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# The TIMBERJAY



VOL. 30, ISSUE 37 September 20, 2019

\$1.00

## EXTREME WEATHER

### Lightning hits Tower water plant Ely man dies while clearing trees from storm

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

BREITUNG TWP- A lightning strike, Tuesday, caused serious damage to the computerized systems at the Tower-Breitung water filtration plant,

located on Junction Road in Soudan. The treatment plant itself was not damaged, but the plant's automatic controls were destroyed, which will require the plant to be operated manually until

See...WEATHER pg. 9

Excess rain water bubbles up from an Ely storm sewer on Tuesday near Pattison Street and Second Avenue. submitted photo



## OUTDOOR COMPETITION

### Nature's marathon

Ely welcomes runners for fifth annual race, a Boston qualifier

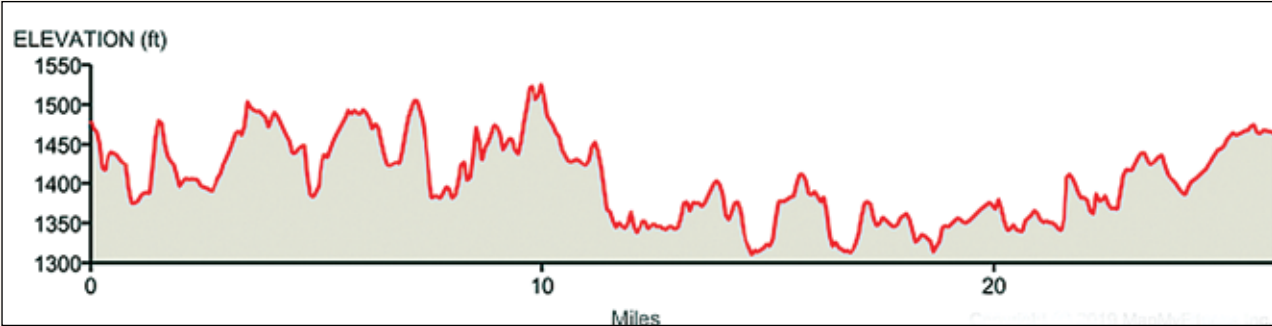
by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely Marathon is billed as “Nature’s Marathon.” A description of this unique 26.2-mile running event says, “Begin on the North Arm of Burntside Lake, turn onto the historic Echo Trail, and coast toward Shagawa Lake on this challenging and beautiful course. A slight detour through charismatic Winton puts you close to a quick loop around Miner’s Lake and a finish in downtown Ely. Take in Ely and the surrounding wilderness on this superb fall run.”



The 2019 Ely Marathon and Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon, celebrating five years in this community, is set for Saturday, Sept. 21, and this year’s race promises to bring in more runners than

See...MARATHON pg. 10



Graph depicts the change in elevation Ely Marathon runners experience during the 26.2-mile route.

## ISD 696

### Ely school survey is in the mail

District seeks to gauge taxpayer support for facility project

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Residents in the Ely school district can expect to receive a survey in their mailbox this week with the chance to weigh in on proposed improvements to the buildings on the ISD 696 campus.

District officials mailed some 3,000 surveys to taxpayers to gauge opinion on possible property tax increases over the next 20 years to help fund a building improvement and expansion project. The results of the survey will help school board members decide how to proceed on the multi-million-dollar project proposal. Depending on the plan adopted, district voters will likely have the final say on any new bond levy.

The community school facilities ad hoc committee met again last Thursday to put the finishing touches on the survey, developed by School Perceptions of Slinger, Wis. Katie Hildenbrand, principal designer for Architectural Resources, Inc., highlighted the facility project options, carrying a price tag of between \$5.9 million and \$20 million. “Survey takers are walked through the layers of proposed projects, individual costs, and are asked to rank their support,” she said.

Following a brief narration on the project’s background and audit report spelling out the needs for improvements to the 100-year-old buildings and addition of 21st century education delivery systems,

See... ELY pg. 10

## SULFIDE MINING

### New emails, new questions in PolyMet permit investigation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A new release of documents from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency confirms that the state’s

top environmental official was in contact with the EPA’s regional administrator last year in an effort to limit commenting by the federal agency on the PolyMet water discharge permit. At the same time, the

documents, released to the Fond du Lac Band and Water Legacy as part of a Freedom of Information Act request, reveal that two state House Republicans, former Speaker Kurt Daudt and Rep. Dan

Fabian, had contacted regional EPA administrator Cathy Stepp to determine her willingness to allow the Minnesota Legislature to potentially weaken the state’s wild rice sulfate limit of 10 milligrams per liter.

“These documents are blockbuster revelations,” said Paula Maccabee, WaterLegacy’s advocacy director and legal counsel. “I can’t stress enough

See...POLYMET pg. 12



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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Issues Forum at VCC on Oct. 12

ELY- What do you care about? Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 12 from 12:30 - 4 p.m. at Vermilion Community College, to attend Democratic Values in Action: Issues Forum for Northern Minnesota. Bring your questions and an open mind. All are welcome to attend. Watch the *Timberjay* for further details.

## Courtney Yasmineh to perform at Northern Grounds, Sept. 20

ELY- Courtney Yasmineh, songwriter and Northwoods author, returns to Ely as part of her artist award with the Tofte Lake Center. She will be performing a solo acoustic concert at Northern Grounds on Friday, Sept. 20 from 7-9 p.m. Her newest album, "Songs From The Open Road", will be releasing that same day across the globe on all music services including Apple Music and Spotify.

## Author Allen Eskens at local libraries

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Minnesota author Allen Eskens in a free program, "I'm not supposed to be here: my implausible journey to becoming a writer." The program is being offered on Monday, Sept. 23, 1 p.m. at Babbitt Public Library and Thursday, Sept. 26, 3:30 p.m. at Cook Public Library.

Come spend an hour with bestselling-author Allen Eskens. He is the recipient of the Barry Award, Minnesota Book Award, Rosebud Award (Left Coast Crime), and Silver Falchion Award and has been a finalist for the Edgar Award, Thriller Award, and Anthony Award. His books have been translated into 26 languages and his novel, *The Life We Bury*, is in development for a feature film. Along with discussing his path to becoming a writer and his novels, Eskens will read an excerpt and include a Q&A session.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info), follow us on Twitter @ALSLibraryNews, or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alslibinfo](http://www.facebook.com/alslibinfo).

## Dream Quilters to meet Oct. 3

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3 at St. Martin's Catholic Church Social Hall in Tower. Our program this month will feature tips from fellow guild members on how to work with "tricky" fabrics like flannel, minke, silk, ultra-suede, cork, vinyl, etc. October hostesses are Judith Ulseth and Rita Lakmann.

Our members are from throughout the Iron Range. We encourage, instruct and share tips with each other. Guests and visitors interested in quilting and creative sewing are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

## What can we learn from Kuan Yin?

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Sept. 22 at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, the Rev. Dr. Carol Hepokoski will introduce us to "Kuan Yin: Buddhist Goddess and Bodhisattva of Compassion".

Kuan Yin started out as a male figure in India and later was recognized as androgynous and then female in China. She has evolved and transformed as she's traveled throughout Asia and into the Western World. What might we learn from Kuan Yin?

The Sunday Service is at 10:30 a.m. Mesabi Unitarian is located at 230 7th St. South in Virginia. The building is handicap accessible.

## COOK HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

# Community Thrift Shop benefits Cook Hospital and Care Center

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

COOK— For hundreds of residents in the Cook area and beyond, the hunt for treasure starts Thursday morning at 9 a.m. sharp. That's when the volunteers at the Cook Hospital Thrift Shop throw open the doors, usually to a crowd already waiting to get in.

The thrift shop, which has operated at its current location at 320 3rd St. SE in Cook since 2004, has become something of a phenomenon here, attracting literally hundreds of shoppers during the limited number of days that they're open each week.

"It's definitely a hopping place," said Kirsten Reichel, who serves as president of the Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary, which operates the thrift store as a fundraiser for the local hospital, senior care center, and even scholarships for local students who plan to pursue careers in the medical field.

The churn of customers and the never-ending supply of donated clothing, housewares, toys, and more, is almost stunning, and it's that constant changeover of merchandise, and the rock bottom prices, that attracts so many shoppers. Most items of clothing are just one dollar and the store often has bag-day specials where you can fill a bag of items for just a few dollars.

Which makes it a great place to keep a couple of kids entertained. Tammy Palmer, of Cook, was trying to help little Casen Palmer and Hannah Fox, of Britt, as they explored the toy and kids clothes sections of the store this past Friday. Casen had found a bendable horn and was running around the store sounding a bit like a roaring elephant. "They just love to come here and find a little treasure," said Palmer, as she held up a shirt next to Hannah, who was being distracted by Casen's antics.

Hannah and Casen aren't alone. Debbie Tester, of St. Louis Park, was shopping for clothes.



Volunteers stock the shelves with new donated goods every week. The shop is open Thursday, Friday and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. photos by M. Helmberger



She and her husband have a cabin on Vermilion and the thrift store has become a regular part of their trips up north. Jerry and Cindy Myre had come over from Isle of Pines on Lake Vermilion to make their regular rounds at the store. Cindy, who loves to turn old things into something new and creative, said she does a lot of her shopping at the store. "It's always stuffed full," Cindy said, especially this time of year when a lot of cabin owners are closing up for the year and trying to clear out some of the clothes and other gear that have accumulated over the summer.

The flow of items from the lake ensures not only a steady supply of merchandise, but that some of it is going to be high-end stuff, sold for next to nothing. Those are the kind of finds, said Cindy, that keep many shoppers coming back regularly. And many of those shoppers could certainly

afford to shop elsewhere. A couple of Fridays ago, there were both a Cadillac and a Mercedes parked in the lot outside, as if one needed any more evidence that this is not your average thrift store. Shopping here is practically a social event.

Given the traffic and volume of sales, the thrift store has become a significant source of financial support for the Cook-area healthcare facilities. The auxiliary owns the building and volunteers manage and staff the store, plow the parking lot in winter, and handle most of the building maintenance. That allows the store to direct the vast majority of their sales to donations, which average between \$56,000-\$60,000 annually, according to Reichel.

The hospital regularly forwards its wish list, which can include everything from new beds, to lifting equipment, to garden supplies in the

spring. "It varies from one end of the spectrum to the other," said Reichel. "We've never turned anything down that I can remember."

The store also provides a source of clothes and household items for local families in the event of fire or some other similar emergency.

It's that community-inspired mission that keeps the volunteers turning out each week. "When I'm done at the end of the day, I feel so good," said Barb Boutto, who was working at the shop last Friday with Rhonda Joki and Julie Hippe.

Reichel said she's always amazed at the work done by their volunteers. "It's an amazing group of ladies," she said. "The store seems to magically run itself." Of course, new volunteers are always needed, notes Reichel, since most of the volunteers are, well, not exactly spring chickens anymore.

If you'd like to check it out, the store is open Thursdays, Fridays, and the second and fourth Saturdays of every month, from 9-3 p.m. Most regulars will tell you that Thursday is the best day to shop, since that's when you get your first crack at the newest additions to the shelves, which are restocked each week ahead of Thursday's opening.

You can also drop off clean and gently-used items whenever volunteers are at the store (Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursday, Fridays, and the second and fourth Saturday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The store does not accept TVs or other large electronics or large furniture.

Contact Lake Country Power to learn more: [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop)



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**Read It Here**

CITY OF ELY

# Ely council okays Sunday liquor

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — Nobody attended a public hearing Tuesday night on a proposed city of Ely ordinance modification to allow off-sale liquor sales on Sundays. Following a brief discussion following the hearing, city council members approved the second reading of the ordinance change.

Just two other state municipalities remain that don't allow residents to purchase alcohol on Sundays.

Not everyone likes the new law. City Council member Albert Forsman objected to the ordinance. "This should be supported by all of our businesses that are affected by what it does," he said.

The ordinance gives the city's liquor store owners the option, but not the requirement, to be open for business on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

After a brief discussion about changing the wording of the city ordinance to strictly adhere to any future changes in the state statute, council members agreed to vote on the ordinance as was prepared by the city attorney.

Forsman indicated that it was not his "intent to over-complicate" the matter.

Council member Jerome Debeltz said, "I understand that there are a couple of stores that don't want to be open on Sundays, and that is their prerogative," he said. "There are some bars that don't want to be open on Sundays. It

would be nice to allow these businesses in Ely to survive."

The ordinance was approved on a 6-1 vote, with Forsman voting against the measure.

### Other business

In other business the council:

- Authorized council and staff to attend the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Fall Conference in Alexandria, Nov. 14-15.

- Approved a memo of understanding with the town of Morse on a land swap proposal.

- Approved the relocation of the St. Louis County recycle bins to the softball complex, and to not allow brush or mulch drop-off at the new site.

- Authorized three annual dock leases near the Spaulding boat ramp and allow Spaulding residents the opportunity to apply for them.

- Approved a commercial rehab loan for \$17,500 for Rockwood Bar and Grill.

- Approved in-kind services for the Ely Marathon this weekend.

- Approved a residential rehab loan for Drew Tippler for sewer code work at 911 W Chapman St.

- Approved a commercial rehab loan for Sarah Burger to replace the roof at 48 E Sheridan St.

- Approved a resolution authorizing the Ely Blue Line Club to apply for a raffle permit.

### EPA INVESTIGATION

# Federal PolyMet permit probe expands

Broader investigation could prompt further delay in resolving PolyMet's water permit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A federal probe that began earlier this year with questions over the handling of the permitting process for PolyMet Mining is being expanded nationwide. The announcement, made Sept. 5 by the U.S. EPA's Office of Inspector General, suggests preliminary findings in the PolyMet case have raised alarms with federal investigators.

"The OIG's objective for this audit is to determine whether the EPA's reviews of state-proposed

NPDES permits verify that the permits adhere to Clean Water Act requirements," wrote Kathlene Butler, Director of the EPA's Office of Audit and Evaluation.

Butler notes that the decision to expand the inspector general's investigation is based on the investigation completed so far on the handling of PolyMet Mining's water discharge permit, also known as an NPDES permit. "We will incorporate the results from our work assessing the PolyMet permit review into this nationwide audit of the EPA's NPDES permit reviews," Butler stated.

The decision to expand the federal investigation not only suggests that examiners are concerned with their findings to date. It also points to a substantially longer delay before the federal investigation is completed. Whether that could impact the ability of PolyMet Mining to advance its proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mine project near Hoyt Lakes remains to be seen.

The inspector general's investigation has already been actively underway for months. Investigators have met with staff in the EPA's Region 5 office as well as

water quality staff from the Fond du Lac Band, which has been intensely engaged in the permitting process for PolyMet, particularly on issues of potential water pollution. "The fact that there is this expanded national audit, predicated on this complaint, tells me they're taking this very seriously," said Nancy Schuldt, Water Protection Coordinator for Fond du Lac.

A retired EPA attorney, Jeff Fowley, alerted the inspector general back in January about allegations of mishandling of the PolyMet permitting

See **PROBE...** pg. 5

### NEWSPAPERS

# Mayor, publisher issue retraction demand over Tower News libel

TOWER — Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad and *Timberjay* Publisher Marshall HelMBERGER have issued retraction demands to Tower Ambulance Supervisor Steve Altenburg and *Tower News* Publisher Gary Albertson in response to a false and defamatory "news story" published in the *Tower News* under Mr. Altenburg's byline.

The story repeated false claims that Mr. Altenburg has made previously at Tower City Council meetings and at other venues about the history of a 2017 IRRRB grant to the Tower Economic Development Authority. TEDA served as a pass-through for \$125,000 in IRRRB gap funding for start-up costs related to the proposed town home development at the city's harbor. That project has been on hold for years as the city has been unable to deliver a completed plat, which is required before the developers can move forward with their plan.

In his story, which the *Tower News* published on its front page on Sept. 13, Mr. Altenburg accused the mayor and publisher of fraud surrounding the loan, although he provided no evidence for his claim. His story contained numerous factual errors, several of which were libelous.

Kringstad and HelMBERGER have submitted retraction demands to both Altenburg and Albertson, which is required before parties can pursue legal action for defamation. Kringstad said he normally prefers to ignore "demeaning remarks, criticism, and even slander," that appears in the media. "There comes a point however at which "no comment" simply doesn't cut it and skewed, erroneous and slanderous statements need to be called out and stopped," he stated. "I think we've reached that point now. The individuals in question publicly stated in the early days after I was elected that

See **LIBEL...** pg. 5

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Hurricane Trump

Mishandling of Dorian forecast highlights the spread of an ego-driven cancer

While the impacts from Hurricane Dorian thankfully passed far from Minnesota, even here in the North Country, we can't escape the impacts that Hurricane Trump continues to inflict on our federal government. While the list of abominations from this administration grows longer almost daily, one of the most troubling recent episodes centers around President Trump's erroneous Sept. 1 tweet regarding the expected impacts from the recent hurricane.

As many readers likely recall, the president claimed in his tweet that several states, including Alabama, would "most likely be hit (much) harder than anticipated." Not surprisingly, folks in Alabama were unsettled by the president's warning, particularly since their local forecasts had indicated little, if any, impact from the storm.

As calls from panicked residents poured into local offices of the National Weather Service, a meteorologist in the Birmingham office issued his own tweet, saying that Alabama was not going to see any impacts from the storm. The Birmingham tweeter was correct, of course. By the time the forecaster issued his tweet, the National Weather Service had already confirmed that the storm was going to stall over the Bahamas and then move mostly north, possibly grazing the Carolinas.

Trump's tweet was simply in error, which any mature individual, and any previous president, would have been willing to acknowledge. But that's always been a bridge too far for Mr. Trump who, instead, mobilized his political appointees to undertake damage control for him, inflicting far more damage in the process, most of all to the morale of the thousands of men and women we rely on to bring us our weather forecasts, including storm predictions.

Rather than admit error, Trump pointed to a days-old map of wind speed probability that suggested a small portion of southeastern Alabama had a 5-20 percent chance of wind speeds in excess of 39 miles per hour. By the time Trump issued his tweet, however, the map had changed significantly and Alabama was no longer forecast to receive either wind or rain from Hurricane Dorian.

Trump's actions were simply unpresidential. A president is supposed to provide guidance to the people of the country, and that means accurate information, particularly in the face of a hurricane. Creating unwarranted panic across a

state that, by that point, was completely in the clear, was just sloppy. The Birmingham forecaster did the responsible thing by correcting erroneous and potentially dangerous misinformation.

Sadly, while the rest of the world focused on the massive destruction inflicted on the Bahamas, Trump fixated on his wounded ego, and fought back, even bringing an outdated weather map to a press conference, which he had clearly altered with a sharpie to make it appear the forecasted storm track could nick the southeast corner of Alabama. Trump's actions were so ham-handed it immediately and appropriately became the week's sensation on the late-night comedy shows.

It could all have remained in the category of farce had the White House not taken the unprecedented step of strong-arming the head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which oversees the National Weather Service, into issuing a statement chastising the unfortunate weatherman who took the brazen step of informing his local residents of the true facts of the forecast.

Predictably, the rebuke from NOAA Administrator Neil Jacobs, created a furor among former and current National Weather Service employees, who justifiably viewed the administrator's actions as unprofessional.

It was actually worse than that, because it highlights a pattern of behavior in this White House, remarkably similar to the "cult of personality" that is often created around dictatorial leaders.

Like the sycophants who gather around tyrants everywhere, Trump officials are daily forced to nod approvingly, no matter the nonsense that emanates from the mouth or twitter finger of the exalted leader from moment to moment. Rather than focusing on the work of governing, the White House is dominated by a single, insatiable ego that seems to feed on the ruined reputations of the minions who are daily forced to defend his lies, his callousness, and his sometimes shocking ignorance of the world and basic history.

We can't afford to have the disease that infects the Trump White House spread through the federal bureaucracy that we rely on to accurately predict our weather, inspect our food, manage our lands, conduct our science, or protect our air and water. Unfortunately, this latest incident shows just how far Trump's malignant cancer has already spread.



## Letters from Readers

### City of Tower needs to restore ambulance reserve funding

Last week the *Timberjay* laid out a bleak assessment for the financial standing of the Tower Area Ambulance Service. This needs to be taken seriously. It's been revealed that the city of Tower has depleted the service's fund balance of over \$800,000 by transferring the money "to cover other city spending and it's not clear that the city will have the means to restore those funds any time soon." Let's just say that the city has an obligation to make the service's fund whole. It shouldn't have been dipped into to cover unrelated city expenses. I can think of at least a couple of ways the city can make good: One would be to take the \$289,218 lump sum cell tower lease offer from American Tower and transfer it into the Tower Area Ambulance Service Fund. To complete the obligation, the city could sell off the Hoodoo Point Campground property and make another transfer in the correct direction. Selling the campground could pay off a couple of sizable city debts and also solve the problem of leaky campground sewer lines that are presently contributing unwanted inflow into the Tower-Breitung Wastewater ponds.

