment that DNR officials hope will mark a turnaround for what was once an important resource for both people and wildlife in this portion of the Superior National Forest.

"Overall, the goal is to enhance wild rice," said Thompson.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST** from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
<b>66 43</b>					<b>69 48</b>					<b>71 52</b>					<b>72 51</b>					<b>66 49</b>				

City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	City	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
Ely	69	45	0.18		Emb.	69	43	0.03		Cook	71	53	0.10		Orr	81	48	0.16		Tower	70	47	0.03	
08/19	69	45	0.18		08/19	69	43	0.03		08/19	71	53	0.10		08/19	81	48	0.16		08/19	70	47	0.03	
08/20	81	46	0.00		08/20	81	44	0.00		08/20	81	53	0.00		08/20	72	54	0.52		08/20	80	46	0.00	
08/21	74	41	0.29		08/21	74	40	1.28		08/21	71	49	0.42		08/21	70	46	0.00		08/21	73	40	0.26	
08/22	69	41	0.00		08/22	70	39	0.00		08/22	69	49	0.00		08/22	66	48	0.00		08/22	69	40	0.00	
08/23	67	38	0.00		08/23	68	37	0.00		08/23	66	46	0.00		08/23	73	43	0.00		08/23	68	38	0.00	
08/24	72	39	0.00		08/24	73	39	0.00		08/24	71	46	0.00		08/24	75	48	0.00		08/24	72	40	0.00	
08/25	75	48	0.00		08/25	76	39	0.10		08/25	75	57	0.00		08/25	72	57	0.00		08/25	74	51	0.00	
YTD Total	12.18				YTD Total	16.46				YTD Total	12.57				YTD Total	13.54				YTD Total	14.58			

**Outdoors in brief**

**DNR seeks input on David Dill-Arrowhead trail master plan**

REGIONAL—The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites the public to an open house to learn about updating the master plan for the David Dill-Arrowhead State Trail in St. Louis and Koochiching counties.

The open house will be from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at the Cook Community Center, 699

3rd Ave. SE in Cook. The main parking lot and building entrance are along Gopher Avenue. Visitors to the open house can review information, ask questions and submit comments.

The David Dill-Arrowhead State Trail is about 125 miles long, stretching from an intersection with the David Dill-Taconite State Trail, just east of Tower, northwest to an intersection with the Blue Ox Trail, just south of International Falls. The current master plan was written in 1980 and revised in 1983. The trail is

primarily managed for snowmobile use, but other uses such as hiking, biking, horseback riding and skiing are permitted in certain areas.

Written comments may also be submitted by emailing joe.unger@state.mn.us, using the online comment form or sending via U.S. mail to Joe Unger, DNR Parks and Trails, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155. The DNR will accept written comments through Sept. 18.

More information can be found on the David Dill-Arrowhead State Trail webpage.

**BEARS...**Continued from page 4B

out there," added Udovich.

Given the sporadic foods, DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch expects a successful season for many bear hunters across northern St. Louis and Lake counties. Bear permits remain limited, at 3,400, so hunters won't be facing the kind of competition they faced several years ago. "It should be a quality hunt," said Rusch.

Udovich said he'd like to see a few more permits issued, but Rusch said the DNR is unlikely to boost permits until the bear population shows at least some degree of rebound. Aggressive bear harvests about a decade ago sliced the state's bear population in half and despite a

significant reduction in permits, the population has shown little sign of increasing from the current estimate of 12,000-15,000 statewide.

The continued high harvest of younger female bears appears to be one of the factors limiting a population rebound, said Rusch. Udovich said a trained eye can distinguish a female from a male bear, but Rusch said most hunters are unlikely to make the distinction unless a sow is trailing cubs.

Udovich said he doesn't allow hunters he guides to shoot females with young, and he tries to educate them ahead of the hunt on some of the telltale signs of a female bear, in hopes of limiting the harvest

of young females. Sows typically don't come into breeding status until their fourth or fifth year in far northeastern Minnesota and many of those end up shot before ever contributing to the bear population, notes Rusch.

The percentage of females harvested typically increases in years with limited foods, so Rusch said he'll be watching the harvest results with keen interest to see whether that holds true again this year. The *Timberjay* hopes to have local results from the opening weekend in next week's edition. The regular bear season runs through Oct. 13.

**CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.**



**CLEAN**



**DRAIN**



**DRY**

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

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

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

**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!** LEARN MORE AT [CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG](http://CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG)



Briefs

**Morning Yoga in Tower**

TOWER- Start your day with some stretching and quieting your mind. Relieve your body of aches and pains. One of the reasons yoga is so effective at alleviating pain in the lower back, neck and shoulders is that it works on a number of different levels simultaneously—loosening up joint restrictions, stretching tight muscles, re-activating weak muscles, adjusting alignment, relaxing the body, and calming the mind.

Bring a mat or use of our mats at no cost. The class is open to all ages, male and female, beginners and experienced yogis. A variety of modifications are offered to help you move within your own range of motion. Our yoga class is intended to help you take the practice of yoga on the mat to a full, vibrant practice of life off the mat.

The Morning Yoga in Tower continues into September at the Tower Civic Center from 8:30 - 9:45 a.m. on Tuesdays

and Thursdays, Sept. 3, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26. (No class on Sept. 5). Pre-paid monthly is \$45. Drop-in rate is \$15.

Call or text Nancy Larson with questions at 218-750-7514.

**Gentle Yoga in Tower**

TOWER- If you are recovering from injury or illness, or if your body feels tight and out of sorts, then gentle yoga is for you. Gentle yoga involves longer holds of gentle stretches while on the floor and supported by bolsters, blankets and blocks. Some gentle movement with breath stimulates stagnant energy.

The poses are held three to twelve minutes allowing the nervous and muscular systems to decompress and relax deeply. Excellent for promoting and sustaining long-term flexibility, gentle yoga's movement brings a counterbalance to a busy life. Come to gentle yoga to relax. Class is suitable for all levels and no experience is required. All props are provided.

Gentle yoga is offered at the Tower Civic Center from 10 - 11

a.m. on Thursdays, Sept. 12, 19 and 26. Pre-paid monthly is \$15. Drop-in rate is \$15.

Call or text Nancy Larson with questions at 218-750-7514.

**Fest du Nord features music all weekend**

ELY-YMCA Camp du Nord will rock out Labor Day weekend with the Eighth Annual Fest du Nord. Music headliners include the Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, Mason Jennings, Jeremy Messersmith, John Munson, and Koo Koo Kanga Roo.

The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, a leading nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, will hold a family-friendly music festival at YMCA Camp du Nord near Ely on Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30 through Sept. 1.

Fest du Nord, founded and hosted by Minnesota's own John Munson, is the perfect way to close out the summer on the idyllic shores of Burntside

Lake and 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.

Roe Family Singers and Ben David will perform on Friday, Aug. 30 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Bent Paddle Stage.

Humbird, Ben Weaver, Heatbox, Jeremy Messersmith, and Mason Jennings will perform on Saturday, Aug. 31 from 3 - 7 p.m. at Gardner Builder's "This is a Repeat After Me" Stage.

Van and the Free Candies, Louis and Dan and the Invisible Band, Lucy Michelle, Koo Koo Kanga Roo and the Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers will perform on Sunday, Sept. 1 from 3 - 7 p.m. at Gardner Builder's "This is a Repeat After Me" Stage.

Attendees should bring their own chairs or blankets for seating. Food and drinks sold at the event will include Wilderness Woodfire Pizza, Street Tacos and Eats, Kettlemania, and Bent Paddle beer. Tickets may be purchased at <http://festdunord2019>.

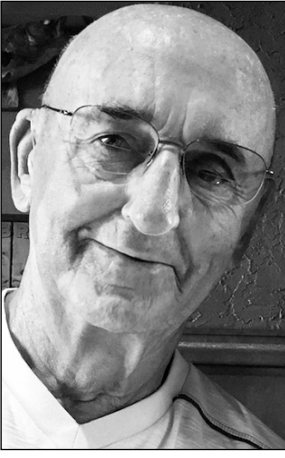
[brownpapertickets.com/](http://brownpapertickets.com/) or at the door.

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, and no charge for children ages 0-3.

**Harbormasters with Steve Lapatka to perform Sept. 28 at B'nai Abraham**

VIRGINIA- The Duluth Superior Harbormasters Barbershop Chorus will present "Home on the Range," an afternoon of barbershop harmony on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. The chorus and quartets will be singing four-part harmony in the barbershop style. The chapter has been performing for a wide variety of events in northeastern Minnesota since 1953. There will be no admission charge, and a portion of the donations will be given to a worthy cause in the Virginia area.

