



**New trails open June 12...See /4B**

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**Cuts hit Duluth paper...See /3**  
**Ely mayor to be challenged... See /9**  
**Unexpected fame...See /1B**

# The **TIMBERJAY**



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\$1<sup>00</sup>

SUMMER CELEBRATION

## Sparks will fly, but no parades

**Ely council nixes grassroots effort to hold unsanctioned celebration**

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Any Fourth of July celebration here is off for this year due to health concerns surrounding the coronavirus and large gatherings.

The city council Tuesday night accepted a memo from the Ely Fourth of July Committee canceling festivities this year.

A grassroots effort to circumvent that decision was also stopped in its tracks.

The committee memo stated, “The Ely Fourth of July Committee has been closely monitoring the continually-evolving situation around COVID-19. Ely’s Fourth of July parade draws thousands of people

See... ELY pg. 8



**Young fans of North Country Fourth of July parades will miss out on the candy this year as communities cancel events.** Timberjay file photo

**Tower-Soudan businesses still plan to hold patriotic events**

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- At least there will be fireworks. But there will be no Fourth of July parade this year. There will be outdoor food and drinks at Main Street businesses, plans for live music, and hopefully a nice show of patriotic community support for this year’s Fourth of July.

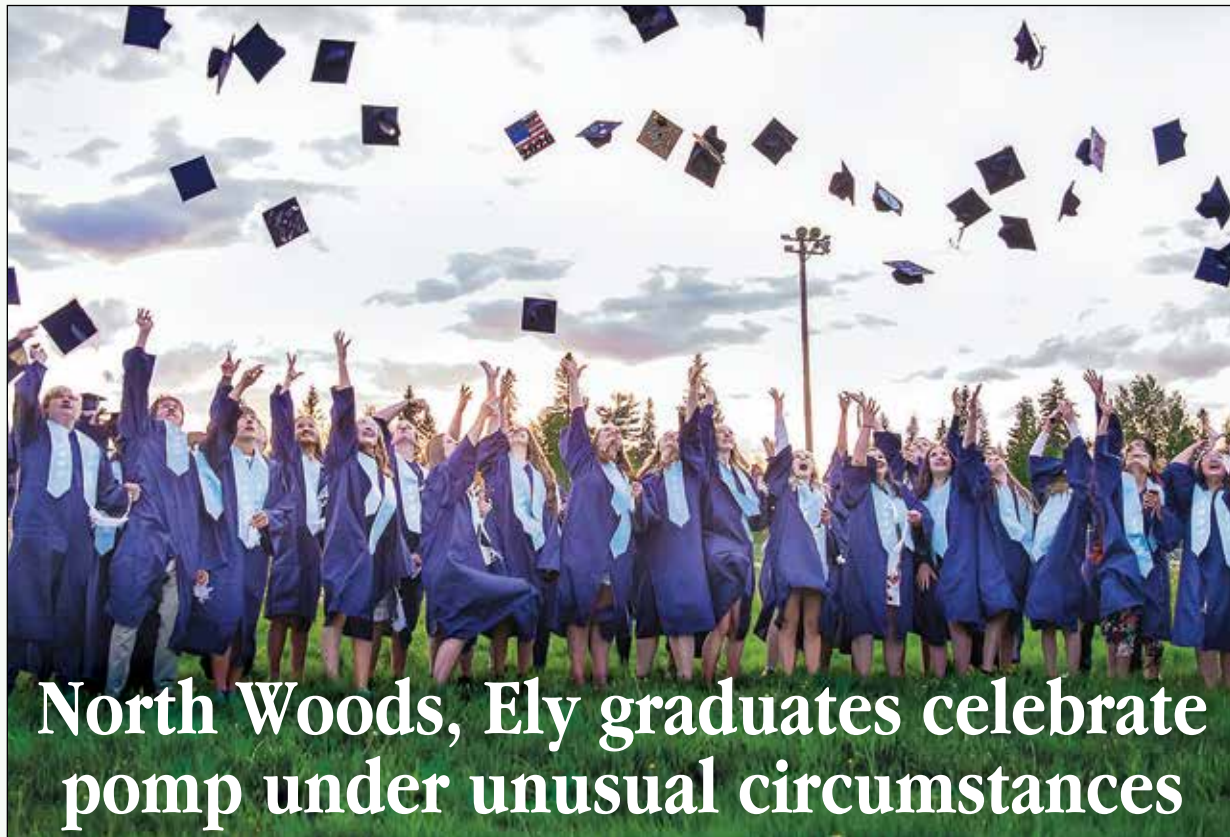
At the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board meeting on Monday, the committee voted 7-2 to cancel the parade.