Going forward, it needs to be decided if the townships of Breitung, Eagles Nest, Kugler, Greenwood and Vermilion Lake are equal members with the city of Tower in the "Tower Area Ambulance Service", or if the townships just contribute money and the city makes the decisions. Reading the *Timberjay's* articles of late, the decisions haven't been good. And future finances don't look good. Regardless, I don't believe that the Tower Area Ambulance Service's reserve money was meant to be a slush

fund for the city of Tower's use to cover other, unrelated city expenses. The townships need to take this seriously.

**Lee Peterson  
Greenwood Twp.**

### No wonder it seems that the world is going crazy

This takes the cake! Recently, an Appleton, Wis., man was found unconscious on a bus as it pulled into a bus stop. He was first revived on the floor by EMTs, with follow-up aid on the stretcher outside. When he was informed he needed to go to the hospital to get checked out, he left the scene and walked toward a nearby library where he escalated the situation, pulling a gun and shooting the very people who had just provided him aid, killing one of them. Crazy!

In a similar vein, last April our president's lead attorney, Rudy Giuliani, was being interviewed by Chris Cuomo on television. He was asked point blank why all the lies by Trump's A Team (Manafort, Cohen, Gates, Don Jr., Flynn, Stone, etc.) and by Trump himself before he took office and still continues to this day?

Many of his A Team are in jail and/or facing other charges. Rudy's response was: "Chris, if you can't lie you could never even be in the Senate or Congress. Only good liars are Senators, Congresswomen and Congressmen." And then he added a real doozy "The biggest liar of them all is the President himself, with the most scrutiny, or he'd never be elected."

Wow! Great examples for our youth to admire and aspire to. Surely we all know that Mexico will pay for every penny of Trump's wall and there is no reason to believe Putin knew anything about Russian interference in our election. Give me a break!

Can you believe it, if you aren't a big liar you can't be

the President of the U.S., the leader of the free world?

Donald Trump surely backs up Rudy's claims 100 percent, with over 12,000 misleading statements and lies in only two-plus years in office. It's a record pace and out-of-control! He has the audacity to mislead people by claiming global warming is a big hoax, even though most scientists say otherwise (he should have been in Europe over the summer). He's scoffed at both wind energy and wood heat as possible alternatives to fossil fuels, instead opting to help line the pockets of his rich buddies in the coal and oil industries with his support.

In light of this crazy, mixed-up world and our own leader's lies, is it any wonder why kids can't play outside without a fully-vetted supervisor, why schools need to be locked down with armed guards? Why the Internet and some TV programs are geared to corrupt our morals, why scammers are invading our privacy to rip people off, why all news contrary to Trump's views is being labeled as "Fake News," why white supremacy still even exists, and why it's not a good idea to be where large crowds are gathered for fear of mass shootings and explosions? Sad and scary!

**Daryl Lamppa  
Tower**

## We welcome your letters

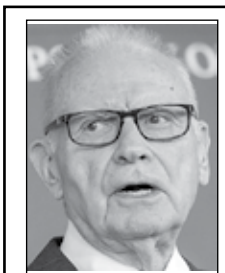
The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

## The future of democracy? Reason for hope and concern

Sometimes, you wonder if the world is doomed to descend into autocracy. Certainly, that's what the coverage of the past few years suggests. We read about the nations that are already there, like China and Russia, of course, and Saudi Arabia and Iran. Or about countries like Hungary, Turkey, and



**LEE  
HAMILTON**

Poland that are nominally democratic but have been trending less so.

What strikes me most about this discussion of a global decline in democratic norms and values, however, is how little coverage has gone to places where democracy remains robust. How much do you read

about countries that are performing well on this front, places like Norway, Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand, Denmark, Canada, Ireland, Switzerland, Finland, or Australia? Asking the question pretty much answers it.

These are strong, stable democracies. They have a healthy electoral process, their governments function admirably, political participation is robust, and civil liberties remain core to their identity. Amid concerns about

democracy's future, they're shining examples of its staying power.

There's no question that there's reason for concern. Plenty of countries, including some of those above, are home to anti-democratic movements that reject the basic freedoms, civil liberties, and pluralism that we associate with democracy. Moreover, unhappiness with the way democracy is working appears to be rising: a Pew poll last year found dissatisfaction

rose between 2017 and 2018, sometimes markedly, in such countries as Germany, India, the Netherlands, Sweden, Japan, Canada, and the US.

One key to what's going on in this country may lie in another Pew poll from earlier this summer: Americans see declining trust in both the federal government and in one another. They cite poor government performance, fear about the corrup-

See **FUTURE...** pg. 5

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

## Altenburg, Tower News commit defamation

I have, for years, made a point of not responding to the nonsense that regularly appears in the pages of the *Tower News* under certain individuals' bylines, but the defamatory screed from Tower Ambulance Director and Fire Chief Steve Altenburg that appeared in the Sept. 13 edition of that newspaper requires an exception.

Altenburg's piece was dishonest from start to finish, beginning with his claim that he was an "independent journalist." Mr. Altenburg is nothing of the sort and his "story" violates every tenet of journalistic ethics. The *Tower News* can claim no better.

Mr. Altenburg falsely alleges fraud by Mayor Orlyn Kringstad and myself over an IRRR grant that the agency provided to the Tower Economic Development Authority in 2017, expressly to loan to Tower Harbor Shores, and suggests that this newspaper is failing to report on it.

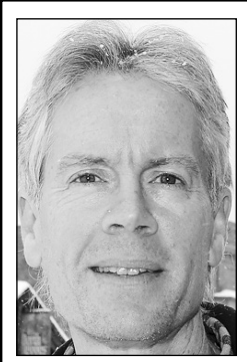
This, of course, is false. We have reported on Mr. Altenburg's defamation related to this loan on more than one occasion. In fact, it is Mr. Altenburg and his partner in defamation, former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith, who have kept the facts from the public. The TEDA board, earlier this year, requested to review the "evidence" that he and Ms. Keith supposedly submitted to the state auditor, but Ms. Keith refused to provide it. If Mr. Altenburg has some actual documentation of scandal, why won't he present it publicly?

Anyone can submit a complaint to the state auditor at any time. The fact that the state auditor opens an envelope or reads an email could be construed as "investigation," but that's a far cry from a suggestion there's any merit to a complaint. Mr. Altenburg's allegations were

supposedly filed back in May, yet four months later, no one who is supposed to be a target of the investigation has even been contacted. It appears that the state auditor has bigger fish to fry.

Here are the facts:

►The handling of the IRRR grant and subsequent loan to Tower Harbor Shores raised no concerns with the IRRR officials charged with its oversight, who closed out the grant and paid out the final amount to the city in August of 2017. The auditors who reviewed the city's 2017 books mentioned only that the city should do a better job of documenting its handling of the grant because the city clerk provided reimbursement in a way that did not conform to the



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

grant agreement. Lack of proper documentation was a chronic problem during Ms. Keith's tenure as clerk-treasurer and was routinely cited on multiple fronts by the city's auditors while she held the position.

It was only after Mr. Kringstad won election as mayor in November of 2018, that Ms. Keith and Mr. Altenburg, mounted their campaign of defamation against the new mayor in hopes of preventing him from restoring order to the chaos that the two of them had inflicted on Tower city government. Defamation surrounding the TEDA loan was one of several ploys the two of them concocted to undermine the new mayor.

►Mr. Altenburg's claim that the city attorney instructed the former clerk-treasurer to submit her loan concerns to the state auditor is false. That has been confirmed in writing from the city attorney.

►Mr. Altenburg's claim of impropriety rests on his false claim that a single invoice that the city paid for under the loan agreement with Tower Harbor

Shores was for the buyout of a project partner, the well-respected architect Dewey Thorbeck. Thorbeck has twice submitted letters to the city stating that the invoice, which totaled \$29,060 was for architectural services rendered to the project, not a buyout. To my knowledge, neither Ms. Keith nor Mr. Altenburg has any evidence to suggest otherwise. Ms. Keith, after showing no concern about the invoice for nearly a year and a half, suddenly made an issue of the payment following Mr. Kringstad's election and then to the auditors when they reviewed the city's 2018 books this past spring. The auditors recommended that the city obtain more documentation for the invoice to address Ms. Keith's sudden concern. Mr. Thorbeck provided that documentation through his letters.

►Mr. Altenburg falsely claims that the funds were paid out in violation of the city's loan guidelines. Clearly, the IRRR does not agree since they approved of the documentation, including the loan guidelines, submitted by Ms. Keith in closing out the grant and paying out the funds. Nor have the city's auditors ever stated that the loan was issued in violation of the loan guidelines. Mr. Altenburg is simply inventing this claim.

►Mr. Altenburg falsely claims that I drafted a letter to the city council stating that the loan application from Tower Harbor Shores complied with "all the loan guidelines" and should therefore be approved. I drafted no such letter. In May of 2017, both I and Deputy Clerk Terri Joki-Martin reviewed financial documents from the Tower Harbor Shores project, including profit and loss statements, invoices, and cancelled checks. We reviewed paid invoices for eligible costs under the loan guidelines totaling \$91,500, and unpaid invoices totaling \$37,900. Under the loan guidelines, Tower Harbor Shores had to demonstrate that they had invested a private dollar

on a qualified expense for every dollar in loan they received. While they had not quite reached that point during our review, I noted to the city council that I was confident based on the projected spending in their financial pro forma that "they would expend in the weeks and months ahead, far more than the \$125,000 loan amount to be provided by TEDA." Indeed, the TEDA board had earlier reviewed the company's financials, which estimated \$680,000 in qualified start-up expenses under the loan guidelines.

I did inform the council that the full TEDA board had recommended acceptance of the IRRR grant funds and the loan to Tower Harbor Shores, which was a fact. I offered no opinion on whether the loan complied with any guidelines, other than the investment requirement, which was based on actual documentation. The information I provided to the city council was exact and accurate.

I also recommended in the email that assuming the loan was approved, "full payment should be made as invoices are submitted to the city with proof of payment." At that point, it was Ms. Keith who was responsible for determining that appropriate documentation accompanied any requests for payment under the loan. I never even saw the invoices that were submitted for payment, since I had no authority to approve them in either case. Mr. Altenburg's representation of my email to the council is false, and I have made it available online so readers can make their own determination on Mr. Altenburg's veracity.

►Mr. Altenburg claims the loan is in default, but that's not at all clear at this point. The loan did have to be reissued, but only because Ms. Keith erroneously paid out more funds than the loan agreement allowed for. It's my understanding that one early payment was inadvertently missed but was later caught up, and that Ms. Keith's original calculation of

the interest was in error, which meant that Tower Harbor Shores had slightly underpaid their interest requirement. It is my understanding that Tower Harbor Shores subsequently paid the difference. The loan was later reissued solely to Tower Harbor Shores and remains current with required interest payments to my knowledge. That's hardly the stuff of scandal. What irregularities did exist with this loan were the result of Ms. Keith's error.

Two final points must be noted. First, no city funds are at risk as Mr. Altenburg implies, since no city funds were ever involved. The IRRR granted the money exclusively to provide gap funding for the harbor town home project. TEDA was simply a pass-through and would have never received the funds had the council not accepted the IRRR grant. Several thousand dollars in principal and interest have since been repaid on the loan, which means the city has already benefitted financially from the grant and loan and stands to benefit far more if the project moves forward.

Secondly, Mr. Altenburg's true motives have now become clearer. He stated months before the filing of his "complaint" that he feared the new mayor wanted to discharge him from his employment with the city. And when allegations of his own misconduct were reported by a member of the Tower Fire Department last month, he immediately invoked whistleblower protection as a shield against accountability. It appears he believes the mere act of filing a complaint (even a baseless one) can protect him from the consequences of his own behavior as ambulance director and fire chief. Mr. Altenburg's actions represent an abuse of a law intended to protect actual whistleblowers, not cranks desperately seeking unwarranted legal protection from their own failures.

## LIBEL...Continued from page 3

their plan was to 'take me down', 'run me out of town', and make sure that '2019 would be a miserable year for me' [and the new council]. In recent weeks malicious 'banter' and dangerous statements,

in and outside of public meetings, have been made that cannot be tolerated."

The retraction demand requires that Altenburg and Albertson provide evidence of Mr. Altenburg's claims or retract them in

the *Tower News*, along with an apology. The retraction demands will be available on the *Timberjay's* website at timberjay.com.

Helmberger has also published a detailed rebuttal to the Altenburg/

Albertson defamation, which appears above on this page. Kringstad said he is eager to keep his focus on the needs of the city. "The vast majority of citizens, both in Tower and in the surrounding

townships, expect progressive, decisive leadership in Tower," he said. "Open, honest and transparent city government, progressive economic development, and respect and dignity for public officials can no

longer be deterred by a few individuals who have negative biases, agendas and poor judgement which harm the majority."

## PROBE...Continued from page 3

process that were circulating among EPA staff. The allegations center on potential cooperation between former Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner John Linc Stine and Cathy Stepp, the Trump-appointed administrator of the EPA's Great Lakes regional office, to suppress concerns by professional staff within the federal agency that the PolyMet permit did

not comply with the Clean Water Act.

EPA staff, who had worked on the PolyMet permitting process for more than a year, had drafted written comments outlining their concerns but were allegedly told they could not submit them to the MPCA as would normally be done as part of the process on a major permit. Instead, in April of 2018, the EPA staff read portions

of their written comments to MPCA officials over the phone. MPCA officials acknowledge the phone conversation took place but have since stated in court filings that they discarded their notes of the call.

In order to address an ongoing legal fight over access to the original EPA comments, the federal agency released the seven-page comment letter

to environmental groups, including Duluth-based Water Legacy, on June 12. The comments cited several instances where the EPA officials believed the PolyMet permit did not comply with federal and state water quality laws and rules and was likely unenforceable.

Fowley told the *Timberjay* this week that he is pleased to see the expanded probe. "I think

it's a great thing. There are problems like this all over the country. I think that PolyMet is just the worst example of a really bad trend."

MPCA spokesperson Darin Broton denied that his agency made any attempt to dissuade the EPA from commenting on the PolyMet permit. "The MPCA cannot tell agencies not to submit comments," he said. Rather, Broton

says that the communication was intended to encourage the EPA to follow a process and timeline for commenting that had been used in the past for efficiency. "This is the process that MPCA has followed with other NPDES permits," Broton said.

## FUTURE...Continued from page 4

tion of the political process by monied interests, and a general rise in disrespect for others and their beliefs.

Moreover, I'm struck over and over by the extent to which people I encounter lack confidence in elected leaders today. I was in a discussion group recently in which pretty much every participant attacked the country's political leaders, regardless of ideology and party. You can find their arguments echoed wherever you turn. They don't think elected leaders act in the public interest, instead putting their own promotion and well-being

first. And people believe that our political leaders, both in Washington and in the state capitals, are failing to confront the big problems that concern people: drugs, health care, affordability, education, good jobs, ethical conduct, and the like.

Yet here's the thing: over the course of countless public meetings over the years, I don't ever recall anyone rejecting the Constitution or representative democracy itself. They may be distressed at government, our institutions, and our political leaders, but people seem to support

the democracy we inhabit.

What may be most interesting about the polls I cite above is that even as Americans express their dissatisfaction, they also recognize the stakes and want to see things turned around. They believe that low trust in government and in one another makes it more difficult to govern effectively, and by a hefty margin believe it's possible to improve on both fronts. Greater transparency, more effective restrictions on the role of money in politics, and more "honesty and cooperation" among political leaders, they told

pollsters, would boost confidence. Similarly, they believe more cooperation among ordinary citizens would help rebuild trust in one another. These are, of course, among the bedrock values of representative democracy.

There's one other point from which I take great hope: younger people, on the whole, seem to be more inclusive and tolerant in their views than their elders, and they have a more positive view of the role of government. On the whole, the older people I meet tend to be more cynical and pessimis-

tic; younger voters — on issues from immigration to social inclusiveness — tend to be more expansive. Time, in other words, is on the side of democratic values.

So while I would never urge complacency in the face of the assaults we're seeing on democratic norms, both here and elsewhere, I'm not pessimistic. Democracies have great internal strength, and they give cause for optimism that the core democratic processes of deliberation, compromise, negotiation, and cooperation will, in the end, endure.

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

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP



# Big trucks = Big fun

Breitung Township and ECFE host Big Truck Night



Clockwise from top left: Harley Banks, left, and Ayva Anderson, right. Cousins Mason Johnson and Hudson Stella took turns steering the dump truck. Edwin Swanson at the wheel. Kids got a great view from the top of the fire truck. Bentley Crego covers his ears as someone sounds a siren. Harper Olson enjoyed a cookie. Brooke Anderson checked out a fire truck. photos by J. Summit



## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

### St. Martin's Annual Fall Dinner

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is happy to announce the date for this year's Fall Dinner, set for Sunday, Sept. 29. The dinner will be served in the church social hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year we will be serving a beef dinner. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12, and free for under 5's. Families (two adults, two children) are \$25. Tickets may be purchased from any member of our Ladies Circles, at

the rectory, or at the door. Take-outs are available. We hope that you will join us in celebrating the beautiful fall season!

### Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board to meet Oct. 4

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Friday, Oct. 4 at 8:30 a.m. at Sulu's. All requests for funding must be in writing and should be turned in to Terri Joki-Martin at Tower City Hall or to Julie Suihkonen.

### Tower-Soudan Area Singers begin rehearsal on Sept. 30 for Christmas Concert

TOWER- Rehearsals for the 2019 Tower-Soudan Area Singers Christmas Concert will begin on Monday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School music room.

This year's theme, A Classic Christmas, will give every singer and listener a change to sing or hear their favorite tune.

There are no audi-

tions for this group, so you can just come and share in the joy of singing with others.

The concert is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. As in the past, a freewill offering will be taken to cover music, advertising, and decorating expenses. Seasonal goodies will be served immediately after the concert.

The singers would like to add more basses to the group of 25, but any interested person can give a call to Rolf Anderson, 218-753-3262, for more information.

### Chalk Couture class on Sept. 28

TOWER- Chalk Couture is a collection of products that you use to create professional-looking chalkboards and so much more! You can make stunningly beautiful home décor without any artistic skills at all. It is a kid-friendly craft. The class is aimed at adults or adults with an accompanying child who is seven years or older. One registration and fee required for each set of materials. Class fee includes the magnetic board, size A (5"x7")

transfer, small squeegee and paste. Please call or text 218-343-3744, or email at camplake@earthlink.net, Leone Graf to pre-register before the class. We need to know how many to supply materials for. Paige Olson, is the instructor. Class will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the Tower Civic Center. Cost is \$25

### Defensive Driving 4-Hour Refresher on Sept. 23

TOWER- The last four-hour defensive driving refresher course for the season will be held on Monday, Sept. 23, at the Tower Civic Center, from 1 - 5 p.m. Please note the new location. The four-hour refresher course is offered for drivers 55 years of age and older who have previously completed an eight-hour beginner's course and who need to re-certify to continue receiving a discount on their car insurance. Dana Waldron is the instructor for the class offered by AARP. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Payment is payable to the instructor on the day of class. You must pre-register. If we do not have six people registered, the class will be cancelled. Please text or call Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message with your name and spelling, phone number and the class you are interested in.

**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**

**SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

**Area Solid Waste Facility site hours**

<b>Northwoods Transfer Station</b> 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm	<b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm
<b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm	<b>Soudan Canister Site</b> 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm
<b>Embarrass Canister Site</b> 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	<b>Aurora Transfer Station</b> 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
<b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	<b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

*Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th*

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

**Scenic Rivers Clinics**

**TOWER FLU SHOT CLINICS**

**October 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30-4:00**  
**October 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30-4:00**  
**No Appointment Necessary**

Bring your Insurance Card, Photo ID, and wear a short-sleeved shirt

**Allow 10 Minutes for Registration**  
**High-Dose Shot Available!**

**Tower Medical Clinic**  
415 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Suite 2  
218-753-2405  
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

MAIN STREET

# Bank founder visits Tower branch



Pictured (from left): Susan Laine, Frandsen-Tower; Denise Olson, Frandsen-North Branch; Dennis Frandsen, bank founder; Jeanette Frandsen; April Shears, Frandsen-Tower, Sierra Jankowski, Frandsen-Tower; and Nick Frandsen, grandson of Dennis and Jeanette. Nick is one of three grandsons employed in the family business. photo by J. Summit

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Frandsen Bank & Trust founder Dennis Frandsen, along with his wife Jeanette and grandson Nick, visited the Tower branch last Tuesday, as part of a week-long celebration of their company, which has recently received both national and statewide honors.

"We were named as one of the top three banks in Minnesota by Forbes Magazine this year," he said, noting that only three banks in Minnesota earned this honor.

In addition, for the second year in a row, Frandsen was named to the Top 150 Workplaces in Minnesota by the *Star Tribune* newspaper, coming in at number 12.

All 40 Frandsen branches held customer appreciation week to celebrate these honors.

"The Tower staff is doing a wonderful job with our customers," said Dennis, who still works full-time for the company. "We came up to congratulate them. The number one responsibility of a bank is to take care of their local community."

Frandsen Bank & Trust is part

of Frandsen Financial Corporation (FFC), a multi-bank holding company based in Arden Hills, Minn. What started out as Frandsen Log and Lumber Company in 1951 in Luck, Wis., and is now a major holding and management company with interests in several manufacturing companies and a bank holding company spanning three states, with over \$2 billion in assets. Frandsen companies employ over 1,000 people in Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Kentucky.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

# Moving day is inching closer

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- The new offices and community space at the Breitung Town Hall are moving closer to completion. At the Sept. 10 town board meeting, Supervisor Chuck Tekautz reported that the clerk/treasurer's office should be ready by the end of this month. The paving of the parking lot, along with the paving work on the Lake Ver-

milion State Park Road, should also be completed by that time.