Obituaries and Death Notices



**Leo M. Ducharme**

Leo Mark Ducharme, 83, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019, surrounded in love by family. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 31 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Anoka with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Leo was born in Red Lake Falls on Feb. 24, 1936. He was the youngest of 12 children born to Albert and Loria Ducharme. He began his eternal love story with his wife, Karen, in 1953. An outstanding athlete, he played football for Utah State University and in 1959 graduated with a Bachelor's Degree

in Education. He taught Industrial Arts at Anoka Junior High, Roosevelt Junior High and Blaine High School. He was extremely proud that many of his students' gorgeous wood creations won blue ribbons at the Minnesota State Fair every year. He also coached wrestling, football and track.

Leo will be remembered for his outstanding character, his love of family, and the countless people whose lives he touched through mentoring and friendship. He coached 'life' most of all, setting examples of honor, deep love, integrity, and having a gentle heart. His most favorite hobby was fishing - and we are sure he is catching his limit now in heaven. His reflection will forever continue in all of us whom he touched.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Karen; children, Tom (Janene) Ducharme, Lisa (Deane) Erickson, Kristi (Scott) Johnson and Mike (Renata) Ducharme; grandchildren, Gavin (Yvi) Erickson, Matthew (Lynn) Ducharme, Jessica (Mike) Arver, Gabe Erickson, Loria

(Jason) Rolstad, Emily (Matt) Archambault, Kaila (Austen) Case, Braeden (Dani) Ducharme, Luke Ducharme, Sophia (Nick) Anderson, Maison (Anthony) Kasper, Merrick Ducharme and August Ducharme; and great-grandchildren, Savannah, Carter, Annabelle, Joey, Leo, Killian, Christian, Charlotte, Cheyenne, Finnigan, Otto, Emma, Wynnie and three more coming soon.

**Roger J. Sam**

Roger James Sam, 69, of Tower, passed away on Friday, Aug. 23, 2019. A funeral service was held on Thursday, Aug. 29 at the Vermilion Wellness Center. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Roger was born on Nov. 29, 1949, in Tower, to David Sr. and Emma Sam. He married Kathleen Engrav and they raised two sons, Brandon and Alan C. Engrav. Roger enjoyed many things, including reading books, music (classic rock), and spending time at his cabin. He especially enjoyed visits at his cabin with family

and friends and the quality time he spent with his grandchildren. He always had a witty nickname for his loved ones and always had a smile on his face when he was around his grandchildren.

Roger is survived by his sister, Katherine "Katy" Laitinen; wife, Kathleen Sam; sons, Brandon (Lisa) Engrav and Alan C. (Amanda) Engrav; and grandchildren, Ashley, David, Dakota, Samantha, Katelynn, Erica, Anson and Estelle Engrav and Gracelyn Pies. He will be greatly missed by his many cousins, extended family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, David Sr.; mother, Emma; sisters, Alice and Marion; brothers, David Jr. "Tonto" (Ellen Boshey), Wilson "Muc" and Clifford (John) (Mary Jo Engrav); brother-in-law, Allen Laitinen; nephews, Bill Laitinen and Victor Rintala; and cousins, Charlie and Leonard Columbus.

**June Larson**

June Larson, 94, of Tower, formerly of Soudan, passed away on Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, at Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan. A gathering of family and friends will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia. A full obituary will be published at a later date.

**William T. Rusch**

William T. "Bill" Rusch, 91, of Duluth, formerly of Soudan, died on Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, at St. Luke's Hospice. Private family services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are by the Cremation Society of Minnesota.

He is survived by his daughter, Linda (Don Steffes) Wiermaa of Saginaw; son, William (Ramona) of Prairie Grove, Ark.; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Jacqueline of North Branch; and brother, Richard of Duluth.

**Sharon L. Toivonen**

Sharon L. "Shari" Samsel Toivonen, 72, of Babbitt, formerly of Red Wing and Eau Claire, Wis., died on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. There will be no formal services at this time. Family services provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, George; son, Bill (Jen Riley) Toivonen of Babbitt; grandchildren, Casey and Jacob; and numerous friends.