“This is such a painful vote,” said committee chair Julie Johnson.

“At least one-third of the parade is already out,” said Johnson. “No

See...TOWER pg. 8

HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT 2020



**North Woods, Ely graduates celebrate pomp under unusual circumstances**



North Woods graduates, top, gathered in Cook to throw their mortar boards in the air after a drive-in ceremony last Friday. Jahna Sandberg, above, was congratulated by Koreen Sokoloski. Ely graduate Brielle Kallberg, right, popped out of the sunroof of her car to celebrate prior to the parking lot ceremony at Ely Memorial High School last Saturday night. Timberjay photos



ELY

## City council declines to oppose Walz

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – A resolution opposing Gov. Tim Walz’s executive orders that have temporarily shuttered numerous Ely businesses due to coronavirus public safety measures was voted down Tuesday night on a 2-5 vote by the city council. A second resolution urging Walz to allow businesses in the city to reopen failed to advance to a vote.

Council member Al Forsman, who drafted the measures, was joined by Angela Campbell in voting for the resolution declaring Ely as a “Constitutional and Business Friendly Community.” The rest of the council voted

See...ORDERS pg. 9

TOWER

## Budget deficits dominate audit report discussion

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER – As it has for the past few years, the city’s difficult financial condition and budget deficits dominated the discussion during the city’s annual audit report on Monday.

Auditor Devin Ceglar, of Walker, Giroux, and Hahne, noted that the city’s net position and fund balances continued to decline in 2019 and that longstanding deficits in several accounts, raised in the audit for several recent years, have yet to be addressed.

He also noted that the city experienced a budget deficit of just over \$1 million, although that primarily reflected the failure of the previous city council to budget for major anticipated

See...AUDIT pg. 10



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# Community notices

## MDHA Sturgeon River Chapter meets June 10

MT. IRON- On Wednesday, June 10, the MDHA Sturgeon River Chapter will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Mt. Iron Community Center parking lot. Please bring a lawn chair and observe social distancing.

## Ruby's Pantry, June 11

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry will be a drive-through food distribution at the old Cook School parking lot on Thursday, June 11 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. with a \$20 cash donation at the door. For safety reasons, no one over 60 years of age will be asked to volunteer. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango. For more information, contact Amy Viita at 218-666-2220.

## Choose your 4-H outdoor adventure

REGIONAL- Do you love the outdoors? Are you interested in exploring your local environment? Do you want to take a deeper dive into different outdoor adventures? Families and youth of all ages are invited to join this FREE 4-H learning experience throughout the summer of 2020.

Outdoor projects will be introduced on Mondays at 7 p.m. in live Zoom webinars with exciting guest speakers and youth-led instruction. You can choose to attend one or all.

Families will then receive Activity Guides to use during the week to dive deeper into the topics. Webinars will be recorded for families to view later. Register in advance for this webinar at <https://umn.zoom.us/join/422020>. For questions, contact Nicole Kuderle by phone at 218-749-7120 or email at [vande422@umn.edu](mailto:vande422@umn.edu).

► June 8- Start your summer adventure with 4-H Hiking! Come and meet a thru hiker of the North Country Trail and learn basic essentials for safe hiking.

► June 15- Join 4-Hers from across the state to explore the wild world of birds.

► June 29- For your next 4-H adventure, take a dive into outdoor skills. Learn wilderness survival tips, outdoor cooking safety, and more.

## LCP reschedules 2020 director elections for June due to COVID-19

REGIONAL- Due to COVID-19 and ongoing restrictions related to the pandemic, Lake Country Power's 2020 director elections and annual meeting were postponed in April. The LCP board of directors recently met and approved to carry out the 2020 director elections in June for Districts 3, 6 and 7.

Director ballots will be mailed to LCP members only in Districts 3, 6 and 7, beginning Wednesday, June 10. Candidates running for the LCP Board this year for District 3 are George Harvey from Britt (incumbent); for District 6, Daniel Kingsley from Hill City (incumbent) vs Donald Simons from Grand Rapids; for District 7, Craig Olson from Culver (incumbent).