The board approved quotes from Range Office Supply for \$1,708 for clerk/treasurer's furniture and for \$2,729 for the new fire department office. They will also need to purchase some items for the new bathrooms, and the desk and chair for the community room computer.

The new post office boxes have been installed, but box num-

bers and keys still need to be assigned to customers. The old boxes will be auctioned off, nationally, by the post office.

The board has posted the maintenance supervisor position, and job applications are due by Oct. 10.

The board reviewed draft rules for use and rental of the new community space. The board expects to approve the rules at their next meeting on Sept. 25 at 12 noon.

## The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township

The public was invited to tour the historic Little Church (at right) last Sunday, as part of the township's annual potluck picnic. The church is available for rental for special occasions, and also hosts a weekly men's coffee get-together (women also welcome) on Thursdays from 9 - 10 a.m. For more information, contact Bruce Swieringa at 218-741-1789. photos by J. Summit



Left: Bruce Swieringa, who was baptized at the Little Church, is one of the dedicated volunteers helping preserve the historic building. Right: A new back deck was built this summer.



## Bookmobile Schedule

<b>Wednesday, Oct. 2, 23; Nov. 13; Dec. 4</b>	
Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club	11:00-11:30 a.m.
Greenwood Town Hall	12:00-12:30 p.m.
Soudan Fire Hall	1:45-3:00 p.m.
Tower Civic Center	3:15-4:15 p.m.
Embarrass, Four Corners	5:15-6:00 p.m.

For further information, call the Arrowhead Library System at 218-741-3840 or www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us

## Transfer station

<b>Soudan Canister</b>	<b>Hwy. 77 Canister</b>
<i>Expanded hours year-round</i>	<i>Summer Hours through Sept. 30</i>
<b>Monday</b> 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Tuesday</b> 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
<b>Wed.</b> 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Thursday</b> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b> 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Saturday</b> 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b> 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
For info: 1-800-450-9278	Recycling canisters available at the canister site when open. For info: 1-800-450-9278

## AEOA Senior Dining Menu

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

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

Meals are served from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-753-1246 ext. 1003 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

Homebound seniors can sign up for meal delivery. To register for Meals on Wheels, or for more information, please call AEOA Senior Nutrition at 218-735-6899.

### Week of Sept. 23

- Monday- Chicken Sandwich, Vegetable Salad
- Tuesday- Taco Salad
- Wednesday- Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread Stick
- Thursday- Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Green Beans
- Friday- Mini Corn Dogs, Baked Beans

## Week of Sept. 23

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

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. at City Hall on Sept. 26

### Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Oct. 15.

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

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://vermilioncountry.org).

# Call to Subscribe (218) 753-2950



## the TIMBERJAY

The Tower-Soudan Timberjay and Cook-Orr Timberjay are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is [editor@timberjay.com](mailto:editor@timberjay.com). Visit our website at [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
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Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Office Manager	M. M. White
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**Libraries**

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

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

**Support groups**

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays,  
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. 24** - Consie  
Powell - "Canoeman  
Joe" picture book  
**Oct. 1** - Meet New  
Elyites  
**Oct. 8** - Stephanie  
Pearson - Outside  
Magazine Adventures  
**Play Smear**  
ELY - Smear tour-  
naments 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 infor-  
mation, call 218-365-  
5678, or visit their  
website, www.elycom-  
munityhealth.org.

**Breathing Out**  
by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



geese flying over  
grey silhouette marks the sky  
as colored leaves fall

**the TIMBERJAY**

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

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

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Staff Writers	Stephanie Ukkola Bill Stone
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.

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ELY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Kondos moving to new location**

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - Kondos Outdoors, a local manufacturer that crafts canoe packs, camping gear, and dog sport gear, is moving up - to the top of the hill, that is. Soon you will hear the hum of the cutting table and the rhythmic punching of the sewing machines at its new location at 145 East Chapman St.

"Four years ago we made the first big move into Ely proper, and now we have the opportunity to move to an even more central location where we can feel like we're a real part of town. I've always admired the craft culture that Ely has and I think we can better be a part of our community in this new space," said Michael Larson, owner and craftsman.

Kondos Outdoors, founded by Dan and Vicki Kondos, has been making canoe packs, camping gear, and dog sport gear in Ely since 1980.

Kondos makes a large variety of canoe portage packs, in various sizes and colors, in addition to many kinds of insulated food packs, seat backs, gear packs, utensil rolls,



**Kondos has been crafting tough gear for paddlers, canine athletes, and outdoor enthusiasts in Ely since 1980. From the frozen tundra of the Alaskan frontier to the rugged terrain of Northern Minnesota, their gear has been tested and proven for wilderness adventures near and far.**  
Timberjay file photo



cook kit bags, day packs, anchor bags and rain tarps. The dog sled business is just as varied. They make a variety of dog harnesses, dog booties, jackets, collars and custom

sled bags and packs, as well as skijoring equipment.

"Year-round dog sports are gaining in popularity, and we are looking to get into the whole hunting equipment realm as well," Larson said back in 2016. Kondos also provides pack equipment for the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources.

"Our team is excited for the new move, and we are looking forward to having some more space

to work in and show off our new products. It will take a little time for us to settle into the new space and make it our own, but I am excited about what we will be able to do with the place over the coming months," Larson said.

Kondos will close their retail store while they make their move and set up in their new location, set for Oct. 11. They will still be operating during this time and products will be available online at kondosoutdoors.com.

NORTH AMERICAN BEAR CENTER

**Ely's ambassador bears prepare for winter**

ELY - Fall transition is a period when metabolic processes change in preparation for hibernation. The ambassador bears at the North American Bear Center in Ely have been making the seasonal transition this past week, according to senior bear keeper Sharon Herrell.

"Bears voluntarily eat less but continue to drink to purge body wastes. They become increasingly lethargic, resting 22 or more hours per day, often near water. Active heart rates fall from 80-100 per minute to 50-60 per minute, and sleeping rates fall from 66-80 per minute to less than 22 per minute," according to an excerpt from "Five Stages of Activity and Hibernation," by Dr. Lynn Rogers.

There has been a small but noticeable change in bear activity at the center since the beginning of September. "Tasha has slowed down but remains actively working on her dug den," Herrell said. "Her appetite has lessened and her need to den has heightened."

Ted is in heavy shed mode. "He is resting much more but continues to show interest in walking down to the viewing area for treats and a short swim. His shedding has caused our mods to take some interesting pictures. He



**North American Bear Center's ambassador bear, Ted, is in heavy shed mode. He likes to give "high-fives."** submitted photo

looks brown in so many pictures but remember it's the sun bleaching it out. He is such a happy handsome bear and also gives high fives," she said.

Holly has shared in some of the digging that has been happening. "We still haven't had time to see if there are other digging sites in the 2 1/2 acres. At some point soon I'll make a conscious effort to look. She has had dirt on her face and back but that could be a result of her checking Tasha's den. She has shown a

small interest in the new straw Lucky received. Holly is a mysterious and sometimes misunderstood bear," Herrell said.

"Some of the enrichment ideas we use for the bears include putting treats in the ready-made holes on the "Pat" tree. Lucky likes finding the treats and uses his sticky tongue to collect the goodies. Bears can quickly avoid ant stings by using their long sticky tongues to collect ant pupae before the adults can protect the brood by stinging around the bear's

muzzle," she added.

"The seeding is done around the pond and next year should provide lots of color and more grasses and clover for the bears. The fall transition also means the leaves in the area are starting to turn colors and fall. The service drive to the bear dens is littered with fallen leaves. A sign I take that denning is close at hand for the ambassador bears," she said.

Read more about hibernation activity at <https://bear.org/bear-facts/black-bears/hiber->

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

**Gardner Humanities Trust seeks grant applicants**

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust's second grant cycle of the year is underway with grant applications due by Wednesday, Sept. 25.

"Individual and organizations are free to re-apply for a grant program as long as they have final reports completed for all previous grants," said Keiko Williams, executive

director. "Organizations sometimes have projects they would like to produce a second time. These projects need to compete anew with all other grants submitted in a grant round."

Williams reminded Youth Grant applicants that they need to schedule a grant review meeting with her in order to go over their draft application.

"This meeting is geared to help the individual youth make their applications as well-written and compelling as possible," she said. Youth Grant applicants must call and schedule a meeting with Keiko. The actual meeting will be scheduled for after Sept. 15 as the Trust office will be closed from Sept. 2-13. Artists and groups can

apply for grants in four categories.

The deadline for applications is at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731, or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E. Chapman Street, Ely.



50TH CLASS REUNION



The Class of '69 is still doing fine. The Ely High School Class of 1969 recently celebrated their 50th class reunion with a gathering at the Grand Ely Lodge. The event included a truly grand time with a great classmate turnout, with live music by Jane's Juke Box, and dancing. submitted photo

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Picture Day added some excitement at Washington Elementary School on Monday. Ms. Megan Devine's Kindergarten class was the first group on stage in the auditorium. Shown below, from left, are Courtney Forsberg, Phoebe Bisbee and Levi Mattila. photos by K. Vandervort



News In Brief

Safety Open House set for Sept. 25

ELY – The 8th annual Ely Safety Open House, sponsored by the Ely Fire Department, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 3-6 p.m. at the fire department adjacent to City Hall, 209 E Chapman St. Safety demonstrations, car seat inspections, and kids activities are all part of the fun. Educational materials will be distributed. Free food will be available. The event is sponsored by the EFD, Ely Area Ambulance Service, Ely Police Department, U.S. Forest Service, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department Rescue Squad, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

2020 James Street work discussed

ELY - St. Louis County Public Works is planning to reconstruct eight blocks of James Street in Ely next year, and a public meeting is scheduled to provide details and obtain feedback from the public. The meeting will be Monday, Sept. 30, at 6 p.m. at Ely City Hall, 209 E. Chapman St. It will include a presentation about the planned project design as well as the anticipated schedule. The project on James Street, between Central Avenue and 8th Avenue East, will include a complete reconstruction of the roadway, sidewalk, and curb and gutter. At the same time, the city of Ely will reconstruct water and sanitary sewer lines. To learn more about this or any other St. Louis County road construction project, or to sign up for email updates, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/construction](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/construction).

Miss Ely pageant set for Oct. 4

ELY – The fifth annual Miss Ely and Little Miss Ely competition will be held Friday, Oct. 4 at Washington Auditorium, beginning at 7 p.m. More than \$7,000 in scholarships have been awarded through the program.

Ely Winter Festival seeks sponsors

ELY - The Ely Winter Festival, scheduled to run Feb. 6-16, 2020, seeks sponsors, including businesses and organizations in the Ely area, to help support the independent, non-profit organization. The group relies and depends on sponsorships, grants, and gifts in kind to keep the festival running, marking 26 years. Despite support from all sectors of the Ely community, and having received a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board for specific expenses, they still depend on sponsors for their ongoing operation. If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the festival at 365-SNOW or at their website, <https://elywinterfestival.com/>. The Ely Winter Festival and Ely ArtWalk are funded in part by grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund), the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, and the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Senior lunch program held daily in Ely

ELY – The Ely Senior Lunch program is held daily at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S First Ave. E, from noon to 1 p.m. Must be at least 60 years of age to participate.

ELY MARATHON EVENT

Escape Room coming to Ely this weekend

ELY - Can you think your way through? Escape Rooms have been a national craze since 2012, and a mobile unit is coming to Ely this weekend as part of the marathon celebration. OUT Mobile Escape Rooms is a new business here, started by Matt Graves last May. A ribbon cutting ceremony, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, will held be at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20 in Ely's Whiteside Park.

The ceremony will include snacks, an open house, and half-price room play to follow. Escape Rooms are themed rooms that require searching, solving puzzles, deciphering clues, and thinking in a creative way, according to Graves. "Some relate them to being in a mini movie, RPG game, or a real-life brain teaser," he said. "They present a chance to 'save the day', do something you

wouldn't do ordinarily, escape from the real-life stresses, work together, and build a memory." The mobile aspect means the escape rooms are in printed tents with the graphics being part of the theme, puzzles, and clues. There are additional themed physical and electronic puzzles inside, some of which react to your actions. "The games aren't scary, but they do require

some adult-level thinking to succeed," Graves added. "Many youth also find this way of thinking to be exciting and rewarding, as they figure out the connections. You aren't locked in, but usually players don't have any desire to leave until they finish the succession of challenges." For more information, go to [www.outmobileescaperooms.com](http://www.outmobileescaperooms.com).

**SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

**Area Solid Waste Facility site hours**

<p><b>Northwoods Transfer Station</b> 9384 Hwy 21 N. Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm</p>	<p><b>Aurora Transfer Station</b> 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon</p>
<p><b>Embarrass Canister Site</b> 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm</p>	<p><b>Soudan Canister Site</b> 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm</p>
<p><b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm</p>	<p><b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm</p>

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department  
1-800-450-9278  
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday  
[www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle)

**Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust**

*We are now accepting*  
**2019 Arts Grant Applications**  
For Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are available online at [www.gardnertrust.org](http://www.gardnertrust.org)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Wed., Sept. 25**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by August 30 for help and review of their applications. Call 365-2639 or email [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org)  
Youth Grant applicants must call by August 30 to schedule a grant review meeting with Keiko. Office closed Sept. 2-13.

**ELY-WINTON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Ely-Winton Hospital Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to students in the fields of:

1. Doctor of Medicine	6. Physician's Assistant/ Paramedic
2. Registered Nurse/RN	7. Occupational Therapist
3. Laboratory Technician	8. Physical Therapist
4. X-Ray Technician	9. Pharmacy Librarian
5. Medical Records Librarian	10. Other approved by the Committee

Applicants must have attended school in Ely or Babbitt for at least two (2) years and have graduated from that school. Applicant must be engaged in obtaining professional, vocational, or scientific education or training leading to a degree or certificate in one of the above-mentioned fields. Applications are available at the Superintendent's office, ISD No. 696, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731, and are due in the Superintendent's office by Wednesday, October 31.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

# Be healthy, learn to save a life, and have some fun

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

COOK- The aim was to create a healthier and more educated community, but mostly what you saw at the Cook Hospital and Care Center's Wellness Fair last Saturday were people having a lot of fun. Between the children's games and free lunch outdoors, and the over 40 informational tables set up along almost every single corridor indoors, there was plenty to do.

Chris Novak, who helped organize the event, said they registered 227 adults and children, but that didn't count all the vendors and hospital staff involved.

"Everything went awesomely," said Novak. "We had a great team to organize this."

Novak said the hospital used to sponsor a health fair every other year, but hadn't

done one in four years, due to ongoing hospital renovations.

"We want to continue doing this at least every other year," she said, "and are talking about doing it every year."

Everyone coming in was registered for adult and children's door prizes, and given a reusable, insulated grocery bag along with a reusable first aid kit bag. The theme of the fair was "Staying on Target," and as visitors went from table to table, they collected the dozen free items needed to fill up their new first aid kit.

Along the way, there were free blood pressure checks, free blood sugar checks, grip strength checks, and more. Many of the vendors had their own give-aways and raffles. Visitors could speak with nurses, social works, physical therapists, and outreach

workers with expertise on elder issues, mental health, sexual assault, foster care, banking, assisted living options, massage, and more.

"This is a positive event for our community," Novak said.

Thanks to a donation from the Safer Kids Foundation/Essentia Health, there were free bike helmets given away to every single child who requested one. Novak also said the Cook Lions were an important part of the volunteer team this year, serving food which had been prepared in the hospital kitchen. Funding for the fair came from outside donations, along with some financial support from the hospital.

A blood drive was held in conjunction with the fair, and almost all the donation spots were filled.



Clockwise from top right: Amy Luecken gave out information on CPR. Alice Arola enjoyed visiting all the information booths. Bailey and Michaela Brunner both were happy to get new bike helmets. Nurse Pam Rengo checked Eileen Poczekaj's blood pressure. Lions Club volunteers served up a free lunch. Uuno and Eero Ruska enjoyed the slushies. Nurse Nicole Chiabotti did free blood sugar tests. Jack, Lauren and Christine Hampson visited with Care Center Social Worker Waynette Larsen. photos by J. Summit

## "Felt Here" Pop-up Storytelling Shop in Cook on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at NWFA

COOK- On Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., NWFA will host a creative workshop called "Felt Here: Pop-Up Storytelling". Pop-up storytelling events have been presented as a series of pop-up art-making spaces at local cultural venues, farmers markets and street festivals across the Iron Range in 2019. This workshop will offer a hands-on felt activity with storytelling prompts. Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery is located 210 S River St., next to Dream Weaver Salon in Cook.



No registration is necessary...just Pop Up!

..This is a new program created by a new network of local artists and community organiza-

tions, convened by public artist Shanai Matteson and the statewide ecological arts organization, Water Bar & Public Studio. This activity will be

facilitated by the Overburden/Overlook Project Partners.

This art shop is best described by Shanai Matteson herself. She says, "Felt Here is a pop-up art-making space designed by myself and other collaborating artists to look like an industrial shop, with work tables and a crew of people getting their hands dirty while making something together. In contrast to the many workshop spaces on the Iron Range that manufacture parts for mining machinery, in this shop, the work of telling

stories, healing, and repairing is led by women. Storytelling happens around circular tables as public participants are invited to felt wool taconite pellets. These soft, felted, taconite pellets are made by hand from locally-produced wool and dyed with earth gathered from sites across the region. Once finished, the pellets can be used to make keepsakes, including jewelry which funds healing practices. Most of the pellets and some of the stories shared in these workshops will be incorporated into an Overbur-

den/Overlook gallery exhibition that will debut in 2020."

Northwoods Friends of the Arts is a 501(c)3 arts organization with the goal of inspiring, nurturing and celebrating artists and arts. The gallery exhibits for forty artists year-round and is open four days a week, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more event and membership information, contact [NWFA.MN.ORG](http://NWFA.MN.ORG) or [nw-famn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nw-famn.org@gmail.com).

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# Getting to really know the Principal!



**JOHN VUKMANICH**

## Weekly Teacher Interview-John Vukmanich

As we enter our second week of school, I have to say that this school year is off to a really nice start. Thank you to our staff and also to our students for doing a great job.

It dawned on me that I have done a few dozen teacher interviews, but have yet to do the interview myself. So this week, I decided to interview myself.

Where are you originally from and where did you go to high school and college?

I was born in Grafton, ND, but moved to Britt when I was four years old. I went to school in Virginia and graduated from Virginia High School in 1990. I went to Mesabi, NDSU,

and eventually received my degree in Music Education from Bemidji State University. I have since received a Masters from UMD and my Administrative Licensure from St. Mary's. Now I am done!

Were there teachers who were an influence on you? Please name a few if you can.

I had many good teachers. Mr. Takala taught history, and I loved his class. He had a sense of humor and ran a tight ship. My own father was my band teacher for seven years, and he instilled us with a sense of discipline and pride. He was really tough on us, but we learned a lot about working to be your best. Mr. Gerchman was my fifth-grade teacher, and he was very interesting and taught science. I remember that he lit things on fire a lot. Lastly, my two English teachers, Mr. Moeller and Mr. Turk. They were polar opposites, but both instilled me with a love of writing and literature.

What characteristics did these teachers have that were important to you?

I remember that they all had high expectations. There was no messing around in class. I felt that they wanted us to be our best, and that they were willing to push us to get there.

What do you teach at North Woods?

I am the Principal, but I have been a band teacher, football coach, swimming coach, Dean, and Assistant Principal.

Why did you choose teaching as a profession?

I grew up in a house with a mom who was an elementary teacher and a dad who was a band director. Somehow, school just seemed like "normal" for me. But really, I loved music and had a passion for it. That's why I became a teacher. I became a Principal because I felt that I needed to try to have an effect on education on a larger scale and be a voice for kids and our schools.

What are your hobbies?

The usual northern Minnesota hobbies. I enjoy snowmobiling, ATVs, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, tinkering with small engines,

snowshoeing, and taking my kids into the outdoors.

What is something you like about North Woods?

We really get to know our kids and value them for who they are. Our school is really great at that. Our kids really are cared for and our staff want them all to be successful and to feel at home here.

What is a professional goal for you?

Being a Principal is a really challenging job, and every day I learn more. I want to be better at time management for sure. Also, I am still becoming better at working with all grade levels and subject areas, basically becoming a better instructional leader.

What is something you love about northern Minnesota?

I might get myself in trouble for this, but I LOVE winter! I love snow and all of the outdoor activities that it provides. I would rather be on a snowmobile than in a car!

What is a piece of advice you'd give your students?



Be a force for good. Demonstrate excellent character all the time.

Do you have a favorite saying or expression?

"You got yourself into it, so you get yourself out of it."

What do you hope your students remember you for?

I hope students remember that I was fair, consistent, cared about

them, and truly wanted to teach them the things they need to make it after high school is done, even if it wasn't the easy way.

Hopefully this will give you a little insight into what makes me tick. I'm very glad to be here in our school!