**Russell W. Hellman**

Russell Wilhelm Hellman, 75, of Zimmerman, formerly of Eveleth, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, at his home with his loving family at his side. A celebration of life will be

held on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Eveleth Auditorium, 421 Jackson St.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Patricia; faithful dog, Sam; children, Michele (John) Esperum of Zimmerman, Melissa (Brian) Grondahl of Cook, Russ Hellman of Eveleth and Amy Hellman (Larry Tucker) of Crookston; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; sisters, Joyce Reinhart of Hibbing, Judy Nikunen of Coon Rapids, JoAnn Armbruster of Estero, Fla., and Marie (Ron) Ruuska of Maple Grove; sisters and brothers-in-law, Pam (Randy) McDowell of Mt. Iron, Loretta Hendrickson of Virginia, Norman Hendrickson of Gilbert and Dick Hegler of Eveleth; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Lawrence J. Dusich**

Lawrence Joseph "Larry" Dusich, 91, formerly of Ely, passed away on May 5, 2019, at St. Mary Mercy Livonia Hospital in Livonia, Mich. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Monroe, Mich., on June 8, 2019. A Graveside Committal Service will be performed at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 31 at the Ely Cemetery, officiated by Fr. Bill Skarich of St. Anthony's Catholic Church. The Ely Honor Guard will perform military rites. A reception will follow at the Grand Ely Lodge.

He is survived by his loving wife, Paula (Jaschke) Dusich of Detroit, Mich.; son, Mark (Kay) Dusich of Orlando, Fla.; sister, Mary Pendergast of Portland, Ore.; brother, Bernie (Kari) Dusich of Apple Valley; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews who remember him fondly.

**A New Choice for Grades 7 - 12 Education**

**VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL**

**Because...**

- Teachers recognize and build on each student's strengths.
- Accepting, small school, social environment.
- Excellent support for students who struggle with math or reading.
- Arts, music, life sports, community service, environmental science, and outdoor education opportunities

Call Today To Arrange a Tour • Openings Available in All Grades  
 School Office (218) 753-1246 (please leave a message)  
 Or (218) 753-2950 (ask for Jodi) • email [kfitton@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:kfitton@vermilioncountry.org)  
 Free Public Grades 7 - 12 in Tower • Transportation Provided

**TOWER BINGO Monday, Sept. 9**

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, Sept. 9 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. Senior Bingo is organized by the Friends of the Vermilion Country Charter School. In case of inclement weather school closure in Tower, bingo will be cancelled. Questions, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

**Upcoming dates for 2019:**

- Monday, October 7
- Monday, November 4
- Monday, December 2

**Get Informed! Get the Timberjay!**

ELY FESTIVAL

# Harvest Moon Festival celebrates the change of seasons

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The 26th annual Harvest Moon Festival is Ely’s celebration of the end of summer and change of season.

Similar to the mid-summer Blueberry Art/Festival, for three days, Friday, Sept. 6 to Sunday, Sept. 8, Whiteside Park is packed with art and craft booths, live music and stage shows, pony rides with a petting zoo, and of course, a plethora of great food and drink.

Ely Chamber of Commerce festival organizer Ellen Cashman said the Harvest Moon Festival is a juried art and craft festival and is host to a variety of original artisans and crafters.

“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,” Cashman said.

“You won’t want to miss your chance to enjoy a slice of the Kiwanis Club’s fresh baked blueberry pie,” she added. “They sold out early during the Blueberry/Art Festival.”

A fall-themed Harvest Market will be available on

Saturday, 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,” Cashman suggested. “Take home some fresh Minnesota-grown eggs or meat such as beef, pork, chicken, lamb and goat.”

Three days of entertainment kick off Friday with Timmy Haus, who performs a variety of genres from Paul Simon to Johnny Cash and more. “A Northwoods solo artist with a wonderful voice, Timmy has become a much sought-after Minnesota artist,” Cashman said. Timmy will be on stage on Friday from noon to 3 p.m.

Direct from the Minnesota State Fair, the “All-Star Stunt Dogs Challenge” will return to the Harvest Moon Festival this year. “This is the world’s first and number-one Stunt Dog Show starring dogs that have been rescued from pounds and shelters,” she said. “They will be performing awesome big air stunts, athletic feats and high-jumping challenges.” There will be two, 30-minute shows each day with an opportunity after each show

to meet and greet the four-legged performers.