Lake Country Power will use a hybrid election process for members, offering the opportunity to vote online or by U.S. mail to Survey & Ballot Systems using the provided postage-paid envelopes. Ballots cannot be dropped off or mailed to Lake Country Power. Voting instructions will be printed on the ballots.

Lake Country Power will hold the annual meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 26 at the Cohasset Service Center. Due to COVID-19 and ongoing uncertainties related to the pandemic, the meeting will be for the sole purpose of carrying out the elections in Districts 3, 6 and 7. The meeting will be closed to public attendance due to the coronavirus pandemic, ongoing health concerns, restrictions and public safety. Election results will be announced following the meeting on the cooperative's website, [www.lakecountypower.coop](http://www.lakecountypower.coop).

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

# IRTB awards grants to local trail projects



A mountain biker enjoys the view from the top of Lookout Mountain at the Laurentian Divide Trails. Photo courtesy of St. Louis County Trails/Paul Pluskwik Photography

REGIONAL- The Iron Range Tourism Bureau has announced nearly \$45,000 in grant awards for trail projects in St. Louis County.

"We're pleased to have a role in the development of trails in our region," said Beth Pierce, executive director of the IRTB. "Trails are an important part of our visitor economy, outstanding amenities for everyone who lives here, and powerful recruiting tools for businesses."

The grant was administered by the IRTB on behalf of the Northern St. Louis County Trails Task Force, a group that includes representatives from user groups, land managers, private business and tourism. The TTF meets monthly and is open to anyone with an interest in trails.

The TTF Grant Program is funded through the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation's Regional Trails Grant Program, and is intended to support projects of \$10,000 or less. It differs from the IRR Regional Trails Grant in that the matching funds may include donated labor, materials, and

equipment. The TTF program, which includes \$50,000 in funding, will remain open until the funds are spent. An application can be obtained by contacting Pierce at [beth@ironrange.org](mailto:beth@ironrange.org) or 218-749-8161.

## 2020 Grant Recipients

► Iron Range Off Road Cyclists: \$5,000 for improvements to the Laurentian Divide/Lookout Mountain Trails; \$1,637 for signage at the Maple Hill Mountain Bike Trails; and \$4,845 for signage at Minnesota Discovery Center for the RedHead Mountain Bike Trails.

► Mesabi Outdoor Adventures: \$910 for McDavitt Township cross-country ski trail improvements; \$2,950 for a gravel bike route mapping project; and \$1,180 to groom and map trails at the Laurentian Divide.

► Friends of Vermilion Country School/Howard Wagoner Trails Club: \$4,917 to complete the Ancient Cedar Forest Trail in Tower.

► Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club: \$7,810 to reroute a snowmobile trail

from wetlands to non-wetlands, and make it multi-use.

► Range Trail Committee: \$1,000 to finish dirt work on a Laurentian Trail re-route project.

► Crane Lake Visitor and Tourism Bureau: \$2,300 for a trail mapping project.

► Ranger Snowmobile/ATV Club: \$6,320 to finish the Round Creek Trail re-route project.

The Iron Range Tourism Bureau is a nonprofit destination marketing organization serving the communities of Hibbing, Aurora, Hoyt Lakes, Chisholm, Gilbert, Biwabik, Embarrass, Eveleth, Virginia, Mt. Iron and Buhl.

The mission of the Northern St. Louis County Trails Task Force is to foster the development and long-term sustainability of quality recreational trails and facilities in Northern Saint Louis County that meet the needs of residents now and in the future through cooperation with public agencies and private clubs/organizations.

# Anything Grown website launched

Site will facilitate connections between food producers and buyers

REGIONAL- Arrowhead Regional Farm Bureau is announcing a new website designed to connect locally-grown food producers and crafters directly with consumers. Anything Grown is a virtual marketplace designed to be fast and easy to use. Producers and farmers market managers manage their own pages allowing them to update and edit in real time to keep the information current. Consumers can search Google for "Anything Grown" or visit [www.anythinggrown.com](http://www.anythinggrown.com) to find the producers and markets nearest them. The site can also be searched by products.

Anything Grown was developed by Matt Nelson, Nelson Website Development Consulting LLC. Matt grew up on a farm near Hibbing and is now a professional web developer living in Washington, D.C.