# Cook-Orr Calendar

## New Cook Thrift Shop donation hours

COOK- Due to continued theft, vandalism of the donation bin, and donations that are unacceptable and need to be disposed of (at our cost), the Thrift Shop Auxiliary board recently made the decision to only accept donations when workers are on site. Donation hours are now on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Other than these times, the donation bin will be locked. Thrift Shop volunteers understand that this change in policy will be a great inconvenience to many, but even after posting signs and sending out public requests, issues have continued and we see no other course of action. Thank you for your continued patronage and we appreciate the support of our many shoppers and donors.

## Fall service schedule at First Baptist of Cook

COOK- First Baptist Church of Cook is switching to their fall service times starting on Sunday, Sept. 8. Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m., and Worship Service is at 10:30 a.m.

## Woodcarving group meets Thursdays

COOK- The NWFA woodcarving group will meet on Thursdays, at the gallery from 6 to 8 p.m. The curious and carving beginners of all ages are encouraged to attend and share this learning experience together. Call Howard Hilshorst for more information at 218-741-7941.

## Open Studio Art at NWFA Gallery on Saturdays

COOK- On Saturdays, artists meet at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook to enjoy working on their art from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All artists and would-be artists are welcome to share the time and space every Saturday.

## Calendar of Art Events in Cook

September Exhibit: "Fish, Flora & Fauna", an exhibit of paintings by Jane Wertanen from Virginia and Jim DeVries from Britt, during open hours at the NWFA Gallery on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through Sept. 28.

Susan Martin Memorial Member Show: Exhibit from Friday, Oct. 4 to Saturday, Oct. 26. Opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4. The members of NWFA are "the stars of the show". Calling all NWFA members to exhibit. Contact Alberta at 218-666-2153 to participate.

Winter Writers Group: Begin the season on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. All writers and wannabe writers will enjoy this group that meets once a month on the second Saturday.

Look for a concert, Oct. 25 to 28...the date will be announced soon for a Piatigorsky evening concert in Cook and a concert at North Woods School.


## Bookmobile Schedule

**Thursdays: Oct. 10, 31; Nov. 21; Dec. 12**

Nett Lake Community Center	9:30 - 1:15
Crane Lake Ranger Station	11:15 - 12:00
Orr Lake Country ReMax Bldg	1:45 - 2:30
Kabetogama Town Hall	3:15 - 3:45

For further information, call the Arrowhead Library System at 218-741-3840 or [www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us](http://www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us)

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**the TIMBERJAY**

The Cook-Orr Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950] and 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 Cook/Orr, Tower/Soudan, and Ely.

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**Official Newspaper:**  
City of Orr, City of Ely, Townships of Bearville, 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, Orr Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

**Subscriptions Available:**  
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year Online web-only \$29.95. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

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<b>Orr Canister Site</b> 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thur: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	<b>Portage Canister Site</b> 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	<b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
<b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	<b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	<b>St. Louis County Environmental Services Department</b> 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday <a href="http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle">www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle</a>
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## Iron Range artists wanted for new map of artistic resources on the Iron Range

REGIONAL - The Cool and Creative Focus Group and the Iron Range Tourism Bureau are partnering up to create a map of the artistic resources in the area.

The online, mobile-friendly, interactive map of Iron Range artists and public art will be launched in October, enabling users to search and discover area art locations and studios.

All artists and arts organizations in the region are invited to be included and populate the map with their information, such as location, what type of artistic work you do, webpage, and social media connections.

The project is part of Iron Range Tourism Bureau's successful bid to become a Blandin Broadband Community (BBC). The tourism organization has access to technical expertise, planning assistance, and financial resources to improve internet access and usage in its service area, which spans from Hibbing to Hoyt Lakes.

The BBC program is designed to advance broadband in rural Minnesota communities, which is critical to economic development, education, workforce, health care, and quality of life. The program is a collaboration between Blandin Foundation, St. Louis County, and Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation.

According to Beth Pierce, Iron Range Tourism Bureau director, the map would not have been possible without the BBC broadband grant. "The map project will deepen the connection between art and tourism," she said. "We are utilizing broadband to showcase our region's arts and culture sector which generates approximately \$12 million in annual economic impacts in the Iron Range."

The map will be unveiled in October at the Rural Arts and Culture Summit in Grand Rapids, and will be online at Iron Range Tourism Bureau's website.

"It's easy to be included," said Mary McReynolds, facilitator of the Cool and Creative Focus Group. "Just follow the link below and add your information. If you have a studio, art gallery, theater, or other place that is open to the public, the information you enter will pop up on the interactive map leading visitors to the Iron Range right to your door. Even if you don't have an open studio, we can still add contact information to a list on the landing page so more and new customers can tap into the wealth of Iron Range arts."

Artists should go to the following Cool and Creative link to add their information to the map - <https://mailchi.mp/b33c3a4d9f2f/cool-n-creative-ironrange>.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Lake Vermilion Trail fundraising raffle winners

REGIONAL- Winners of the Lake Vermilion Trail Fundraising Raffle were announced on Friday, Sept. 6. The drawing was held at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. RenGen Northland sponsored the raffle. Funds from the raffle will be used for trail development. The lucky winners are: Marin Larkspur bicycle donated by Marin, White Eagle Resort and Mesabi Recreation - Rebekah Casey; Baby Jogger donated by Broten Construction - Jared Bangs ; Two \$50 gift cards donated by Target - Liz Dahl, Caroline Owens; Sue Martin print donated by Northwoods Friends of the Arts - Delia Flynn; Framed watercolor donated by Sue Wolfe - Rose Zenner; \$25 gift certificate donated by Sulu's Espresso Café - Boone Broten; Gift basket donated by Natural Harvest Food Coop - Terri Joki; Decorative gifts donated by the Comet Theatre - Sue Kolstad; Breakfast for two at Life O'Riley's (three gift certificates) - Rochelle Cole, Hux Broten, Rob Marwick; One-night stay at Hoodoo



Rebekah Casey shows off the new bike she won, which was donated by Marin Larkspur bike company, White Eagle Resort, and Mesabi Recreation. submitted photo

Point from City of Tower - Warren Vollmar; Walleye dinner for two at The Landing on Lake Vermilion - Chuck Lundby.

More information about the trail can be found on the website at lakevermiliontrail.org or on the Facebook page.

### Group biking to end cancer winds its way through our area

REGIONAL- An annual bike tour that raises money to fight cancer rode through the Orr area last week. The group of 18 riders, with six support crew members, was riding across Minnesota from Red River to Silver Bay, a 388-mile trip over seven days of riding.

Most of the riders were seniors, according to Fred Schumacher, who came across the group while he was out on the Nett Lake Rd. photographing fall colors. "Three of the riders were 77 years old," he said.

The riders were battling poor weather, including head winds and rain. The ride was organized by RideMN1, a non-profit that works to raise awareness and funds for the fight against cancer. You can learn more about the group and their annual fundraising ride on their website at [www.ridemn1.org](http://www.ridemn1.org).



Support crew members and riders on the Nett Lake Rd. photo by F. Schumacher



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 Friday, Oct. 4 8am-1pm  
 Wednesday, Oct. 30 2-6pm  
 Thursday, Nov. 7 8am-1pm

#### NORTHWOODS PARTNERS HEALTHY AGING EXPO

Thursday, Oct. 10 9am-3pm Amici's Event Center

#### ELY AREA FOOD SHELF

Wednesday, Oct. 16 11:30am-1:30pm Ely Area Food Shelf

#### BABBITT & TOWER

Monday, Oct. 21 8-11am Babbitt Council Chambers  
 Monday, Oct. 21 1-4pm Tower Civic Center

#### BUSINESS WELLNESS DAYS

EBCH understands the difficulty for small business owners to get away from their business. Local businesses can schedule an appointment by calling 365-8739 and we will come to your place of business with free flu shots for you and your staff.

Wednesday, Oct. 23 By Appointment  
 Thursday, Oct. 24 By Appointment

#### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Tuesday, Nov. 12 3:30-7pm Washington Elementary  
 Thursday, Nov. 14 3:30-7pm Ely Memorial High School



This year Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital will have high dose vaccinations available for patients 65 and older with the presentation of a Medicare insurance card. These vaccinations will still be provided at no cost to the patient. Limited Supplies Available.

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

# Residents urge township to be proactive on telephone/internet issues

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**GREENWOOD TWP-** The Greenwood Town Board heard an earful, at their Sept. 10 meeting, from a group of residents who want the township to become more active in the search for more reliable phone service and high-speed internet. Most township residents' only option for service is through Frontier Communications, which has been slow and unreliable for many users.

This was after the supervisors once again refused to grant a second to a motion by Supervisor Mike Ralston to put in an application for the Blandin Broadband program to fund a community computer and printer at the town hall. Ralston said he just wanted to get a vote on the record, even if the issue was voted down. "I think everybody needs a reason as to why we aren't going to proceed," he said.

This issue is separate from the Broadband Feasibility Study, which the town board is on record as financially supporting.

But a group of Greenwood community members attending the meeting had a bit more to say on the topic of both slow internet and unreliable telephone service.

"This is the first time I've been to a town board meeting," said Louise Gately. "We've

owned a summer place in Greenwood for 51 years." Gately said her husband cannot reliably work from their cabin.

"We are not operating in the 21st century," she said. Two of her grown children would like to be able to spend more time on Vermilion in the summer, and could work remotely, but both require reliable internet and sufficient speed. The problem, she noted, is three-fold: cell phone reception, internet connectivity, and regular land-line telephone service.

Repair service from Frontier has been horrible this year, she noted, with waits up to three weeks.

"In previous years they would come right away," she said.

"What I ask is that you assure that every resident have adequate, consistent, 21st-century communications," she said. "Our elected officials need to take the lead. To accept the offer from Blandin shows residents that the township is willing to bring 21st-century communications to Greenwood. The leaders of our community need to do more."

John Bassing, who has been a leader on the area broadband committee told the board the IRRR had just approved over \$1 million in funding for area broadband projects, for communities that have been part of the broadband initiative centered in the Cook

area. These projects also qualified for statewide Border to Border grant funding. These grants, he noted, will enable low-cost installation of broadband speed internet in rural areas.

"We need to get on board to do this," he said. "We need to do everything we can. We can get in on this funding next year."

Significant portions of Greenwood already have fiber optic cable installed along roads, but nothing has been done to hook up individual businesses or homes.

Mike Hatlestad expressed his frustration also.

"I've sat through three meetings," he said, "and you still haven't come to a decision on the Blandin grant. You have to move on." Hatlestad stressed the safety issue created by poor communication infrastructure when a person's phone service is out.

"If we have a problem," he said, "somebody could die. It's a real safety issue."

Gary Haugen urged the board to at least take a vote on Ralston's motion on the Blandin grant.

"Why can't you get a second on that motion," he asked. "Can you individually tell me why?"

Chairman Carmen DeLuca refused to bring the issue back to the table.

"We will move on," DeLuca said.

But the audience wasn't done speaking on the issue.

Hatlestad noted that Frontier is facing huge financial challenges right now.

"We need another phone company," he said.

Bassing said that residents in Morcom Township made efforts to contact other phone carriers, such as Paul Bunyan out of Grand Rapids, to see if they were interested in providing service.

Gately stressed this was an economic development issue.

"A lot of people would make the decision to move here," she said, noting the lack of broadband was a huge problem for many, especially the younger generations.

Ralston asked if the township should set a public meeting and invite Frontier and other internet and phone providers to talk with the public, and the audience responded with applause. Ralston said he would follow-up on the issue.

## Check your fire number signs

The Greenwood Fire Department once again is reminding all township property owners to make sure they have fire numbers both at their driveways and docks, and that the fire numbers are visible. This also applies to water-access and island properties. The

fire department and ambulance have had issues finding specific addresses, which increases response times. New or additional fire numbers are available by contacting the town hall, and the cost is \$10, which is below the actual cost of creating the signs.

## Other business

In other business the town board:

► Heard from Treasurer Pam Rodgers that the township needs to provide additional paperwork to new hourly employees to adhere to a new Minnesota law. The law also requires payroll to be paid out no longer than 31 days apart. Rodgers told the board that the easiest way to comply with the 31-day rule is to move payday to the 15th of each month.

► Heard an update that the idea of switching to a hired clerk/treasurer, instead of the current elected clerk and treasurer, was not recommended by the Minnesota Association of Townships except in cases where townships cannot find any people willing to run for the position. Clerk Drobac asked the other supervisors to contact an official at MAT to discuss the issue.

► Heard that officials from OSHA had visited the town hall to investigate 17 complaints that had been filed with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

The town board was not told who had filed the complaints, but they dealt with the fire department. Clerk Sue Drobac said the investigators spent about six hours at the town hall, inspecting equipment and fire department records. They will be reviewing the information collected and may need additional information from the township, Drobac said, to determine if the complaints were legitimate.

► Thanked Richard "Ozzie" Leciejewski for installing the new POW and US flags.

► Passed a motion to refuse data requests from resident and fire department member Jeff Maus, noting the township is not bound by the state's data practices rules. This had been recommended by the township's attorney, since the township is currently in litigation with Maus.

► Voted to continue paying Frontier for internet service even though the township office and computers are now hooked up to broadband through Northeast Service Coop. The termination fee would be \$1,803 to discontinue Frontier, even with the township continuing to use Frontier telephone service. The township's contract runs out in September 2021. The new broadband service will be costing the township about \$50 per month.

## WEATHER...Continued from page 1

a new electronics system can be installed.

The filtration plant removes iron and manganese from the municipal water supply.

Water Plant Supervisor Matt Tichel said he was out monitoring one of the lift stations that was running at near capacity due to the heavy rain when he got a call, at 4:14 p.m., that the plant had been hit.

"It burnt out everything," he said. "We have to change out all the panels."

Tichel immediately contacted the supplier but found out that no replacement parts are available for the panel system, because of its age. He estimated the new panels will cost as much as \$50,000. The plant had a similar issue about 12 years ago, he said, and the panel replacement cost was covered by insurance.

In addition, the water plant's computer was also damaged, and will need to be replaced.

Tichel said wastewater department staff were at work early Wednesday morning, and were able to run the plant manually, which means water customers will see no difference in their water quality as they wait for repair of the plant.

"I've been making water since 7 a.m.," he said on Wednesday. "We are able to run the plant as usual."

Running the plant manually takes about six hours, he said, and will require either Tichel or assistant Tom Poderzay to be at the plant while the water tower is being refilled with the filtered water. But overall, he

said, it isn't that hard a job. The one major issue is that without the electronic controls, the only way to know when the water tower is full is to wait for it to overflow and then shut off the water supply, he said. They also would not be able to detect a leak in the system until the water tower is empty, according to Tichel.

Tichel has already contacted three vendors for quotes on new panels. The Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board was set to meet on Sept. 18 for their regularly scheduled meeting and will be able to address the issues.

Tichel was not certain if this damage will delay the pilot plant testing scheduled for later this month. The on-site testing will be used to design the new secondary water treatment plant that is needed because surface water is entering into the public water supply, which requires additional treatment protocols.

## Unusual weather

The damage to the water plant came during a severe thunderstorm that brought intense lightning, heavy rains and high winds to the area and also led to the death of an Ely man who was trying to remove a tree brought down on the roof of an Eagles Nest residence during the storm. (See sidebar on that incident.)

Rainfall totals ranged from 1-2 inches across much of the region on Tuesday, although rainfall was more limited in the Cook and Orr area, where

rainfall totaled half an inch or less. The downpours in the Tower-Soudan and Ely areas were heavy and prompted some street flooding in parts of Ely, while winds accompanying the storm brought down scattered trees and large branches across the area. Hwy. 169 near Wolf Lake was blocked for a time in the immediate aftermath of the storm as a result of a tree that fell across the highway.

The storms came in advance of a low-pressure system that brought extraordinarily warm and humid air back into the North Country after weeks of cool temperatures. The steamy air set records for warm overnight lows, according to State Climatologist Pete Boulay. International Falls, which has the longest weather records north of Duluth, set a record warm overnight low on Tuesday, with a low of 65 degrees, beating the previous record of 62 which dates to 1925.

It appeared the border city was set to top that mark on Wednesday, after an overnight

low of 68. Assuming the temperature did not drop below 68 by midnight on Wednesday (after the *Timberjay's* press time), it would set a new daily record as well as a new mark for the warmest overnight low so late into the fall season, according to Boulay. He added that most other low temperatures posted in the region were also almost certainly in warm record territory.

It created an odd circumstance in the area as fall colors are nearing their peak and leaves are beginning to fall. "It doesn't feel right when the leaves are falling and it's this warm," said Steve Gohde, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Duluth.


After a brief respite from the storminess, warm and unsettled weather is expected to return Friday through the weekend. Forecaster Dan Miller said some parts of the region could see another round or two of heavy rain, with some areas potentially picking up several more inches of rain.

## Ely man dies while removing trees from cabin roof following storm

**EAGLES NEST TWP-** A 55-year-old Ely man died Tuesday, after falling from a cabin roof on Walsh Rd., in Eagles Nest Township. Hans Smith had been removing trees that had fallen on the roof of a cabin after Tuesday's storm, when he lost his footing and fell approximately 20 feet to the ground. According to the press release from the St. Louis County Sheriff, Smith was unconscious when First Responders arrived, and they initiated life-saving efforts, but Smith died at the scene due to the severity of his injuries.

Smith was an experienced tree trimmer. The incident appears to be accidental, the Sheriff's Office reported, and no foul play is suspected. Eagles Nest Fire and First Responders, Tower Ambulance, and North Air Care responded to the scene.





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**Tower Farmers Market Vendors**



## THANK YOU!

The Tower Soudan Civic Club would like to thank Steve Abrahamson and Karel Winkelaar for their faithful watering of the bridge flowers this summer. Without their faithfulness we as a club would not be able to provide the beautiful flower baskets that welcome people to our area. If you enjoy the flowers as well, please thank these faithful volunteers when you see them.

**Pauly Housenga and the other members of the Tower Soudan Civic Club**

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Public feedback wanted on county's proposed rules for short-term rentals

REGIONAL- With the continued growth in popularity of vacation rental options like Airbnb and VRBO, St. Louis County has been working to ensure these short-term rentals are managed in the best possible way for the property owners, neighbors and visitors.

After gathering input, and reviewing the need, St. Louis County has drafted proposed changes to its zoning ordinance to allow for short-term

vacation home rentals. The St. Louis County Planning Commission approved the draft changes for public review at its August meeting and to gather public feedback. The ordinance amendments, with the proposed changes highlighted, are available online at [stlouiscountymn.gov](http://stlouiscountymn.gov).

The proposed revisions to St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance 62 would allow for short-term rental of properties

through the issuance of permits. The goal is to ensure minimal disruption to neighbors and the environment by setting requirements for septic, parking and posting of rules while also requiring appropriate licensing to ensure a safe experience for guests. This permit would only apply for one rental unit per property (and additional occupancy using recreational vehicles or tents is not permitted). For multiple rentals

on a single property, or for rental of accessory structures, owners would be required to get a conditional use permit. The ordinance requires on-site parking be available.

Anyone wishing to provide comment on the proposed changes can email Planning Manager Jenny Bourbonais at [bourbonaisj@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:bourbonaisj@stlouiscountymn.gov) or by mail to: Planning and Community Development Department, Northland

Office Center 307 1st St S, Ste 117, Virginia, MN 55792. The deadline to submit comments is Sept. 30, 2019. The Planning Commission will consider all comments and testimony at a public hearing on Oct. 10.

Public input received during development of the St. Louis County Comprehensive Land Use Plan strongly supported this review to improve the regulation of short-term rentals. A number of St.

Louis County services play a role in the short-term rental market, including property classification and assessment, land use administration, and on-site sewage treatment compliance.

The zoning ordinance and proposed changes apply to any areas where St. Louis County is the zoning authority. Cities and certain townships with their own zoning authorities would not be affected.

MARATHON...Continued from page 1

ever before, according to organizer Wendy Lindsay of Stone Soup Events. "Twenty-two states and Canada will be represented by runners ranging in age from 12 to 78," she said.

Top runners compete in this Boston Marathon qualifier. The full marathon starts at Camp DuNord at 7:30 a.m. and the half marathon will begin at Echo Shores Resort at 8 a.m.

More than 30 racers have registered so far to portage canoes this year, according to Lindsay. "The top prize of a Northstar Northwind Solo Canoe has upped the motivation for a win," she said.

The winner of the canoe prize must beat the world record set in the 2018 full marathon portage division by Daniel Drehmel with a time of 5:23:48. "Daniel is registered again this year, and is looking to defend his title," Lindsay said. "He will face tough competition as four of last year's competitors are also registered again."

Three past winners in the regular full and half marathon categories also are taking on the challenge of portaging a canoe the full marathon route.

A new twist this year is the Canoe Relay Division in which teams compete for bragging rights to the



Area youth participate in the Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run. Having run 25 miles prior to race day, the kids finish the last 1.2 miles of the marathon route and finish with the pros at the finish line. file photo

Golden Paddle. "Local outfitting companies, Ely Outfitting Company, Spirit of the Wilderness and Northern Tier are all set to compete," she said.