The Singing Slovenes, one of Ely’s favorite singing groups, returns to the Harvest Moon fest for two Sunday performances. This non-profit group was formed to promote the Slovenian heritage through native costume and song. The Singing Slovenes will perform from 11 a.m. – noon and 1 – 2 p.m. Their guest performer this year is Kerry Christensen, the “Yodeling Master.” “Come early to get a seat under the tent as they fill up fast,” Cashman said.

Willow River Ranch is also back this year with their adorable ponies. Go for a pony ride Friday, Saturday and Sunday. “While waiting to ride, the kids can enjoy visiting the petting zoo and feeding the goats,” Cashman added.

The hours for the 2019 Harvest Moon Festival are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Harvest Moon Festival is sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce, Events and Promotions.

For more information, check out [www.ely.org](http://www.ely.org).



The "All-Star Stunt Dogs" return for two shows each day with a "meet and greet" opportunity after each show. file photo

TOWER

# Council votes to formally terminate Clerk-Treasurer Keith

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Tower City Council, Monday, unanimously voted to terminate Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith. The action comes after Keith’s last-minute reversal of her acceptance of a mediated separation agreement which would have provided Keith a modest severance package.

While that agreement did provide Keith a 15-day window to rescind her signature on the document, the language made it clear that any such reversal would leave her subject to immediate termination without any severance payments.

The city had invited Keith in writing last week to attend Monday’s council meeting in order to make her case for keeping her job, which is part of the city’s regular process for terminating a union employee.

“This was her opportunity to come and speak to us,” said Mayor Orlyn Kringsstad. “We wanted to allow her to have her say in public, before the council.”

Keith did send a letter to the council, which was received about a half hour before the council meeting began. “Unfortunately upon such short notice,” she wrote, “I was not able to gather representation and the necessary evidence and witnesses to refute your ridiculous claims.” Keith had been represented by her union representative

during the mediation and settlement process with the city in July, but she had no union representation present on Monday.

Keith went on to criticize the city for its actions against her.

“Your recommendations are based on false statements, opinions, and the most biased, unethical, incomplete employment investigation ever conducted,” she wrote. “It is really no surprise that someone hired to act as the city’s legal counsel as well as the special investigator could not complete a fair investigation, however the lack of accuracy and thoroughness is appalling.”

Keith went on to accuse the city of violating her rights to proper due process for a “meaningful pre-termination hearing free of any pre-bias.”

Keith has been charged criminally by St. Louis County with misconduct as a public official for falsifying city records, a gross misdemeanor. Her first court date is set for Aug. 30. The charges stem from allegations that she falsified official city records relating to the make-up and terms of

the members of the Tower Economic Development Authority, dating back to January 2018.

The city is also planning to seek charges against Keith for her acknowledged destruction of a city-issued laptop.

In related action, the council approved posting for a new city clerk-treasurer. The position has a salary of \$51,540, and closing date for applications is Sept. 5. Minimum requirements include a college degree, and five years of experience in financial management and/or accounting.

**Other business**

In other business, the council:

► Appointed Deputy Clerk Terri Joki-Martin as the city’s representative on the Joint Powers Recreation Board.

► Informed the public that the city attorney had researched the matter of the 12-year old contract for sale for the DNR Forestry lot. The attorney noted it was void since it hadn’t been acted on (final payment not made). The council voted to repay the \$500 in earnest money that had been put down on the land by Ken and Amy Hinkel. The couple had discussed plans to build market-rate senior apartments on the lot.

► Heard that the annexation and map documents needed to get final approval for the harbor plat are prepared and waiting for signature by the Kugler Town Board at their next regular meeting.

► Tabled approval of propane bids to give the clerk time to get additional information on the final cost for each bid.

**For All Your Feed & Seed Needs**  
HIBBING FEED and SEED  
262-3049

**A BIG THANKS!**  
Thank you to everyone who came out to support BLT Night, the Tower Food Shelf and the Tower Farmers Market.  
Tickets for the Sharing the Harvest Raffle Basket are still available at the market on Fridays from 4 to 6 PM