Arrowhead Regional Farm Bureau has embraced the project because it meets a rural Minnesota agricultural need. According to chapter president Robert Hietala, "There are many local farmers and growers raising vegetables, fruits, other food and livestock. For them, reaching potential customers is a major challenge. Until now their primary marketing methods are word

of mouth and selling at local farmers markets. Anything Grown uses the internet and social media platforms to make it easier for people looking to buy locally-produced food and crafts to make the necessary connections."

The site is free to consumers and producers courtesy of Arrowhead Regional Farm Bureau. Minnesota locally-grown food producers and crafters who meet the site's terms and conditions may sign up by contacting [anythinggrown@gmail.com](mailto:anythinggrown@gmail.com) or by signing up at [www.anythinggrown.com/signup](http://www.anythinggrown.com/signup).

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NEWSPAPERS

# Duluth News Tribune slashes print editions

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

Move reflects industry-wide challenges in wake of COVID-19

REGIONAL- Battered by loss of advertising revenue driven by the economic consequences of COVID-19 shutdowns, The *Duluth News Tribune* announced last week that it will drastically cut its printed newspaper editions from seven days a week to just two, beginning in July.

The *News Tribune* will continue to publish web-based editions every day, but the cut leaves the 280,000-person metro area without a daily printed newspaper. This comes on the heels of an April decision by the *News Tribune* to downsize all its print editions except Sundays to a single 12-page section. The newspaper also will deliver its

print editions by mail, resulting in job losses in its print, circulation, and mailroom departments.

The newspaper's parent company, Fargo-based Forum Communications, has been implementing cost-cutting measures throughout its four-state media holdings, which include about 30 newspapers, four television stations, and a radio station.

Last week the *Lake County News-Chronicle* became the third Forum-owned newspaper to shut down completely since the start of the pandemic. Cutbacks announced along with those at the *News Tribune* include scaling back the *Superior Telegram* to one weekly print edition, and the

*Fargo-Moorhead Forum* to two print editions per week.

Publisher Neal Ronquist said in a press release that "the pandemic expedited the inevitable cut to print." Noting that the company had slowly been transitioning to online news platforms, Ronquist said pre-pandemic decreases in advertising and print subscriptions, combined with the current economic crisis, led to the cutbacks.

"Unfortunately, what's occurred is that the pandemic has accelerated that timeline of that transition," he said. "What may have been a transition of years has all of a sudden translated into days."



In a column announcing the changes, *News Tribune* Executive Editor Rick Lubbers emphasized that the paper will continue to cover the news seven days a week, and that the daily e-editions "will be filled with all the news, features, sports and advertising that our print readers value."

He also noted that the daily e-paper, which resembles a printed newspaper, will provide

subscribers with more content than print editions could provide. The newspaper also will continue with its news website.

According to the Poynter Institute of Media Studies, 30 newsrooms across the country have closed since the start of the pandemic. Since 2004, about 1,800 newspapers have shut down, Poynter reports, with 1,700 of those being weeklies.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

# Schools challenged over campaign spending

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL- An administrative law judge has found probable cause to believe that the Virginia and Eveleth-Gilbert school districts violated state law by failing to account for their spending to support passage of a 2019 bond measure and a consolidation vote held last month.

In a May 19 order, ALJ Barbara Case cited Abrahamson v. St. Louis County School District 2142, as holding that school districts do have an obligation to submit campaign spending reports if they disburse funds in an effort to win passage of a ballot measure.

The order comes in response to two complaints filed by Concerned Citizens of the Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia School Districts. In those complaints, the citizens group cites more than \$20,000 in expenditures by the Eveleth-Gilbert School District alone, for newspaper advertising and printing for materials that appeared to promote passage of the 2019 bond measure.

The group submitted a second complaint as well last month, citing promotional spending to support the consolidation vote between the two school districts, held last month.

The judge has since consolidated the complaints and set a

pre-hearing conference for June 26, at which time the judge and the parties will need to identify the issues to be resolved, along with the number of potential witnesses and exhibits.

The complainants allege that the school districts spent tens of thousands of dollars on advertising that they believe was misleading or false in an effort to win passage of the two recent ballot measures. Complainants also cite in-kind assistance from teachers and other school staff who aided in promoting passage. "Campaign finance reports were not filed, including that in-kind support," said Sally Zamen, an organizer of the citizens group. "This has all been done under

the direction of Kraus-Anderson, who will take at least \$7 million off the top," Zamen added.