The first marathon racers are expected to cross the finish line, located in the middle of Whiteside

Park, at around 9:20 a.m., Lindsay said. "Join in the fun in cheering for all the runners. There are many spectator areas in Winton and around Ely. Be aware that traffic will again be impacted in and around the Ely area during the race."

Racers and fans will

all be entertained with a live concert by Rhino from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the band shell at Whiteside Park. There will be food trucks, a Jaycees beer tent, and a free kids Bounce House obstacle course. New for 2019 are mobile "Escape Rooms," along

with many other vendors are set to entertain.

"We also have the Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run, in which kids between Kindergarten and sixth grade, having run 25 miles prior to race day, finish the last 1.2 miles of the marathon route and

finish with the pros at the finish line," Lindsay said. The kids race will begin in front of Northland Market in Ely and competitors run up Sheridan Street, down Chapman and finish in the middle of Whiteside Park. This race begins at 8:45 a.m. All runners receive a marathon medal, Dorothy Molter root beer, and finisher's shirt. The cost to participate is \$15.

The Northern Lights Clubhouse Glow Run, a fundraiser for local mental health services, will be held on Friday, Sept. 20, beginning at 7 p.m. The Glow Run is a fun event for all ages and abilities. Competitive racers, walkers, families with strollers and wheelchairs are all welcome.

The light-filled race at twilight raises funds for Northern Lights Clubhouse, where adults with mental health challenges make and reach personal goals through meaningful work.

The cost is \$30 for adults, \$20 for students, and \$10 for kids. For more information go to [info@elynlc.org](mailto:info@elynlc.org), or call 218-235-9539.

For more information on the 2019 Ely Marathon, and to register, go to [www.elymarathon.com](http://www.elymarathon.com).

ELY...Continued from page 1

the first question on the survey simply asks if the taxpayer would support ISD 696 exploring a bond referendum to fund the improvements.

The survey takes the participant through a list or menu of various building project components and corresponding costs and they are asked if they support or don't support each item, or if they are not sure and need more information.

Three parts of the base plan, connecting the school buildings (\$1.9 million), improving safety (\$600,000), and updating building systems (\$3.4 million), total \$5.9 million. The projected property tax increase on residential property with an estimated market value of \$100,000 would be \$20 per year for 20 years for the base plan. A tax impact chart for each of the building project options is included in the

survey to help estimate proposed property tax increases.

Additional project proposals, such as adding a second competitive gym to the campus, locker room renovations, kitchen and cafeteria renovation, classroom and restroom improvements in the each of the buildings, STEM lab creation, music and art classroom renovation, parking lot and student-drop off improve-

ments, and other projects are all listed with corresponding cost estimates. Survey takers are asked if they support or don't support each of the options.

If all the additional projects outlined in the survey were completed, the total estimated cost of the project would be about \$20 million. The tax impact on a residential property with an estimated market value of \$100,000 would be \$138 each year for 20 years to fund the full range of projects.

A school safety grant of \$495,000 is available

to the district for use on part of building connection and entrance security.. The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation has indicated a willingness to consider providing financial support for ISD 696 building renovation and collaboration projects, but the agency has not provided a firm commitment to date. IRRRB officials are waiting on any borrowing referendum results.

The survey can be completed on the paper form and returned by mail, or completed

online. The deadline for returning the completed surveys is Monday, Oct. 14. Hildenbrand pointed out that if there are two registered voters in the household, each of the voters has an opportunity to respond to their own survey. Call the district office, 218-365-6166, for additional surveys.

Survey results will be presented at a school board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 29, beginning at 6 p.m. Results will also be available for review on the district website.

# Scenic Rivers Clinics

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CITY OF ELY

# Ely mayor updates Tuesday Group on state of the city

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — “If all you want to do is complain about the city, go find a better one,” said Ely Mayor Chuck Novak at Tuesday Group this week as he presented a state of the city update. The city leader touted the city’s principles to provide a secure and safe environment for its roughly 3,500 residents and talked up the many attributes of living at the end of the road.

“To strive for economic stability and growth is an interesting challenge up here,” he said. “We have a lot of outside influences, and rely on those outside influences, like Federal and State legislatures and all their departments and agencies, and have to work with them.”

The Ely City Council is guided by a charter. “That charter is influenced by a charter commission made up of the people, and when people are unhappy with the way the city government is run they look to change the charter and the people get to vote on it,” Novak said.

Ordinances are established for good governance, he noted. “We hear from a lot of people on how they think the city



Mayor Chuck Novak

should be run, and we try to operate as a non-partisan body,” Novak said. “We represent the city’s best interests, and not those interests outside the city. At the same time we have a responsibility that the Ely area is our community and we don’t do anything purposely that would damage surrounding townships, and we work with the cities of Babbitt, Winton and Tower to try and get things done as a community.”

Novak said he maintains a sense of communication in a courteous manner. “If you speak nice to me I’ll speak nice to you. If you get in my face and throw an F-Bomb at me, I’ll give you one back,” he said. He stressed that debates at the council table pertain to the issue, and not

the personality. “I want to hear about solutions. Being just good enough is not good enough anymore. That is not acceptable. We can’t keep doing something just because that’s the way it has always been done.”

The median income in the city of Ely, according to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, is about \$36,000. “That is not a real good number, and we are classified as rural-poor,” he said. “We have slow growth. We’re hanging on. We are not dying. That’s hogwash. We are not thriving as a whole but some businesses are and good for them,” Novak said.

He listed the good-paying jobs in the Ely community as those in government, such as the state Department of Revenue and the city of Ely, St. Louis County, plus education like Vermilion Community College and the Ely School District, as well as Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

“The service industry doesn’t pay that well, but they can’t if they want to exist and stay in business,” he said.

Mayor Novak reviewed some of the

city’s projects in the last year, including the 17th Avenue renovation. “We leveraged just \$400,000 of city money, your tax dollars, on a project that cost almost \$2 million,” he said. “We received a state DEED grant of \$750,000, an IRRR grant of \$450,000 and \$200,000 from St. Louis County to complete that much-needed project. We have a great street in the city. The drainage issues are gone and it’s safer.”

Seventh Avenue reconstruction in front of the public school was also completed last year. “The kids now have a sidewalk to walk on by the school,” he said. A new water line from the water plant to the water tower was also completed last year. “We did almost \$4 million worth of projects last year and we were able to leverage taxpayer money on almost a four-to-one basis. That’s not a bad deal,” Novak said.

He highlighted many ongoing and future projects, including the Pattison Street reconstruction, West Camp Street work, Second and Third Avenue street work, the Trailhead project on the city’s west end that will involve relo-

cating the St. Louis County recycle center facility to the east end of the softball fields. “We are considering offering a periodic curbside brush pick-up service, but no decisions have been made as of yet,” he said.

Novak also noted that the hospital expansion plan and construction of additional workforce housing are on the city’s radar, as are new bike trails at Hidden Valley and expansion of broadband in the downtown corridor.

During a brief question and answer period, Novak was asked by local environmental advocate Becky Rom if he agreed with Senator Tina Smith’s support of re-instating the economic study on sulfide mining in northern Minnesota that was cancelled by the Trump administration last year.

“I don’t support Sen. Smith’s efforts on that study, but I would like to see a real good study done by a lot of people,” he said. “This council supports what the legislature has passed that is currently in law. We have a problem in this country where our legislature is feckless. It is ‘R’s’ versus ‘D’s’. We haven’t had a balanced

budget since Gingrich-Clinton. We are dealing with executive orders out of the White House rather than good legislation.”

Novak continued, “Copper-nickel mining, outside of Ely, is a political football. I don’t know if it’s going to work or it is not going to work. I’ve looked at what Twin Metals wants to do and haven’t seen anything that says, ‘Holy crap we have to shut this thing down.’ But I haven’t seen anything that says to let it go at all costs, either. The buffer zone was set to protect the Boundary Waters. I’m still not happy that I have to get a permit to go into my old playground.”

Wintergreen Apparel owner Paul Schurke applauded the mayor for the good job he does for Ely, then asked Novak about public bathrooms in the downtown area. “How about a public pooper?” he asked. “By the time all the shoppers make it up the hill to our place, they are looking for some relief. Can we send them to City Hall?”

Novak glanced at the clock and panned, “We’re getting short on time here.”

## SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

# Reuse is an important first step in sustainable building construction

by HANNAH NIXON  
Contributing Writer

ELY - Thrift never looked quite so good as it does on the home of Andy Hill, Ely’s own sustainable construction specialist.

Hill is passionate about sharing his building techniques with the Northwoods community, a purpose which he hopes will ultimately lead to decreased environmental impact as we build our humble abodes.

In highlighting Hill’s recommendations for eco-friendly construction, it’s impossible to ignore his foundation for success: building with salvaged materials. In all, Hill is using four major types of reused goods. First, the Hill home is comprised of recycled steel anchors,

not one of which was purchased. As we tour the property, he identifies the anchors which connect the walls’ foundational posts to concrete slabs in the ground. Hill notes that these are valued at \$400 in total for the house and affirms that the salvaged anchors he is using are “far better than the store-bought version.” It’s one of many examples where Hill has been able to substitute free or nearly free materials for store-bought, providing a substantial impact to the overall cost of building his new home.

Stepping into Hill’s garage recently, the sun shone through the open-space rectangular gaps in each sidewall. All of Hill’s garage windows are soon-to-be filled with what were formerly thermal

pane sliding glass doors. Turning doors to windows begins to seem like child’s play, however, when compared to the job of assembling the recycled racking for Hill’s solar array. The somewhat rusted yet stalwart racking towers above us both, the outline of what will soon power the entirety of his home.

Perhaps the most impressive cohort of salvaged materials in the home is his astounding collection of reprocessed insulation- 90percent of all the insulation in the home, to be exact. Last summer, Nelson Roofing rebuilt the roof of the Northeast Range School in Babbitt. That project could well have generated a small mountain of waste from the replacement of foam insulation were it

not for Hill’s penchant for salvage. “I can count 30k out of my construction budget when I count all my salvaged materials,” says Hill. “20k of that is insulation.”

It isn’t just a savings to the wallet. Hill subtly reminds me of a key phrase in his overall mission: “When we recycle our materials, the earth doesn’t have to replenish the resources and the landfill also doesn’t bear the burden.” Simply put, to Hill, reuse is a no-brainer, both from an environmental and financial perspective. Nelson Roofing shares Hill’s vision—the Hibbing construction company is eager to work with the local community to reuse the various materials they remove from projects.

Hill also takes advantage of another valuable resource—the St. Louis County Transfer Station near Ely, which has its own corner for reused building materials, again keeping valuable resources out of the landfill. “This is a good thing for the state of Minnesota,” said Hill. “Other states don’t have this luxury.”

The last stop on our tour of Hill’s cornucopia of salvaged building materials, all of which he reminds us the City of Ely building inspector is required to authorize, proves to be an impressive spectacle of what he whimsically calls, “feng shui.” He points to the large, gangly tree trunks towering over his deck that serve a key structural purpose in supporting the

elevated deck boards. With a coy smile, Hill suggests that he purchased these trunks from the trendiest of magazines, or so he thought he could fool his future house guests into believing. The truth is that Hill handpicked the tamarack trunks from the woods behind his private cabin off of Hwy. 21. Given tamarack’s resistance to rot, it’s a practical choice in building material. And the woods needed thinning to help the other trees grow, so Hill was able to achieve two purposes at once, tying the needs of forest management to the needs of his building project. That’s the kind of dual-purpose activity that is guaranteed to bring a smile to Hill’s face.



SEPTEMBER 28TH

## PUMPKIN FEST 2019

### ACTIVITIES:

- Lion’s Club 5K 10:00
- ORRingly Pumpkin Painting 11:00
- Thrift Store Human Scarecrow Contest- \$50 First Prize! 12:00
- Lion’s Club Giant Pumpkin Weigh In- Prizes!! 2:00
- Rusty Pelican Drone Obstacle Course
- Rocket Launch 2:30-3:00, Rocket Kit Raffle, All Day Rocket Display
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**POLYMET...**Continued from page 1

how troubling these communications appear and the doubts they cast on MPCA, EPA and past Minnesota House political leaders acting together to undermine the protection of Minnesota waters under the Clean Water Act.”

Water Legacy and the Fond du Lac Band had filed suit in federal court last month after the EPA failed to respond to their request for the documents, mostly emails. A union representing EPA workers had released a single email from former MPCA Assistant Commissioner Shannon Lotthammer earlier this summer. That March 13, 2018, email showed that the MPCA had concerns about the timing of the release of EPA staff comments on the PolyMet water permit, known as an NPDES permit, and that the state agency had asked the EPA not to provide comments during the public comment period.

That single email referenced other communications, however, which the EPA has now released. The newly-released emails confirm that former MPCA Commissioner John Linc Stine spoke to EPA’s Stepp and her chief of staff Kurt Thiede on March 12, 2018, to discuss the EPA’s potential comments and other topics.

Ultimately, Stepp, a Trump appointee, restricted EPA professional staff to reading their concerns about the PolyMet permit

over the phone to MPCA officials, rather than submitting them in writing as is the usual procedure. MPCA officials acknowledge they took handwritten notes of the EPA’s concerns, but those notes were never included in the official record of the permitting process, which meant any court review would likely be undertaken without knowledge of the fact that EPA staff believed the PolyMet permit might not comply with the Clean Water Act.

If that was the MPCA’s intent, it went badly awry when a public records request from Water Legacy uncovered a set of the notes of the phone call between EPA and MPCA officials. The revelation has prompted allegations that both the MPCA and EPA may have acted in bad faith and sparked both state and federal investigations.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals has since put PolyMet’s NPDES permit on indefinite hold and took the nearly unprecedented step in late June of sending a legal challenge of the permit, by the Fond du Lac Band and a coalition of environmental groups, to Ramsey County District Court to allow for more fact-finding into the MPCA’s actions.

MPCA spokesperson Darin Broton, in response to questions from the *Timberjay*, suggested that the MPCA had reached out to the EPA simply to improve the efficien-

cy of their commenting. “MPCA was making changes to the draft permit based on public feedback and other considerations,” said Broton. “MPCA staff was trying to provide the EPA with an updated version for feedback.”

Broton also noted that the EPA is legally authorized to comment whenever it feels it is appropriate. “The MPCA does not have authority to instruct/order any federal agency not to submit comments,” he stated.

The *Timberjay* asked why the MPCA was so concerned about the timing of EPA feedback on this particular permit that it took the unusual step of asking the federal agency not to provide written input during the public comment period, but Broton did not offer a response.

**Legislators get involved**

The emails released this past week also show that top GOP lawmakers in the Minnesota House were in discussion with EPA’s Stepp as well as MPCA officials about their legislation designed to substantially weaken the state’s sulfate standard for wild rice waters. A March 8, 2018, email from EPA regional chief of staff Kurt Thiede recounts a conversation from the previous day between Stepp, then-House Speaker Kurt Daudt, and Rep. Dan Fabian. “After a discus-

sion of a bill that is being debated in the MN state legislature that would limit MPCA’s ability to impose a numerical standard for sulfides (sic), the Speaker asked if you would support their action (legislation),” Thiede writes. “You did not commit to supporting their legislation, but rather you responded that what you could do is respect the MN legislative process and would reach out and work with John Linc Steine (sic) on the implementation of any policies or rules needed to implement their MPDES (sic) program. In addition, you noted your commitment to resolve the longstanding MPDES (sic) impasse.”

The emails document that Stepp did have a conversation with Commissioner Linc Stine four days later, on March 12. An email written from Linc Stine later that day thanks Stepp for the conversation and includes the subject line: “RE: Minnesota Speakers Office.”

To Water Legacy’s Maccabee, the emails suggest a troubling level of collusion and secrecy between officials who were charged with protecting environmental quality. The emails, she said, “suggest that EPA was negotiating with political leaders in the Minnesota House of Representatives as well as with Commissioner Stine without informing tribes, the public or concerned

environmental groups who had raised questions about both the PolyMet permit and enforcement of the wild rice sulfate standard.”

Rep. Dan Fabian, R-Roseau, takes strong exception to Maccabee’s characterization of collusion, saying that he was working in a bipartisan manner last year to find a workable solution to the state’s longstanding impasse over the wild rice sulfate rule. He said the current wild rice standard had never been enforced and that he was working with lawmakers from the Iron Range and other parts of rural Minnesota, to try to establish a standard that was more easily enforceable. “Why would we continue to chase that unrealistic number?” he asked. “Why wouldn’t we try to find something that can actually be written into a permit?”

Fabian, who had headed the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee at the time, said he’s heard from more than just the taconite industry on the issue, including sugar beet processors and municipalities who discharge treated wastewater, who are concerned that enforcement of the wild rice standards could be unaffordable.

While the bill produced by the Legislature last year was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Mark Dayton as too lax, industrial dischargers continue to anticipate that the state will

weaken the rule at some point. PolyMet officials have already signaled that they believe the wild rice standard will be eliminated or modified. The company’s most recent technical feasibility study, issued in March 2018, notes that: “For purposes of this study, PolyMet has assumed that the Minnesota water quality standards governing sulfate in wild rice water will be revised, as required by law, after the project is in operations.”

MPCA’s Broton said that “no new changes in the wild rice sulfate standards are currently being planned.” The agency’s earlier effort to institute a so-called “flexible” standard was thrown out by an administrative law judge last year. Even so, as Broton confirmed, “the Legislature is preventing the MPCA from enforcing the strict standard.”

In the case of PolyMet, Broton notes that the company voluntarily agreed to have the wild rice standard incorporated into its permit, making it the first mine in the state to voluntarily submit to the standard. That does not prevent the company from seeking exemption from the standard if the Legislature and the MPCA are ultimately successful in weakening the law. PolyMet’s current NPDES permit would be up for renewal, and potential modification, in less than five years.

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# SPORTS

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## CROSS COUNTRY

### Ely boys dominate region

Luke Olson leads the pack as boys claim back-to-back firsts this week

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

GRAND RAPIDS – Luke Olson and the Ely boys cross country team continued to dominate the region’s runners, claiming back-to-back first-place performances on the week. The Ely boys easily out-paced the field at the Grand Rapids Invitational on Tuesday. The girls team

finished in fourth place among nine teams. Olson crossed the five-kilometer finish line with a time of 17:07.1 to continue his streak of top finishes. Emmett Faltesek was close behind in third place, finishing at 17:15.9, while Jasper Johnston took sixth with a time of 17:43.7. As a team, the boys finished with a 69, or 26 points better than their

second-place competition, Cromwell-Wright. The girls team was paced by Zoe Devine, who finished eighth with a time of 21:42.0. Other strong Ely finishers included Phoebe Helms (12th, 22:30.3), and Sydney Durkin (20th, 23:33.00). Hermantown took first in the girls event, with 81 points, 17 points better than Ely’s 98 points.

**Right: Runners in the opening stretch of their cross country meet in Eveleth last Thursday. Olson, wearing bib 1617 was already leading the pack.**

photo by J. Bianco

Olson led the boys team to another win this past Thursday in Eveleth. The

See **RUNNERS**...pg. 2B



## VOLLEYBALL

### Tigers prove a speedbump for surging Grizz

North Woods ties for first in weekend tournament, looks consistent in win over L-BF

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

CHERRY – The Grizzlies hit a speed bump in an otherwise strong week, as they fell in straight sets to the Tigers here on Tuesday. “This was the strongest hitting opponent the team has seen this season,” said North Woods Head Coach Kandi Olson. “We played a tough match, but couldn’t pull off the win.” The Grizzlies lost 25-21, 25-15, and 25-19.

Senior Coley Olson led the way with 10 kills and four set assists, while Kayla Tschida notched five kills and Karlyn Pierce posted four. Olivia Udovich had nine set assists.

The biggest story of the week for the Grizzlies unfolded this past Saturday as they won four straight pool play matches at the Hill City Tournament



Above: Senior Karlyn Pierce drills a kill during last Thursday’s contest with Littlefork-Big Falls played at the North Woods School.



Above right: Senior Coley Olson goes up for a tip during last week’s home match.

photos by  
M. HelMBERGER

See **VBALL**...pg. 2B

### Ely notches fourth straight sweep

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

INTERNATIONAL FALLS— Slow but steady proved decisive for the Timberwolves here on Tuesday night as they swept the Broncos in straight sets, 25-11, 25-14, and 25-14. It was Ely’s fourth straight sweep, improving their season to 8-2.

“We started out slow in all three sets,” said Ely Head Coach Andrea Thomas. “It took us until

we reached ten points before we started to play with some intensity.”

Senior setter McCartney Kaercher had a strong night, with 11 digs in addition to 24 assists. Senior Brielle Kallberg posted eight kills, four digs, and two blocks, while fellow senior Erika Mattson added seven kills and two blocks. Jenna Merhar and ninth-grader McKenna Coughlin each tallied six kills.

The Wolves provided a

preview of their I-Falls sweep with much the same performance last Thursday in Aurora. Ely topped the Giants in three sets, 25-19, 25-12, and 25-15. “We played a balanced game against Mesabi East,” said Thomas. “We played with more mental toughness and were able to rebound after our errors.”

Kallberg had a solid performance, with 12 kills and five digs, while Kaercher posted 25 assists and three ace serves. Coughlin

tallied nine kills and two aces and Mattson added six kills on the night.