Wood Gasification by **KUUMA** Vapor-Fire  
The World’s #1 Hot Air Woodburning Furnace!  
Tested by EPA Certified Lab-Intertek Testing (Madison, WI)  
.45 gr/hr. emissions  
99.4% comb. eff.  
99% smokeless burns  
• Save Wood  
• Save Money (\$) **TAX CREDIT ELIGIBLE!**  
• Enjoy Burning Wood Safely  
• Protect Your Home & Family  
• Enhance Our Environment  
• 8-12 Hours Useful Heat Per Load  
Fantastic Wood & Electric Sauna Stoves!  
**Lamppa Mfg., Inc.**  
1-800-358-2049  
email: [lampmfg@gmail.com](mailto:lampmfg@gmail.com) • [www.lamppakuuma.com](http://www.lamppakuuma.com)

**MARINA ARONSON BOAT WORKS**  
Lake Vermilion • Tower, MN  
**MAILBOAT EXCURSIONS**  
See 80 miles of Lake Vermilion  
9 AM-12 Noon • Call for Reservations  
Marina Hours: Mon-Sat 8-6 • Sun 9-4  
6143 Pike Bay Drive • 218-753-4190  
[www.aronsonboatworks.com](http://www.aronsonboatworks.com)

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

**RANGE LP GAS**  
Call Us For All Your LP Gas Needs!  
Hoover Rd, Virginia 741-7393  
1613 E. Camp St., Ely 365-8888  
**24 Hour Emergency Service**  
• Toll Free • 1-800-862-8628

**BUYING SCRAP METAL**  
Quad Cities Recycling, Inc.,  
Buying: Aluminum, Brass, Copper, Scrap Metal and Junk Vehicles.  
We do Demolition Site Work  
7735 Co. Rd. 921, Virginia, MN 55792  
located just off of Hwy 135 between Virginia and Gilbert behind the SLC Garage.  
“We are a Local Business... Doing Business Locally”  
Open: Wed & Thurs 8-6 Friday 8-3  
Questions? Call: 218-741-0111

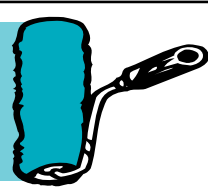








# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE





### Real Estate Closing Services, Title Insurance & Abstracting

**Northeast Title Company** has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Customers can expect quality services and products along with a professional staff that takes pride in every closing. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

**ELY OFFICE**  
107 E Camp St • Ely, MN 55731  
Phone (218)365-5256  
Fax (218)365-6164  
**Angie Mikulich**  
Office Manager/Closing Specialist

**VIRGINIA OFFICE**  
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792  
Phone (218)741-1515  
Fax (218)742-9383  
**Jodee Micheletti**  
Owner/Closing Specialist

**COOK OFFICE**  
P.O. Box 539 • Cook MN 55723  
Phone (218)666-3174  
Fax (218)742-9392  
**Sharon Maronick**  
Office Manager/Closing Specialist

[www.netitle.com](http://www.netitle.com)

## YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials  
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt  
Well-drilling Equipment  
Propane Delivery

*Carl Anderson*

### Anderson Barging, Inc.

**Cell 218-780-4955**  
**www.andersonbarging.com**

Covering all of Lake Vermilion

## FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



**Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete  
Septic Tanks**

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers, Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand, Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel, Different Types of Concrete Blocks. **FREE ESTIMATES** for site development, roads, fill and excavations.

**Celebrating Over 46 Years!**

*From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.*

### FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



**1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731**  
office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030  
fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197

## \$10 MAIL IN REBATE Form

August 30 - September 8

**ALL CABOT® EXTERIOR STAIN MAIL-IN REBATE**

**\$10 REBATE** on Cabot Exterior Stain & Timber Oil

Get \$10 back per gallon, \$40 back per 5-gallon.



**\$7 REBATE** on Supreme per gal. \$35 per 5-gal. container

**\$10 REBATE** on Pristine & Medallion per gal. \$40 per 5-gal. container




MONEY BACK BY MAIL  
Offer valid on purchases with dated sales receipt between August 30 and September 8, 2019.  
Valid on submissions postmarked on or before October 8, 2019. Limit \$80.  
See rebate coupon for details.