Attorney Erick Kaardal, who is representing the citizens group, said school districts appear to have forgotten the lessons learned by the 2010-2015 legal battle between residents of the St. Louis County District and officials of that district, and suggested that the minimal fine eventually issued to the school district at the end of that process may be contributing to continued violations by school districts. "If you allow them to violate one law, what stops them from violating others?" asked Kaardal.

Left unaddressed in the

complaints is the broader question of the propriety of government bodies spending taxpayer funds to influence the outcome of ballot measures. Opinions issued by the Minnesota Attorney General in the 1950s and 1960s determined that it was inappropriate for government bodies to use public funds for such a purpose. Minn. Stat. 8.07 gives attorney general opinions the force of law as they apply to school districts, unless a court overturns the opinion. No such court decision has ever been issued in Minnesota.

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Justice for Mr. Floyd

Major changes are necessary to address racism deeply engrained in our institutions

Protect and Serve. That is the motto of police services around the country, but those words rang hollow recently in Minneapolis when a police officer named Derek Chauvin casually snuffed the life out of George Floyd, a black Minneapolis resident, who was among those Chauvin had sworn to protect and serve.

It was Chauvin's nonchalance about his cold-blooded act that was perhaps the most upsetting thing to watch in the video, now viewed by tens of millions. Chauvin undoubtedly knew he was being video recorded, yet his lack of concern could not have been more evident. For him, the murder of an unresistant, handcuffed and prostrate black man was an act for which he justifiably believed he would face no accountability. He knelt for more than eight minutes on the neck of George Floyd, until the man was dead, because he believed, as a police officer, that he could act out his racial hatred and get away with it. Given the long and tragic history of unaccountable police brutality against African-Americans in this country, Chauvin had little reason to fear he would face consequences, regardless of the evidence made available to prosecutors. We can only hope that George Floyd's death will signal an end to that mindset among police forces everywhere. We recognize, however, that it will likely take much more than this to change the authoritarian culture that infects far too many police forces and their unions.

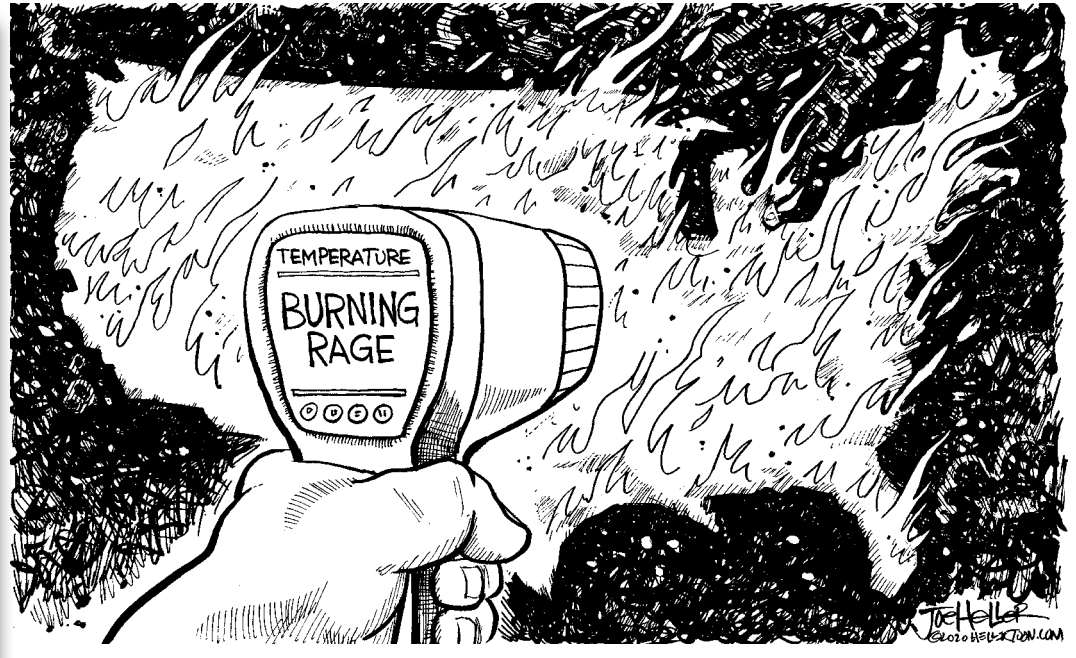
Chauvin's actions, and the lack of intervention by his fellow police officers as Mr. Floyd pled for his life and later lost consciousness, served and protected no one. While Chauvin, undoubtedly, sees himself as the victim (because his kind always does), his actions predictably sparked days of rage that have devastated the Twin Cities and other major U.S. cities and stained Minnesota's reputation.