The Wolves were set to host North Woods on Thursday, but games will be played at Vermilion Community College until repairs can be made to the high school gymnasium roof. That could take much of the remaining volleyball season. The Wolves will take part in the Virginia tournament on Saturday and return home on Tuesday to host Duluth-Marshall.

## NINEMAN FOOTBALL

### T-wolves show progress in 32-6 loss

Klingsporn recovers muffed punt for Ely’s first touchdown of the season

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – On a cold, windy and drizzly night at Memorial Stadium, the Timberwolves notched their first touchdown of the season, care of their own defense. That same defense proved effective through much of the first half, before a second-half South Ridge scoring blitz lifted the Panthers to a 32-6 final score.

But Ely took its first lead of the season with just over three minutes left in the first quarter. Ely’s defense bent but didn’t break in the early going, forcing several third and long situations for the Panthers. With South Ridge facing a fourth down deep in



Left: Ely senior quarterback Bryce Longwell scrambles right while getting good protection from his offensive line.

photo by  
K. Vandervort

See **WOLVES**...pg. 2B

## FOOTBALL

### Grizzlies fall hard to Deer River

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

DEER RIVER— The Grizzlies fell behind early to the Warriors here last Friday, and never got back in the game offensively, dropping their third straight contest of the season 43-8.

“We struggled very early with blocking assignments on offense, position responsibilities on defense and our punt game,” said North Woods Head Coach John Jirik.

The team is still adjusting to their jump to 11-man football and it’s shown in their challenges and occasional mental mistakes so far this season. “We had trouble finding our rhythm,” said Jirik. “We had some positive drives

See **GRIZZLIES**...pg. 2B

## Sports week

### FOOTBALL

**Friday, Sept. 20**  
North Woods at Barnum, 7 p.m.

Ely at Cook County, 7 p.m.

Northeast Range at South Ridge, 7 p.m.

### VOLLEYBALL

**Thursday, Sept. 19**  
Ely hosts North Woods, 7 p.m.

**Monday, Sept. 23**  
Northeast Range at Chisholm, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Sept. 24**  
Ely hosts Marshall, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 26**  
North Woods at Northeast Range, 7 p.m.

### SWIMMING

**Saturday, Sept. 21**  
Northeast Range vs Duluth Denfeld at Lincoln Park Middle School, 5 p.m., Soderlind invite

**Tuesday, Sept. 24**  
Northeast Range at Two Harbors, 5 p.m.

### CROSS COUNTRY

**Thursday, Sept. 26**  
Ely at Hibbing Invite, 4 p.m.

SWIMMING

# NER/Ely dominates at Denfeld meet

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

DULUTH — Northeast Range/Ely swimmers notched their first meet win of the season last Thursday as they outpaced Denfeld 57-32. NER/

Ely swimmers took first in every event except the 200-yard freestyle. Carena Debeltz and Alli Krekelberg took first and second respectively in the girls 200 individual medley with times of 3:23.04 and 3:25.56, while Anna Larson and Ava Sundell did the

same in 50 freestyle with times of 32.96 and 33.10. Alice Wolter overpowered the competition in the 100 freestyle, with a time of 1:16.04, outpacing Denfeld's Kayla Franke by better than three seconds. In the 200 relay, Larson,

Sundell, Debeltz, and Krekelberg took the top spot with a time of 2:25.15, nearly eight seconds ahead of Denfeld. The same swimmers topped Denfeld by more than thirty seconds in the 400 relay, with a time of 5:27.16.

The Nighthawks will be back in Duluth on Saturday for the Soderlind Invitational. They travel to Two Harbors on Tuesday. Both meets get underway at 5 p.m.

## RUNNERS...Continued from page 1B



Zoe Devine, above on left, had another strong performance in Eveleth last week, finishing sixth overall. photo by J. Bianco

Timberwolves boys edged Proctor and North Shore to bring home their second straight first-place finish at the Eveleth/Gilbert Invite. The girls team took third.

"Both teams improved their times from one to three minutes from last year at Eveleth," said Coach Jayne Dusich. "I'm very happy with their races as this course is usually their worst times."

Olson, once again, paced the entire field, taking first overall with a time of 16:53.4. Junior Emmett Faltesek, finished fifth with a time of 17:53.9, followed by junior Jasper Johnston in 11th place with a time of 18:04.6. Senior Raif Olson took 25th with a time of 19:23.8, while senior Dylan Fenske finished in 31st, at 19:45.9. Sophomore Harry Simons, 20:23.3, and senior Natt

Nettifee, 20:32.5, also competed for the Wolves. As a team, the Ely boys finished with a score of 73, just edging Proctor with 76 points and North Shore with 78.

Freshman Zoe Devine led Ely girls runners with a sixth-place finish at 21:50.5.

Freshman runner Phoebe Helms finished in 14th, with a time of 22:54.5, while Sydney Durkins, 23:28.9, finished in 19th place. Senior Sarah Isbell finished 22nd with a time of 23:51.5, while Sophomore Cora Olson, finished 25th with a time of 24:09.5. Laura Holmstrom, 29th place, 24:34.8, and junior Julia Schwingamer, 31st, 24:41.1, also competed for Ely.

## VBALL...Continued from page 1B

to tie for first place in the competition. The Grizzlies defeated Northland 2-0, Bigfork, 2-1, Bagley, 2-0, and Duluth-Marshall, 2-0.

In Thursday night action at home, the Grizzlies showed consistency as they downed Littlefork-Big Falls in straight sets, 25-19, 25-21, and 25-17.

The Grizzlies maintained a solid offensive attack, controlling much

of the play with the killing power of seniors Coley Olson and Karlyn Pierce, who both had strong nights at the net. The Grizzlies led throughout the match, although the Vikings kept it interesting at times.

Coley Olson posted 14 kills, while Pierce tallied seven kills, blocked three shots, and posted four ace serves.

## WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

their own territory, they punted. With a stiff head wind blowing, the center sent the ball sailing over the kicker's head.

That's when safety Sawyer Klingsporn shed a halfhearted block and took off for the ball. He landed on it in the end zone to put the Wolves up 6-0 and was immediately mobbed by his teammates. The point-after attempt failed.

Ely's lead didn't last long, as South Ridge put eight points on the board before the end of the stanza. But Ely kept the damage in check, and went into the break down by just two.

"I could feel the energy in the locker room at the half," said Coach Cory Lassi. "They were confident and excited. I told them it was a good feeling and that's where they want to be. I told them to look for that extra gear."

But two key plays in the second half, both with South Ridge facing long third down situations, largely ended the Wolves' hopes. Both plays ended in touchdowns, effectively putting the game out of reach.

Lassi is focusing on the progress the team demonstrated. "I like the way we played defense Friday night," Lassi said. "We were competing and gang tackling. Our 'D' is improving."

Offense proved a bigger challenge. Senior halfback Dalton Schreffler had 68 tough yards



Teammates congratulate junior Sawyer Klingsporn after he recovered an errant punt snap in the South Ridge end zone for Ely's first touchdown of the season. photo by K. Vandervort

rushing on 25 carries for the night, and led the way on defense with 12 tackles. Senior Josh Larson added eight more tackles.

The Timberwolves also added to their roster last week, with 20 players suited up, the most so far this season.

Sophomore halfback Eddie Prijatelj suffered a hit to the head

early in the first quarter and was kept on the bench for the rest of the night. Mason Davis, who took a helmet to the chest last week, was back in action.

Ely travels to Cook County (0-3) Friday night and returns home for homecoming on Friday, Sept. 27.

## GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

on offense but could not overcome a few untimely penalties. Defensively we did well in the second and third quarters."

Deer River dominated in the first quarter, notching touchdowns both on the ground and in the air to take a 14-0 lead. They added seven more in the second quarter, while keeping the Grizzlies' ground game mostly under wraps. "After getting behind by 21 early in the game, I thought we did a good job of keeping our composure to keep it at 21 through the end of the first half," said Jirik.

The third quarter didn't help as the Warriors added 14 more points


to stake themselves to a 35-0 lead. They added eight more points in the final stanza, before the Grizzlies ended the evening's scoring with a touchdown and conversion in the final minutes. Zach Cheney connected with Jared Chiabotti for the six.

Cheney had one of his best days behind center, completing seven of 15 attempts for 123 yards on the night. Jared Chiabotti notched 113 receiving yards. Deer River proved stingier on the ground, allowing just 98 yards. T.J. Chiabotti led the way for North Woods, picking up 74 tough yards on 18 carries.

"We need to continue to

improve and work to put together a complete game," said Jirik. "I have no doubt that we will keep improving and start to click in each facet of the game. The coaching staff will continue to teach and remain patient. We have a good group of student-athletes who will play very good football when their knowledge of the game improves."

The Grizzlies are set to face Barnum on Friday, in Barnum. They'll host Braham on Sept. 27. Kickoff for both games is set for 7 p.m.



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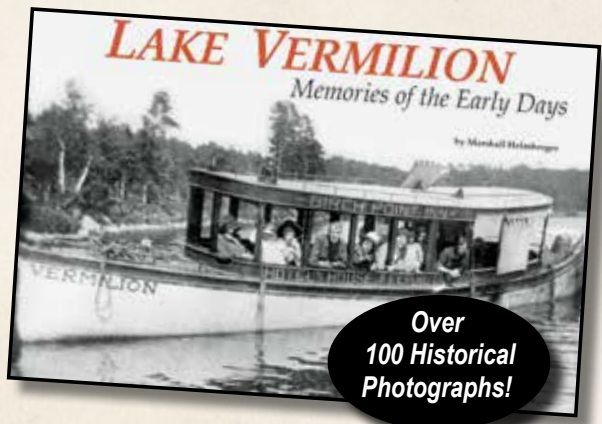
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# Ely's Harvest Moon



Clockwise from above: Colton Upsal had fun at the petting zoo with a new friend named Peepers. Shoppers browsed the craft booths. Entertainment included the Stunt Dog Challenge, and Kerry Christensen the "Yodeling Master" who performed with the Singing Slovenes. photos by K. Vandervort

# Team Penning results from the Embarrass Region Fair

EMBARRASS - There were two busy days of Team Penning at the Embarrass Fair on Aug. 23 and 24. "We couldn't have asked for better weather," said organizer Paul Knuti. "We'd like to thank the Embarrass Fair for making Team Penning available in our area. It is enjoyed by everyone."

involves a team of three riders who attempt to corral young cows into a pen at one end of the arena. The cows are numbered, and as the riders enter the arena, a number is called out. Only the cow with the correct number can be herded into the pen. Teams are timed.

Forty teams competed at the Team Penning event on Friday. Top score went to the "Moo-vers" team who penned three cows in 62.531. Ally Rolfson, Jennie Nelson and Pam Frazee received buckles and prize money. The second-place team was the "Trailblazers" of Tami, June and Martin, with two cows in 63.824. The third-place team was "Two

of Frank Maki, Kristine Maki and Doug Mattson, with two cows in 66.047.

Saturday saw a lot of interest, with 69 teams participating. Team "Trailblazers" of Tami,

June and Martin took top honors, penning three cows in 52.696, and taking home the buckles and prize money. Second place went to "Why Not" of Bridger Knuti, Dianna Thurlow

and Jeff Thurlow, who penned three cows in 54.231. Third place went to "Dirty Old Man" of Roy Webb, Danny Theel and Paul Knuti with three cows in 58.086.

Team penning

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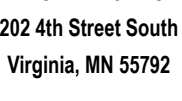
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## SAFE WATER

## Free Septic System and Private Well Homeowner Education Class on Monday, Sept. 30 in Cook

FIELD TWP- The University of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Health will be providing a free homeowner education class in our area. The class will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30 at the North Woods School, 10248 Olson Rd. E in Cook. This free class will cover the basics of how septic systems function, well water testing, and how to help protect your well from contamination sources.

Free well-testing kits will be available. The Minnesota Department of Health will fund well water testing of arsenic, nitrate, and coliform

bacteria for all workshop attendees.

Homeowners will also learn about chemicals of emerging concern (CEC) including pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and the potential impact on ground and surface water. Information on proper maintenance of both septic systems and private drinking water systems will be covered to help property owners protect their investments and the environment. A representative from St. Louis County will be present to answer any locally specific questions you may have.

This event is organized

by the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), in coordination with the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, the Minnesota Department of Health, St. Louis County, North Woods School Community Education, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Registration is encouraged, to plan for materials, through the North St. Louis SWCD website at [www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org). For questions, please contact Becca at the North St. Louis SWCD at [becca@nslswcd.org](mailto:becca@nslswcd.org) or 218-288-6143.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



## Melvin W. Hintz Jr.

Melvin William Hintz Jr., 72, of Tower, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019, surrounded by family at his daughter's home in Brooklyn Park. The family extends a very special thanks to Allina Health Hospice & Palliative Care for their support. A Celebration of Mel's Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 20 at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. A gathering time for family and friends will begin at 10 a.m. at the church. Inurnment with full military honors will take place at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials are the preferred way to honor Mel's memory. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Mel was born on Feb. 14, 1947, in Fond du Lac, Wis., the son of Melvin and Arleen (Fink) Hintz Sr. He graduated from West High School in Green Bay, obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Wisconsin State University at Stevens Point, and a Master of Science in Forestry from the University of Wisconsin.

Mel met the love of his life, Ellen Wilson, while attending youth group at the West Moravian Church in Green Bay. The two were married on Dec. 21, 1968. Shortly thereafter, Mel proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. While he was in Vietnam, the couple was blessed by the arrival of their only child, Kristen.

Mel worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Duluth, and 25 years for St. Louis County in the assessing field. He retired as the St. Louis County Assessor in 2008.

Mel was a regular attendee at St. James Presbyterian Church. He was also a very active member, past president, and current director of the Vermilion Lake Association, working on initiatives such as the loon

count, cormorant count, shore lunch sites, and invasive species awareness.

Mel deeply loved his family and cherished all times spent together. He was an avid Green Bay Packer fan and outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, biking, and travel. He was thrifty and always willing to lend a helping hand.

Mel is survived and will be deeply missed by his loving wife of 50 years, Ellen; daughter, Kristen (Jason) Harinen; grandchildren, Karlie, Emma and Drew Harinen; sister, Patricia (Steven) Calhoun; brother-in-law, Arlen (Kathy) Wilson; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, cousins and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.



## Ardythe I. Diwishek

Ardythe Irene Diwishek, 80, of Ely Lake, passed away unexpectedly at home on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019. A gathering and sharing time to celebrate her life will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Private family interment will be in the Cook Community Cemetery.

Ardythe was born on July 9, 1939, in Virginia, the daughter of Ernest and Ailie (Lehto) Nukala. She grew up in Alango, where she attended school and where her family owned the Nukala General Store and Gas Station. After her father's untimely passing, the family moved to Virginia, where Ardythe graduated from high school. After graduation, she moved to Minneapolis, worked in the Billy Graham office, and then attended Bethel College. In 1958, she joined the young people's group called "God's Invasion Army" of the General Baptist Conference, where she met her future husband, Jerry Diwishek. They were married on July 23, 1960, in Cook. They lived in Virginia for a time, then moved to San Diego, Calif., where she had a day care and they lived for the

next 15 years.

They moved back to Northern Minnesota in 1976, and to Britt in 1977, where they built their home and resided the next 30 years. After the redirection of the new four-lane Highway 53 traversed through their homestead, they moved to Ely Lake, where they currently resided. Earlier they had been members of the First Baptist Church in Cook, where Ardythe served as secretary for several years and later were members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Virginia. Ardythe was an active musician, sang in all the choirs, in some trios, played the piano and violin, and was an avid amateur vocalist. She loved doing embroidery, and enjoyed baking, gardening and scrapbooking, along with being an accomplished seamstress. She sewed many items, including blankets, for her family. Ardythe was a devoted wife, loving mother and grandmother.

Ardythe is survived by her husband, Jerry; four children, Valerie Diwishek of Eveleth, Michelle Gribbon of Duluth, John Diwishek of Sauk Rapids and Tim Diwishek of Virginia; sister, Doreen (Arlee) Olson of Cook; and four grandchildren, Casey Diwishek, Alia Gribbon, Chloe Diwishek and Ellie Diwishek.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Marvin Nukala.



## Junette L. Larson

Junette Lorraine Larson, 94, of Tower-Soudan, died peacefully on Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, at Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. A Celebration of Life for June will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan with the Rev. Greg Anderson officiating. 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.

June was born on June 19, 1925, in Tower, to Ennie (Salmala) and David

Anderson. She attended school in Tower-Soudan where she graduated from high school in 1943. June was a devoted, caring and loving wife, mother and friend. She was united in marriage to Richard Dale Larson on Sept. 2, 1944, in Virginia. Her husband Richard passed away on Aug. 20, 2004.

June enjoyed cooking, reading, sewing and knitting. She especially lived for her watercolor painting. She was an accomplished watercolor artist who was known for her "blueberry cards". She painted until she lost her ability to see. June enjoyed conversing on the phone with friends and especially her baby sister, Jeanie, which she did every night at 6:30 p.m. She did this until she lost the ability to hear.

June was a proud person. She was especially proud of the fact that her two sons, Richard and Steven, were educators of children and young adults with disabilities for a combined total of 72 years.

God gave us this miracle of life and now he took her to be with him forever. June, her son Steven, and daughter-in-law Roberta wish to thank the staff at Vermilion Senior Living, formerly known as Golden Horizons. The staff there made ma's home in her final year a safer and better place to call home. Your care, devotion and love will never be forgotten. God works through all of us. That was obvious at Vermilion Senior Living. "Big D" - you are a miracle. And finally, Essential Hospice Team, you are champions at the work you do for families. June Larson is happy, joyous and free.

June is survived by her son, Steven (Roberta); brother, Bernie Anderson; grandchildren, Tom (Kate) Larson, Tina (Bob) Larson and Ben Larson; great-grandchildren, Mollie and Ryan Larson; daughter-in-law, Nancy Larson; very special niece, Nancy Watts; and many other nieces and nephews. June is also survived by her lifelong friends, Aggie Mesojedec and Phyllis Burgess.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ennie and David Anderson; in-laws, Hilliard and Mollie Larson; husband, Richard Dale Larson; son, Richard David Larson; sister, Jeanie Flannigan; brother, Roger Anderson; sister-in-law, Patsy Anderson; and closest friend, Patsy Olson, who is now enjoying coffee and apricot tarts with ma.

## Harbormasters with Steve Lapatka to perform on Saturday, 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.

## You can help support the Buddy Backpack program

REGIONAL- American Bank is organizing a hygiene product drive to supplement Buddy Backpack's weekend meal kits. Donations of full-size shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, combs, bars of soap, dental floss, and deodorant are needed. Items can be dropped off at any American Bank branch during the month of September.

The Buddy Backpack program provides children in food-insecure homes with healthy, non-perishable food items to eat over the weekend. More than 35,000 meal kits were distributed to 1,000 children through the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN)'s Buddy Backpack program during the 2018-2019 school year.

Area residents can also support the program by "rounding up" their purchase amount at Natural Harvest Food Coop during the month of September.

## Leslie T. Harrison

Leslie Thomas "Tom" Harrison, 70, died peacefully early Monday morning, Sept. 16, 2019, at the Minneapolis VA Hospital. A memorial service will be held this Saturday, Sept. 21 at Hillside Cemetery in Angora. He will be interred next to his wife. A lunch and celebration will follow at the Angora Town Hall, 8936 Highway 1.

Tom was born on Jan. 19, 1949, to John and Ruth Harrison. He was the son of a WWII veteran who remained in the military, and moved the family all over the United States and Germany. Tom graduated from Frankfurt American High School in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1967. After finishing college, he followed in his brothers' and father's steps and joined the military, becoming a member of the United States Air Force (USAF). Tom met his future wife, Karen, in 1969. They were married in 1970 on Karen's 19th birthday. Tom and Karen were stationed in Minot, North Dakota, and Bitburg, West Germany. They established many lifelong friendships in Bitburg and his heart always remained there. After serving in the USAF for eleven years and ranking as a Master Sergeant, Tom and Karen moved to Minnesota to be closer to family.

After the military, Tom was a software engineer at Control Data for a number of years before moving on to help create Ontrack Data Recovery. He was the first employee for the company and became a senior software engineer. Tom and Karen had their three children and settled in Monticello for many years. The family looked forward to special events and weekly traditions, such as homemade pizza and movie night.

In his free time, Tom enjoyed riding motorcycles. After one disastrous and painful family trip out West, which they vowed to never do again, Tom and Karen traveled together, taking annual summer motorcycle trips all over the United States and Canada. Their motorcycle trips often centered around Tom's love for trains, famous crossings, and gorgeous scenery.

In the last years of his life, Tom suffered from serious health problems. He was cared for by his loving daughters and loved seeing movies with his son. He enjoyed being with his children and their families.

Tom is survived by his three children,

Angie Marchio (Paul), Les Harrison (Lydia) and Rachel Joiner (Tim); and six grandchildren, Harrison Marchio, Jude and Claire Harrison, Gabrielle Ramirez, and Miranda and Kennedy Joiner.

He was preceded in death by his parents; six siblings; and beloved wife, Karen (Anderson) Harrison.