### VERMILION LUMBER

**HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS**  
218-753-2230  
302 Main St., Tower, MN  
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon

**Closed Sat., Aug. 31 & Mon, Sept. 2**



**SANDBERG CONSTRUCTION**  
COOK, MN  
(218) 666-3173

- General Contractor
- New Construction
- Remodeling
- Garages
- Boathouses
- Property Maintenance
- Island Work
- Skidsteer Work

2020 Burtress Rd.  
Cook, MN 55723  
Sheldon Sandberg, Owner  
Cell: 218-780-7153

License #BC385748



**218-365-6037**

2331 Old Hwy. 169, Ely  
1/4 mile east of 88 & 169  
[greenstonenursery.com](http://greenstonenursery.com)

• In Business Since 1979 •

Landscape Design & Supplies • Natural Rocks  
Pavers & Wallstones • Assorted Flagstones

Complete Landscaping Service...  
from Start to Finish

Offering a Huge Selection of Native Plants,  
Trees, Shrubs, Annuals and Perennials

## DO YOU NEED PLANS?

North Country's Premier Design and Drafting Service

- Custom Homes
- Garages
- Remodels
- Additions
- Site Planning



**CADline Design**

218.827.8166 - Office  
218.349.6838 - Cell  
plans@cadlinedesign.us  
www.cadlinedesign.us

Your source for Building Plans,  
Site Planning and CAD Drafting Services



### Licensed Septic Design & Installation

- ◆ Complete Site & Building Preparation
- ◆ Road Building, Land Clearing, Basement, Demolition
- ◆ Digging, Dozing, Hauling
- ◆ Sand, Gravel, Crushed Rock, Black Dirt

**Call for an estimate • 218-365-4220**  
2408 Hwy. 169, PO Box 608, Ely, MN 55731  
jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com

Custom made by DOW  
Building Heavy Duty Docks  
in Ely for 41 years

**VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!**

Quality Shorefront Products

Factory Dealer of  
DAKA & Shoremaster Products

[www.docksonwheels.com](http://www.docksonwheels.com)

2195 Twin Lakes Road  
5 miles west of Ely  
on Hwy 169

Call Bob  
for a FREE  
ESTIMATE

**218.365.6210**

## MARINE




**Power-Up for 2019!**

- 5-year warranty on Evinrude motors
- Rebates Now through June 30, 2019




8327 Unity Dr., Virginia / Mt. Iron  
218-741-8532

## Sell It HERE

Call 218-753-2950

## INSURANCE

## Tower-Soudan Agency & Palo Mutual

*Your Independent Insurance Agency*



**We Can Insure:**  
Residential, Seasonal, Island and  
Non-Road Access Properties

**218-753-2101**  
415 Main St.  
Tower, MN  
[www.towersoudanagency.com](http://www.towersoudanagency.com)

## REAL ESTATE



## RE/MAX

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

Cook-\$99,900 Cabin on 8 acres with 430 ft of shoreline on the Bear River. MLS#137690

Lake Vermilion-\$45,000 1.35 acres and 360 ft of shoreline on Twin Lakes on Pine Island. MLS#129212

Elbow Lake-\$159,000 530 ft of shoreline on 3.83 acres with towering pines. MLS#136256

Cook-\$275,000 3 BR home near Lake Vermilion on 2.89 acres with family room and plenty of space. MLS#138049



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



#137947 **LITTLE MUSKRAT CHANNEL**- 560 ft prime lksh. 2 BR cabin w/beam trusses, wood floors. High eff. woodstove w/native stone wall and chimney. Deck w/views of the lake/woods. Solar power (generator backup). New dock. **\$279,000**

#138077 **TOWER**-Wooded lot w/17 acres, well and older cabin. Cabin has been reroofed and partially gutted. Close to Lake Vermilion. Would make a great recreational retreat. **\$35,000**

#137942 **LAKE VERMILION**-Stunning views. 2 BR home w/lg. loft, cedar interior, updated log siding ext. and metal roof, new windows. 3+ stall garage. Purchase includes most furnishings and a boat lift. **\$419,900**

#136779 **LAKE VERMILION**- 2.8 acre wooded lot w/222 ft of lksh. Approved septic system site, elec. and phone service at road. **\$169,000**

**Get Results!**



**Advertise in the Timberjay!**



## COLDWELL BANKER

PROPERTIES NORTH

**TIM LILLQUIST, Realtor**  
Serving Lake Vermilion, Tower, Soudan, Breitung, Cook, Ely and surrounding communities

**612-834-5769 (Cell)**

*Your Home, Your Cabin, Your Wilderness™*  
[www.yourwilderness.com](http://www.yourwilderness.com)



## VERMILION LAND OFFICE

Real Estate • Appraisals

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

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



## Advertise Here

**One Low Price  
Three editions**

**Call Today 218-753-2950**