## Tandy A. Esala

Tandy A. McDermid Esala, 71, of Virginia, passed away on Friday, Sept. 13, 2019, at Essential Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 20 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Pike Township with Pastor Don Stauty officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Private family burial will be in the North Sandy Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Gary of Virginia; one son, Dean Esala (Heather Lundstrom) of Lake Vermilion-Tower; daughter, Jodi Pontinen of Virginia; six grandchildren, Shania (Allen) Shoars, Gavin Esala, Kennedy Esala, Siri Pontinen, Emily Pontinen and Kate Pontinen; four great-grandchildren, Melody, Issabella, Jackson and Amelia Shoars; two brothers, Bert (Elaine) McDermid and Jack (Lila) McDermid; sister, Cindy McDermid; numerous nieces and nephews; and in-laws, Barbara Heino, Peter Esala, Diane French, Kathy Pitkanen, Thomas Esala and Cindy (Dan) Maki.

## Neil J. Schramm

Neil Jerome Schramm, 61, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019, in Virginia. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5 at East Moe Lutheran Church in Garfield. A local Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Jennie and Cory Winger's home in Embarrass. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his siblings, Susan (Steven) Bradow, Jack (Shelley) Schramm, Peggy (Tim) Polson, Dale (Vicky) Schramm and Allen (Patty) Schramm; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and one great-great-nephew.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF ELY Council Minutes - September 3, 2019 Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Novak called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, Campbell, and Mayor Novak  
ABSENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Debeltz/A.Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2019 Public Hearing, the August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting, the August 27, 2019 Special Council Meeting, and the August 27, 2019 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA: A. Addition 11.F. Partial Payment Estimate #6 for the Trail Improvements and Vermilion River Bridge Construction Project in the amount of \$147,544.50 to George Bougalis and Sons. B. Addition 13.G. Send a letter of support for the Northeast Service Cooperative Grant Application for the Border to Border Grant. Additions A and B approved without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT Mayor Novak stated that Senator Smith was in town today on a Rural Minnesota Tour. She toured the town, including the hospital, Ten

Below Co-Working and Twin Metals.  
Omerza stated that when they were driving around Ely with Senator Smith they had a really good discussion about workforce, housing, and child care. Senator Smith asked a lot of questions about the housing and the housing study and also about broadband, Omerza indicated that she seemed to understand where we were coming from, from our point of view. Senator Smith also discussed the agencies at a State and National level that we could use to help. Omerza stated that it was really nice to have Representative Rob Ecklund participate in the day.

6. CONSENT AGENDA: A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda  
B. Approve council and staff to attend the 2019 League of Minnesota Cities Regional Meetings. Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS: A. Standing/Special Tree Board: Minutes included in the council packet  
B. Budget Committee: Minutes included in the council packet  
C. Telecommunications Advisory Board: Minutes included in the council packet  
D. Utilities Commission: Minutes included in the council packet

9. D E P A R T M E N T A L REPORTS: A. Clerk-Treasurer i. The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

1. Approved compressor repair for \$4,248.73 from JH Foster.
2. Approved purchase of a grit pump for \$4,500.00 from General Pump Service.
3. Approved the annual Heat Share Agreement with the Salvation Army.
4. Approved the Chamber of Commerce request for services at the Harvest Moon Festival.
5. Approved payment of the EUC Bills List for July 2019 for \$609,771.04  
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the EUC Consent Agenda items 1-5. Motion Carried Unanimously.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director Council Member Omerza gave an update of the upcoming events at the library which can be located on the Library Website.

D. Police Chief Chief Lahtonen reminded everyone that school is open and to watch out for children when you are driving around the school area.

E. City Attorney i. Omerza/Callen moved to

approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 337, 2nd Series An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Amending Chapter 5, Sections 5.07.2, 5.41, and 5.44 Alcoholic Beverages Licensing and Regulations. Mayor Novak indicated that the liquor stores do not have to be open, it is and option for them to be open on Sundays. Callen asked if this ordinance follows state statute. Attorney Klun indicated that the ordinance follows along with state statute for the hours of Sunday off sales being 11am-6pm. Attorney Klun indicated that there is a special addition to hotel on sale which is essentially liquor cabinets in a hotel room from the state statutes in the ordinance. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- No, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Council Member A.Forsman voting No.

Omerza/A.Forsman moved to have a public hearing regarding Ordinance 337 – Sunday Off Sales on September 17, 2019 at 5:00pm. Motion Carried Unanimously.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information A. Correspondence from Sarah Burger from Wildlife Liquor and Mark and Dotte Zojonc from Mikes Liquor. B. Correspondence to Governor Walz regarding the Twin Metals Star Tribune editorial from RAMS and the Iron Range Mayors

C. Correspondence from the Superior National Forest

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT: A. City and EUC claims for September 3, 2019 – \$285,176.37  
B. Greater Minnesota Partnership 2020 Membership Dues - \$500.00  
C. League of Minnesota Cities 2019-2020 Membership Dues - \$3,815.00  
D. Minnesota Mayors Association Annual Dues - \$30.00  
E. Partial Payment Estimate #2 for the West Camp Street, Pattison Street East Improvement project for \$439,762.96 to Utility Systems of America, Inc.  
F. Partial Payment Estimate #6 for the Trail Improvements and Vermilion River Bridge Construction Project in the amount of \$147,544.50 to George Bougalis and Sons. Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the claims for payment items A-F. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS: A. Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Morse and the City of Ely, Mayor Novak indicated that he found some language in the MOU that should get reviewed. Mayor Novak indicated that we should get together again to discuss this, possibly at projects committee. Debeltz/Omerza moved to send the MOU between the Town of Morse and the City of Ely to the Projects Committee for discussion and to make the Monday, September 9, 2019 Projects Meeting a Special Council Meeting so all council mem-

bers can attend if they choose. Motion Carried Unanimously. Callen stated that Planning and Zoning is meeting tomorrow, he will bring the MOU up at the meeting.

13. NEW BUSINESS: A. Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Change Order #1 for the Trail Improvements and Vermilion River Bridge Construction. Motion Carried Unanimously.

B. Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the St. Louis County CDBG Program Requalification Approve Amendment No. 3 to the Joint Cooperation Agreement. Motion Carried Unanimously.

C. Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2019-029 Resolution Authorizing City of Ely to Make Application to and Accept Funds from IRRRB FY20 Regional Trails Grant Program for the Hidden Valley Mountain Bike Trails. Langowski made a note that this resolution was passed already, but the dollar amount has been revised. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

D. Omerza/Callen moved to approve Resolution 2019-030 Resolution Approving and Adopting Proposed Tax Levy Collectible in 2020. Mayor Novak indicated that this is the initial levy with a 2.64% increase, the final levy will be in December. Roll Called: Council Member

A.Forsman- Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

E. Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the Ely Chamber of Commerce's request for In Kind Services from the City of Ely for the Harvest Moon Festival. Motion Carried Unanimously.

F. Debeltz/Kess moved to approve the Commercial Rehab Loan for ASIN-MITIG, LLC, DBA Rockwood Bar and Grill for new windows and to replace Roof Top HVAC Unit for \$17,500, pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and to proceed with the loan processing. Motion Carried Unanimously.

G. Omerza/Callen moved to send a letter of support for the Northeast Service Cooperative Grant Application for the Border to Border Grant. Motion Carried Unanimously.

14. OPEN FORUM: None

15. ADJOURN Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 5:58pm without objection.

Casey Velchiff Deputy Clerk

*Published in the Ely Timberjay, Sept. 20, 2019*

### CITY OF ELY ORDINANCE NO. 337 2nd Series

#### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELY, MINNESOTA, AMENDING CHAPTER 5, SECTIONS 5.07.2, 5.13, 5.31, 5.41, 5.43 AND 5.44 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSING AND REGULATIONS

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN: SECTION 1. Chapter 5, Section 5.07.2, of the City Code of the City of Ely, Minnesota is amended to read as follows: SEC. 5.07.2 "OFF- SALE" MALT LIQUOR LICENSE Subd. 1. An "on-sale" licensee who is also a brewer licensed under Minnesota Statute 340A.301, Subd. 6(d) may be licensed for "off-sale" of malt liquor produced and packaged on the licensed premises, subject to the following conditions:

- A. Off sale of malt liquor may only be made during the hours of Eight O'clock A.M. (8:00 A.M.) and Ten O'clock P.M. (10:00 P.M.); No sale of off-sale intoxicating malt liquor may be made: (1) on Sundays, except between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and except that growlers may be sold at off-sale on Sundays between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. (2) before 8:00 A.M. or after 10:00 P.M. on Monday through Saturday; (3) on Thanksgiving Day; (4) on Christmas Day, December 25; or (5) after 8:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve, December 24.
- B. The malt liquor shall be packaged in 64 ounce containers commonly known as "growlers;" or in 750 milliliter bottles.
- C. The malt liquor sold at off-sale must be removed from

the licensed premise before the applicable closing time at exclusive liquor stores; D. The "growlers" shall bear a twist-type closure, cork, stopper, or plug. At the time of sale, a paper or plastic adhesive band, strip, or sleeve shall be applied to the container or bottle and extended over the top of the twist-type closure, cork, stopper, or plug forming a seal that must be broken upon opening the container or bottle. The adhesive band, strip, or sleeve shall bear the name and address of the brewer. The containers or bottles shall be identified as malt liquor, contain the name of the malt liquor, bear the name and address of the brew pub or brewer selling the malt liquor and shall be considered intoxicating liquor unless the alcohol content is labeled as otherwise in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Rules, part 7515.1100.

SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Section 5.13, of the City Code of the City of Ely, Minnesota is amended to read as follows: SEC. 5.13. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF LICENSEES. Subd. 1. Proof. No alcoholic beverage license shall be issued or renewed unless and until the applicant has provided proof of financial responsibility, imposed by Statute, by filing with the City: A. A certificate that there is in effect an insurance policy or pool providing minimum coverages of (1) \$50,000.00 because of bodily injury to any one person in any one occurrence, and, subject to the limit for one person, in the amount of \$100,000.00 because of bodily injury to two or more persons in any one occurrence, and in the amount of \$10,000.00 because of injury to or

destruction of property of others in any one occurrence, and (2) \$50,000.00 for loss of means of support of any one person in any one occurrence, and, subject to the limit for one person, \$100,000.00 for loss of means of support of two or more persons in any one occurrence; an annual aggregate of \$310,000.00 may be included in the insurance coverage; or, B. A bond of a surety company with minimum coverages as provided in Subparagraph A of this Subdivision; or, C. A certificate of the State Treasurer that the licensee has deposited with him \$100,000.00 in cash or securities which may legally be purchased by savings banks or for trust funds having a market value of \$100,000.00. SECTION 3. Chapter 5, Section 5.31, of the City Code of the City of Ely, Minnesota is amended to read as follows: SEC. 5.31. TEMPORARY BEER LICENSE. Subd. 1. Applicant. A club or charitable, religious, or non-profit organization shall qualify for a temporary on-sale beer license. Subd. 2. Conditions. A. An application for a temporary license shall state the exact dates and place of proposed temporary sale. B. No applicant shall qualify for a temporary license for more than a total of twelve (12) days in any calendar year.

C. The Council may, but at no time shall it be under any obligation whatsoever to, grant a temporary beer license on premises owned or controlled by the City. Any such license may be conditioned, qualified or restricted as the Council sees fit. If the premises to be licensed are owned or under the control of the City, the applicant shall file with the City, prior to issuance of the license, a certificate of liability insurance coverage in at least the sum of \$50,000.00 for injury to any one person and \$100,000.00 for injury to more than one person, and \$10,000.00 for property damage, naming the City as an insured during the license period. Such license shall be issued only on the condition that the applicant will not sell in excess of \$10,000.00 (retail value) worth of beer in any fiscal year, and thereupon shall be exempt from proof of financial responsibility as provided for herein.

SECTION 4. Chapter 5, Section 5.41, of the City Code of the City of Ely, Minnesota is amended to read as follows: SEC. 5.41 "ON SALE" SUNDAY SALES Subd. 1. License Required. The electorate of the City having heretofore authorized the same at a general or special election, a Sunday on-sale liquor license may be issued to hotels, restaurants, clubs, or bowling centers, in conjunction with the sale of food, which have on-sale liquor licenses and which also have seating capacity for not less than thirty guests at one time. Prior to issuance of such license, the applicant shall provide the City with proof of financial responsibility for Sunday sales. Subd. 2. Hours of Sale. The hours of Sunday on-sale liquor sales shall be from 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Sundays to 2:00 o'clock a.m. on Mondays, provided that the licensee is in conformance with the Minnesota Clean Air Act. Subd. 3. Unlawful Acts. It is unlawful to sell on-sale liquor on Sunday unless such sales are (1) licensed in accordance with this Section, (2) in conjunction with the sale of food, and, (3) during the hours of permitted sales.

SECTION 5. Chapter 5, Section 5.43, of the City Code of the City of Ely, Minnesota is amended to read as follows: SEC. 5.43. TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSE. Subd. 1. License Authorized. Notwithstanding any provision of the City Code to the contrary, the Council may issue a license for the temporary on-sale of liquor in connection with a social event sponsored by the licensee. Such license may provide that the licensee may contract with the holder of a full-year on-sale license, issued by the City, for liquor catering services. Subd. 2. Applicant. The applicant for a license under this Section must be a club or charitable, religious, or other non-profit organization in existence for at least three years.

Subd. 3. Terms and Conditions of License. A. No license is valid until approved by the Commissioner. B. No license shall be issued for more than four consecutive days and no license shall be issued for more than a total of twelve (12) days in any calendar year. C. No (temporary) license shall issue until the City is furnished with written proof that the licensee has dram shop coverage in the amount provided for in this Chapter, and that such coverage is in force on the premises where liquor is to be served. D. All licenses and licensees are subject to all provisions of statutes and the City Code relating to liquor sale and licensing. The licensee shall provide proof of financial responsibility coverage and, in the case of catering by a full-year on-sale licensee, such caterer shall provide proof of the extension of such coverage to the licensed premises. E. Licenses may authorize sales on premises other than those owned permanently occupied by the licensee. Subd. 4. Insurance Required. The Council may, but at no time shall it be under any obligation whatsoever to, grant a temporary liquor license on premises owned or controlled by the City. Any such license may be conditioned, qualified or restricted as the Council sees fit. If the premises to be licensed are owned or under the control of the City, the applicant shall file with the City, prior to issuance of the license, a certificate of liability insurance coverage in at least the sum of \$50,000.00 for injury to any one person, \$100,000.00 for injury to more than one person, and \$10,000.00 for property damage, naming the City as an insured during the license period.

SECTION 6. Chapter 5, Section 5.44, of the City Code of the City of Ely, Minnesota is amended to read as follows: SEC. 5.44 HOURS AND DAYS OF LIQUOR SALES Subd. 1. Intoxicating liquor; on-sale A. No sale of intoxicating liquor may be made by an on-sale licensee: 1. Between 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on the days of Monday through Saturday 2. After 2:00 a.m. on Sundays, except as provided by Section 5.41 subd. 2.

B. Certain dispensing exempt. Where a hotel possessing an on-sale intoxicating liquor license places containers of intoxicating liquor in cabinets in hotel rooms for the use of guests staying in those hotel rooms, and a charge is made for withdrawals from those cabinets, the dispensing of intoxicating liquor from those cabinets does not constitute a sale for purposes of subdivision 1a. Subd. 2. Intoxicating liquor; off-sale A. No sale of intoxicating liquor may be made by an off-sale licensee: 1. on Sundays, except between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; 2. Before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday; 3. On Thanksgiving Day; 4. On Christmas Day, December 25; or 5. After 8:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24.

B. No delivery of alcohol to an off-sale licensee may be made by a wholesaler or accepted by an off-sale licensee on a Sunday. No order solicitation or merchandising may be made by a wholesaler on a Sunday.

SECTION 4. Effective Date: Pursuant to Section 3.08 of the Charter of the City of Ely, Minnesota, the adoption of this Ordinance is effective immediately after final adoption and publication. First Reading: September 3, 2019; Second Reading: September 17, 2019; Adopted this 17th day of September, 2019

*Published in the Ely Timberjay, Sept. 6 & 20, 2019*

## CITY OF ELY

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The most noticeable improvement to the cemetery this year has been the work of the Northern Bedrock Preservation Corps. They filled a number of graves, leveled leaning and toppled gravestones, cut brush along the south side of the cemetery closest to the ball fields, and generally cleaned things up.

There was a \$5,000 cost for this work which was paid by the Korpi Cemetery Trust and an anonymous donor. Northern Bedrock Preservation Corps was also responsible for the renovations including stone work at Semer's Park several years ago. They also took on restoring and renovating the log buildings the US Department of Agriculture had used out at Halfway. Hopefully they will return next year for some additional work in Ely. Northern Bedrock Preservation Corps is based out of Duluth. It is loosely based on the C.C.C. model and was created to help restore and preserve historic sites and structures. Youths ages 18 - 25 can apply. The program gives young people opportunities and experience in the building trades and in historic preservation which includes cemetery restoration, masonry work, and vegetation removal.

We have now reached the time of the year when it is time to be removing flower baskets and other decorations at the cemetery. Doing so is a big help to the cemetery crew. They will perhaps be doing a final mowing this year and certainly again in the spring. Doing a thorough mowing job is made much easier when decorations have been removed for the winter. Please help the crew out if you possibly can.

The Korpi Trust also will be paying for the cost of the new information kiosk hopefully being constructed this fall. This Trust is a gift to the City of Ely and its Cemetery Committee from the Estate of Hugh and Eila Korpi and is used for improvements to the cemetery. Only the interest from this fund can be used for such work.

Donations in any amount for ongoing work are still being accepted at the City Hall. The city has a limited budget to work with each year.

*Published in the Ely Timberjay, Sept. 20, 2019*

### GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES FOR SNOW REMOVAL AT GREENWOOD TOWN HALL COMPLEX 2019-2020 SEASON

The Greenwood Township board is accepting sealed quotes for the snow removal at the Town Hall 2019-2020 season. The quote should state the cost of removing the snow per hour for the entrance, driveways and parking areas, additionally shoveling the walk to the entrances, at the Town Hall 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

The contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage. Successful quotes must carry vehicle and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage. Sealed quotes will be accepted until 1:00 PM October 8, 2019.

Sealed quotes are to be sent, emailed or delivered by Oct 8, 2019 to Sue Drobac, Greenwood Township Clerk at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

The township reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, to waive any irregularities and to accept any quote deemed most advantageous to the Township. 9/27

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Ads go in all 3 editions 218-753-2950

### CITY OF ORR COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS STATE OF MINNESOTA

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON VACATION OF ALLEY PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTE SEC. 412.851

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing will be held before the City Council on the 15th day of October, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., in the City Hall located 4429 Highway 53, Orr, to consider a proposed vacation of the alley located between 4628 Lake Street and 4632 Lake Street legally described as:

The alley adjacent and contiguous to Lot One (1), Block Two (2), and Lot Ten (10), Block One (1), Lake End, in the City of Orr according to the recorded plat thereof on file at the St. Louis County Recorder's Office, State of Minnesota. Subject to and reserving an easement for utility purposes for utilities located in said alleyway together with the right to enter for the purposes of maintaining, repairing and replacing said utilities.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2019. Cheri J. Carter, Clerk/Treasurer

*Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 20 & 27, 2019*

timberjay.com



# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods



The Pike River, which had slowed to a trickle in recent weeks, was overflowing its banks as of Tuesday after days of heavy rain.

## WATER

### Heavy rains spark jump in river flows

REGIONAL — The first half of September has brought nearly as much rain to many parts of northeastern Minnesota as fell all summer long, and that has sent river levels to well above their normal flows for this time of year. It's a marked contrast to the beginning of the month, when many area rivers and lakes were experiencing extremely low water levels.

The rebound has been most dramatic on the Vermilion River, where river gauges show the flow has jumped from just 126 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 956 cfs in just the past week, an increase of approximately 660 percent. Nearly four inches of rain fell across the Lake Vermilion area during the past week, which accounted for the dramatic rise in river levels.

Flow on the Littlefork River has also jumped sharply, from 119 cfs as of Sept. 8, to 658 cfs as of Sept. 16. The St. Louis River flow jumped from 623 cfs to 1,670 cfs during the same period.

The flow reports are issued each Monday by the Department of Natural Resources.

## Outdoors briefly

### Take-A-Kid-Hunting this weekend

REGIONAL — Getting youth outdoors in pursuit of squirrels, rabbits and other small game is the focus of Take a Kid Hunting Weekend this Saturday, Sept. 21, and Sunday, Sept. 22.

During the weekend, adult Minnesota residents accompanied by a youth younger than age 16 can hunt small game without a license, but must comply with open seasons, limits and other regulations.

"Small game hunting helps teach the basics and goes a long way toward getting ready for hunting bigger game like turkey or deer," said James Burnham, with the DNR.

It can be more active than some types of hunting that involve lengthier periods of time sitting still and being quiet.

"Plus, you get to get in a good walk and have a decent conversation, so it's less time just sitting and waiting for something to happen," Burnham said.



## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

### New study finds state's forests hard hit by the effects of climate change

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesota's forests are facing an unprecedented level of disturbance as a result of increasing pressures from drought, fire, catastrophic winds, and disease. That's the finding of a peer-reviewed study recently published in the *Annals of Forest Science*.

The study, by a group of University of Minnesota researchers, documents a dramatic increase in the rate at which forests in Minnesota are experiencing stand-altering events, and some of the researchers involved believe that climate change is the primary driver behind the accelerated disruption.

The researchers used forest inventory data gathered since the 1990s to determine whether forests were experiencing increased stresses in part as a result of climate change. The study did not include planned timber harvest as part of their analysis but considered only types of disturbances seen as naturally-occurring. While the average forest plot examined typically went just over 20 years without a significant disturbance as recently as 2004, that same plot is now experiencing significant disturbance as frequently as every eight years.

"We were all really surprised at how much it's changed in just the past 20 years," said U of M forest ecologist Lee Frelich, one of the four co-authors of the study. "It's dramatic and I think climate change is kind of an underlying gas pedal causing these effects."

To understand the significance of the trend, consider



Top: A view of the shore of Isabella Lake in the aftermath of the 2012 Pagami Creek Fire. The incidence of catastrophic wildfire appears to be on the rise, just one of the factors that is reshaping the state's forests as a result of climate change.

Above: Blowdown at Lost Lake, near Tower, from a 2017 derecho that moved through the area. Wind, fire, disease, and insect pests all appear to be having increasingly negative impacts on forests in the region.

photos by M. Helmberger

the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which has seen multiple major blowdown events in the past 20 years, as well as three catastrophic fires. Combined, those events have leveled or consumed more than half of the 1.1 million acres of forest contained within the wilderness within just the past two decades.

While the Boundary Waters has long been known as a refuge of old-growth forests, the sharp rise in forest disturbance could prevent the development of the old forest complexes that were once part of the state's natural history.

The study found that virtually every type of forest in the state is experiencing a rapid rise in the rate of disturbance, for a

variety of reasons, virtually all of them linked to climate change.

"Climate change can create so many different mechanisms for affecting forests," said Frelich. Fewer cold spells allow more insect pests, such as the emerald ash borer, to survive Minnesota winters than before. Extreme weather, from floods to destructive winds, is a powerful factor in the trend. Drought not only kills trees directly but also increases the likelihood of destructive wildfire and makes trees more susceptible to insects and disease. As trees are killed, said Frelich, the forest becomes more susceptible to the spread of invasive species, which tend to benefit from disturbance.

See **FORESTS...**pg. 7B



## OFF-ROAD

### New portion of Taconite Trail opened to OHV use

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The U.S. Forest Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have added 17.5 miles of off-highway vehicle trails in northern St. Louis County. The two agencies recently completed work that now provides a trail connection across a wide swath of the Superior National Forest's Laurentian District, using the Taconite Trail.

ATV use is now allowed on the portion of the Taconite Trail lying west of Beaver Lake to County Rd. 65 near the Sturgeon River. The new section of trail has been widely-anticipated by off-highway vehicle users. The new section connects county roads and trail networks in the Side Lake and Chisholm areas on the southwest to the already-open portion of the Taconite Trail connecting to the Big Aspen ATV trail system and the Pfeiffer Lake picnic area in the northeast.

The DNR's Parks and Trails Division worked to repair and resurface areas along the trail that require maintenance and to install signage for visitor use. The Taconite Trail is a multiple-use state trail originally designed primarily for snowmobile use in the winter months. The presence of wetlands makes some portions of the trail inappropriate for use by ATVs or other vehicles during unfrozen conditions, but other sections that can support off-highway traffic without damage to the trail, are being opened to such use.

This project was made possible through partnerships with the DNR and the Northern Traxx and Quad Cities ATV clubs.

## Wildflower Watch

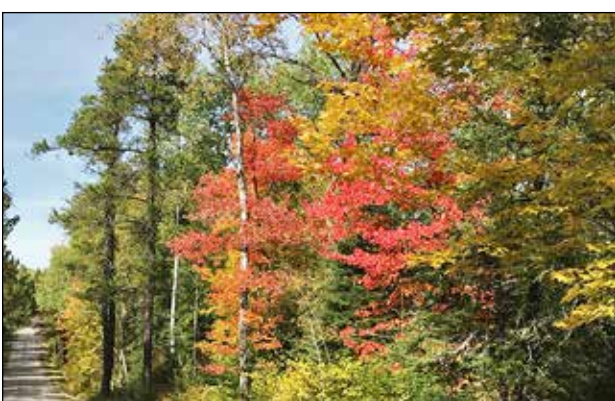
This week's featured flower  
**FLYAGARIC**



Technically, the **Fly Agaric**, *Amanita muscaria*, is not a wildflower, but is certainly one of the most dramatic things you'll find on the forest floor right now, especially in the wake of the recent rains. These are probably the most famous of mushrooms given their place in culture and literature. They are widely known for their hallucinogenic properties, but are also quite toxic and not recommended for eating.

While not a wildflower, the mushroom is part of the fungi's reproductive process, although they produce spores, rather than seeds.

While they are often orange in appearance, they are sometimes red depending on the soil conditions.



CHANGING SEASONS

# Peak Color

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— It's well-known that north-eastern Minnesota has two distinct fall color seasons, and the first and most dramatic appears set to peak this weekend.

The annual turning of the red maple, with their fiery oranges and scarlets, began showing dramatic change this past weekend and conditions should only improve for this weekend.

The brightly-colored maples, which appear to be the most brilliant in years, provide the perfect contrast

with the deep greens of the region's conifers and the still mostly-green leaves of the aspen and birch. "This fall's overall color display should be vivid and travel-worthy," said Val Cervenka, the forest health program consultant in the DNR's Forestry Division.

Yellow aspen and birch, along with the smoky gold of the tamarack, make up the region's second color peak, which typically arrives in early-to-mid October.

It's the best time of year here in the North Country, so don't miss your chance to enjoy it!

## Outdoors in brief

### Duck season opens Sept. 21

REGIONAL— Duck hunting is expected to be good when Minnesota's regular waterfowl season opens a half-hour before sunrise this Saturday, Sept. 21.

"We're continuing to see favorable counts of breeding ducks in Minnesota and North America so we hope hunters enjoy what's shaping up to be a great season," said Steve Cordts, Department of Natural Resources waterfowl specialist.

This past spring, biologists estimated the total breeding duck population in Minnesota at 14 percent above the long-term average and nearly identical to last year's

estimate of 693,000 ducks.

The duck season structure is similar to recent years. Here in the north zone, the season will be open for 60 days, from Sept. 21 through Tuesday, Nov. 19.

The daily duck bag limit is six per day. The mallard bag limit is four per day, including no more than two hen mallards. The daily bag limits are three for wood ducks and three for scaup; two for redheads, two for canvasbacks, two for black ducks, and one for pintails.

The DNR will post a weekly waterfowl migration report each week during the duck season. The reports are typically posted on Thursday afternoon on the waterfowl hunting page.

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
75 61					71 51					63 46					64 46					65 47				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
09/09	59	41	0.00		09/09	60	41	0.00		09/09	57	46	0.00		09/09	63	41	0.00		09/09	59	39	0.00	
09/10	62	47	0.53		09/10	62	47	0.98		09/10	62	41	1.27		09/10	63	52	1.39		09/10	62	41	1.20	
09/11	65	52	0.05		09/11	66	52	0.03		09/11	63	52	0.02		09/11	55	48	0.06		09/11	65	52	0.06	
09/12	55	48	0.00		09/12	57	47	0.00		09/12	54	49	0.05		09/12	50	50	0.00		09/12	52	47	0.00	
09/13	54	48	0.66		09/13	53	47	1.45		09/13	54	48	2.46		09/13	55	55	0.80		09/13	55	50	1.95	
09/14	56	37	0.22		09/14	57	36	0.21		09/14	55	42	0.15		09/14	64	37	0.00		09/14	56	36	0.18	
09/15	66	36	0.01		09/15	66	36	0.02		09/15	51	42	0.01		09/15	75	52	0.03		09/15	65	37	0.05	
YTD Total			15.33		YTD Total			20.70		YTD Total			19.18		YTD Total			17.15		YTD Total			20.50	

## Bear harvest results

REGIONAL— Bear registrations continued at a pace well ahead of last year through the third week of the season. Through Sept. 17, hunters had registered a total of 1,952 bears, up 41 percent from the 1,386 bears registered during the same period last year.

"Cool and rainy conditions combined with fall food shortages in some areas, made for great bear hunting," said Tom Rusch, Tower Area DNR wildlife manager.

About 60 percent of the bears registered so far were males, with females making up the rest.

### Bear Harvest Numbers - Monday, September 16, 2019

Year	YTD	Total
2019	1,951	1,952
2018	1,386	1,768
2017	1,713	2,036
2016	2,245	2,633
2015	1,502	1,972
2014	1,262	1,624
2013	1,490	1,861

If the current trend continues, hunters should harvest between 2,300-2,400 by season end. That would be the second highest take in the past seven years.

Bear hunter success in the Minnesota quota zone is currently running at about 41 percent, among the highest success rates in the U.S.

## FORESTS...Continued from page 6B

"It creates a change in the dynamics of the whole landscape," said Frelich. "What this shows is that our forests are already responding to climate change."

### Old forests at risk

The implications of the trend, should it continue, would affect more than the age and type of trees that grow in northern Minnesota forests. It is also likely to have a major impact on the types and abundance of wildlife species in the state's forests. Frelich said species that require larger and older trees could well decline in the state if increased disturbance prevents forests from reaching maturity or beyond.

Wildlife officials with the Department of Natural Resources have already raised concerns about the loss of older forest as a result of increased timber harvest targets established by their agency, so the added impact of climate-related factors is likely to exacerbate the

potential losses of older forest. Numerous cavity-nesting species, from pileated woodpeckers and wood ducks, to fisher and pine marten, are among the species that could well be negatively affected by the increasing rate of forest disturbance. But other species, particularly birds like cerulean, blackburnian, and black-throated green warblers, utilize old forest canopies as their primary habitat during the breeding season.

David Wilson, the study's lead author, who recently joined the DNR as the northeast region's guideline monitoring coordinator, agreed that the findings "are rather startling," and said they "should be quite meaningful for management considerations."

Frelich said the trend could also have impacts on the timber industry if forests don't reach the kind of age typically necessary for efficient harvest. "A lot of stands identified for planned harvest of trees may not be there in the future," said Frelich.

According to Frelich, the study was made possible by changes implemented about 20 years ago in the way that foresters conduct their forest inventories. In recent years, foresters have assessed the changing forest by returning to the same plots every five years, which has given them a more accurate picture of the changes occurring and the causes of the change.

### Will the trend continue?

One of the most significant remaining questions for researchers and forest managers is whether the trend toward increased disturbance will continue. According to Frelich, it is possible that Minnesota's forests will reach a new equilibrium, perhaps as shorter, stockier, and more insect-resistant trees begin to dominate. "The forest will adapt," said Frelich, even though it may no longer be recognizable to those used to the traditional forests of the region.

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### Vet Tech students awarded scholarships at VCC

ELY- Six Vermilion Community College first-year students join the ranks of hundreds of college-bound students across Minnesota who were awarded workforce development scholarships worth \$2,500. These scholarships were designated to help them launch a career in a high-demand occupation in Minnesota. These scholarships were made possible by a \$7 million appropriation from the Legislature after a successful pilot program stemming from the 2017 legislative session that initially awarded \$1 million in scholarships in the 2018-2019 academic year.

The scholarships are for students pursuing careers within advanced manufacturing, agriculture, health care services, information technology, early childhood education, and transportation at any of the 30 state colleges of Minnesota State. The Vermilion scholarships were awarded to students pursuing the Veterinary Technology degree. The 2019 Minnesota Workforce Scholarship (\$2,500) award winners are Sophia Bruber of Lakeville, Nicole Dalen of Warroad, Andrew Finnegan of Eden Prairie, Korynn Fischer of Tower, Savannah Jacobs of Aitkin and Megan Jarvi of Jenkins.

“As I have traveled around the state, a theme that I consistently hear from employers is that Minnesota is facing a critical shortage of workers with the skills needed for high-demand occupations,” said Devinder Malhotra, chancellor of Minnesota State. “Workforce Development Scholarships have proven to be an effective tool for attracting students into these fields and helping them find a path towards a satisfying and well-paying career. We are grateful to the Legislature and the Governor for this opportunity, and we look forward to awarding these scholarships to help meet Minnesota’s workforce needs.”

### Spirit of Hospitality nominees announced; awards to be given Oct. 27

REGIONAL- Nominations for the 2019 Spirit of Hospitality Awards have closed, with a record 94 nominees in eight categories.

“This is the largest pool of nominees in our eight years of hosting this event,” said Beth Pierce, director of the Iron Range Tourism Bureau, which sponsors the event. “There has been an excellent response this year, and we’re excited to see many new businesses and employees being recognized for their great work.”

The Spirit of Hospitality Awards (SOHAs) began in 2012 and are designed to celebrate excellence in customer service. Anyone who works or volunteers on the Mesabi Iron Range may be nominated; nominations include a testimonial by the person who made the nomination.

“To me, the testimonials are the best part of the SOHAs,” Pierce said. “When we read them to the nominee at their interview, it just really makes their day. The words of praise mean a lot to them.”

All nominees are invited to a short interview with two judges. Their answers to a series of questions are rated, and the top point-getter in each

category is announced the winner at an annual banquet for all nominees and their guests.

“We see this event as a way to encourage and reward the type of customer service that any business needs to exhibit if they want to reach the next level,” said Jane Serrano, general manager of the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Mt. Iron and SOHA pioneer. “Dedication and hard work by employees make all the difference when it comes to generating repeat business and growing a good reputation for an organization and a community.”

This year’s Spirit of Hospitality Awards banquet will be held on Sunday, Oct. 27, at the Eveleth Auditorium. Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, is a special guest. Tickets for additional family members of nominees (nominee and one guest are admitted free) are available for \$25 by calling 218-749-8161 or visiting [www.ironrange.org/spirit-of-hospitality](http://www.ironrange.org/spirit-of-hospitality).

Local nominees this year include (this is only a partial list of nominees): Food Production: Ryon Popescu, Fortune Bay Resort Casino; Lenny Sidle, Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Guest Relations: Nicole Fairbanks,

Fortune Bay Resort Casino; Pete Pellinen, Soudan Underground Mine; Julie Petrzilka, Pebble Spa; Mike Salo, Town of Embarrass; Kendra Swanson, Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Hotel Guest Services: Krystal Brodeen, Fortune Bay Resort Casino; Rebecca Burke, Fortune Bay Resort Casino; Cassie Long, Fortune Bay Resort Casino; Christopher Martin, Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Retail: Suzanne Cardille, Lake Country Power.

Best Server: Shaylynn Hartland Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

The Iron Range Tourism Bureau is a destination marketing organization serving the communities of Embarrass, Hoyt Lakes, Aurora, Biwabik, Gilbert, Eveleth, Virginia, Mt. Iron, Buhl, Chisholm and Hibbing. Please note that every effort has been made to have correct spelling of nominees’ names. Please contact Beth at 218-749-8161 with corrections, or questions about the event.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
St. Louis County intends to expend Title III Federal funds for Dovetail Partners to update the County Wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan and conduct fire-wise program. These funds will be expended during the 2019 and 2020 calendar years and not to exceed \$55,568.36. Please contact St. Louis County Emergency Management if any questions at 218-726-2936.

*Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 20, 2019*

### EMPLOYMENT



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**The Superior National Forest – LaCroix Ranger District in Cook, MN**  
is seeking candidates to fill a temporary visitor center position for summer of 2020. Applications accepted online from September 16-30, 2019. Individuals wishing to apply must create an online profile in USAJobs at <https://www.usajobs.gov/> and then search for the vacancy announcement: 20-TEMP1-R9-2455-4DT-AM. Select ‘Cook’ as a duty location. Responsibilities include issuing BWCAW permits, providing visitor information, answering phones, and completing general clerical duties. Schedule will be mostly part-time and will include Saturdays and Sundays, 8-4:30, May-September. 218-666-0050.

*Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 20 & 27, 2019*

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Stipend: \$2,460.00. Application to include: district application form, available online at [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us), click on District then on Job Openings or at the District Office, current resume; background check required. Return application to: ISD No. 696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Application deadline: September 30, 2019. 9/27

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— Super Crossword —

Answers

R	E	S	A	D	J	O	M	I	T	A	B	E	T	A	B	S			
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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Babbitt Assembly of God Church.

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

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## SETTING OUT TO SIEGE

**Super Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
1 Dwelling place: Abbr.  
4 Modifying wd.  
7 Fail to mention  
11 Prez Lincoln  
14 Bar checks  
18 Artificial fat  
20 Relatives of allegories  
22 To — (precisely)  
23 Mocking remarks from Pluto's master?  
25 Burnett of CNN  
26 — Spumante (wine)  
27 Schubert's "The — King"  
28 Manet's forte  
29 Actor Claude  
30 "No, we're not going to give the employee a raise?"  
37 I, to Franz  
40 "Mazel —!"  
41 Fed. crash-probing org.  
42 Countertenor  
43 Very small toll to drive on a road through the Alps?  
48 Present from birth  
52 To a foreign country  
53 Fair-hiring inits.  
54 "Der —" (Konrad Adenauer)  
56 Ruin totally  
57 Fragment  
58 Use stitching  
60 Quips about a Civil War general?  
64 — Boothe Luce  
66 Yuletide quaff  
68 "— be great if ..."  
69 Leeds lav  
70 Miser's reformation into a generous person?  
77 Santa —  
78 Polly's "Alice" role  
79 — -TURN (street sign)  
80 Wafer brand  
82 Verbal noun the nitwit uses a lot?  
88 Actress Thurman  
90 Be inclined  
91 British noble  
92 "Why Can't — Friends?"  
93 Deutsch article  
95 Develop  
97 Painting on plaster  
99 Concert tour during which a Muppet opens for the "Open Arms" band?  
103 Singer Amos  
105 Tap-in, e.g.  
106 Suffix with north or west  
107 Opposite NNW  
108 "Stop grazing and return to your barn?"  
115 Bedeck  
116 Air safety org.  
117 Stimp's pal  
118 Close  
122 Certain Slav  
123 Very inexpensive part of a ship's hull?  
129 Different  
130 Maryland suburb of D.C.  
131 Motorist's guide  
132 Inuit's ride  
133 1040 org.  
134 With 11-Down, "Don't drop your guard!"  
135 Tent stake  
136 Gold, to Spaniards  
**DOWN**  
1 City in Italia  
2 Yalies  
3 Religious faction  
4 Enjoyed food  
5 Sahara-like  
6 1567-1625 king of Scotland  
7 Great riches  
8 Some parents  
9 Infuriation  
10 — Mahal  
11 See 134-Across  
12 Big — (WWI gun)  
13 Kin of -trix  
14 Korean martial art  
15 Upper heart chambers  
16 Living thing  
17 Taste, e.g.  
19 Power tool brand  
21 Trounce  
24 Mork's home planet  
29 Env. notation  
31 R&B singer — James  
32 Frogs' kin  
33 Group values  
34 Ad Council ad, for short  
35 "Son of," in Arab names  
36 Property transferor  
37 Windows ad catchphrase  
38 Steel-gray metallic element  
39 "Woo-hoo!"  
44 — Dame  
45 — the scene (having recently arrived)  
46 Flower plot  
47 Shade tree  
49 Totally fine  
50 Ascot, e.g.  
51 USNA grad.  
55 Perfumed powder  
59 Make furious  
61 Find by chance  
62 Archaic verb ending  
63 "Benny & —" (Johnny Depp film)  
65 & others  
67 Become liberated  
71 Not given under 112-Down  
72 Winter woe  
73 Logical  
74 OPEC ship  
75 Gathers bit by bit  
76 Tickles a lot  
81 Without batting —  
82 Furry TV alien  
83 Opposite of 118-Across  
84 Lofty verse  
85 Place to find pearls  
86 Peter out  
87 Sudden —  
89 Squirrel's bit  
94 Put between  
96 Ladder step  
98 Quarter, e.g.  
100 Tach reading  
101 "For shame!"  
102 Dada artist  
104 Less certain  
108 Valises, e.g.  
109 Novelist Scott  
110 Eponymous code creator  
111 Balsa boats  
112 Witness' promise  
113 Cousin, for one: Abbr.  
114 Sooner city  
119 Sailors' saint  
120 Lab medium  
121 Debtor's woe  
123 DOJ agency  
124 "Certainly!"  
125 May hrs.  
126 Harem room  
127 — v. Wade  
128 Duffel or tote

## Weekly SUDOKU

**Answer**

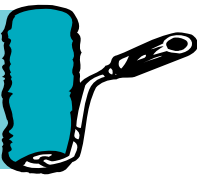
5	4	6	3	1	9	2	7	8
1	7	9	2	8	6	3	4	5
2	3	8	7	5	4	6	9	1
6	2	7	1	9	3	5	8	4
3	9	5	4	6	8	7	1	2
8	1	4	5	7	2	9	3	6
7	6	2	8	3	1	4	5	9
9	5	1	6	4	7	8	2	3
4	8	3	9	2	5	1	6	7

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