Perhaps, more than anything, it was the symbolism of Derek Chauvin's actions that sparked such rage in the African-American community. For four centuries, African-Americans have felt the heavy knee of slavery, Jim

Crow, segregation, income disparities, and a horrible legacy of white violence against them, often perpetrated by the police themselves. For four centuries, they have been denied equal rights and justice in America. Here, in supposedly progressive Minnesota, African-Americans experience some of the worst disparities in educational achievement, income, and wealth, in the country. And as this goes to press, the Minneapolis police union president, Bob Kroll, is vowing to have all of the officers involved in Mr. Floyd's death, including Chauvin, reinstated to their jobs. With leadership like that, we're clearly in for a long struggle for reform.

For those who think that this isn't a racial issue, ask yourself how many white families have to sit their sons and daughters down as teenagers and teach them how to avoid being killed by the police. For African-American teens, the talk is a veritable rite of passage. Protect and serve? That's not the reality in the African-American community—and it never has been.

The destruction that followed in the wake of Mr. Floyd's death was tragic and, if possible, those responsible should be brought to justice. Yet, it's worth noting that the individuals who burned and looted weren't engaged in such mayhem as trained officers of the law. They weren't being paid by the taxpayers of Minneapolis to undertake acts of violence. Derek Chauvin and the officers who stood by and watched him kill George Floyd, were doing so on the city's dime. City taxpayers paid for their training. These police officers worked for an institution that supposedly require them to intervene when they witness an officer using excessive force. Yet every one of the officers involved in this incident did absolutely nothing to prevent Mr. Floyd's death. They neither protected nor served their community. They acted with callous disregard and their community has burned as a result. They failed Minneapolis and they failed Minnesota. In every single way.



## Letters from Readers

### Worry defines this moment

Here we are. Today. A time, which will be remembered. Riots in the streets - needless lack of concern for life. Careless leadership - unsure direction. A thoughtless virus - worry on a daily basis.

Measuring six feet around oneself - wondering if germs are creeping in.

But, up North, our simple life, we see nature bursting with the beauty of early summer. If one didn't read, or watch, or listen, one wouldn't know about greed, madness, despair. One could just slip through life immersed in the loveliness nature offers.

Every week here the same writers presenting their attempts, in letters, trying to convince the other side they should see the light of their argument. I'm often up in the night calmly painting pictures, yet the papers lie here before me, and I think, as I paint, how difficult it is to convince anyone of anything, even if one's evidence is very strong.

A president, totally self-serving, out of touch - well, one could go on and on about him.... and yet, many people are ignoring the reality he presents. Climate change on the back burner now with the virus after us. The economy, well, how much money can the government print? What's happening to the balance of power— Congress and the Judicial? And here — the mine — our little pending reality.

Evidence so strongly presented about dangers to our beloved air, land, water — people still willing to turn it all over to a foreign company. Much like the take on the President.

The difficulty? Awakening others to the realities of giving power to those who will only misuse it in our name. Much to ponder, much to fear. Makes one's head hurt in the night.

Perhaps we are seeing a new Dark Age? Does a civilization slip into such times without notice, led by disregard for that which needs to be protected and valued?

I sit here in the quiet of the night, hearing birds outside announcing the early morning, painting simple images.... my head hurts.

**Cecilia Rolando Ely**

### Request an absentee ballot now

Minnesota has had the highest voter turnout in the nation during the last two general elections. I anticipate that voters in Minnesota will continue this tradition in 2020. Maybe we can even increase our winning margin. But wait — we are in the middle of a COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that voters in Minnesota can request an absentee ballot, no reason required. In fact, the Minnesota Secretary of State is encouraging voters to request their ballot online. Once you have your ballot, you will have options. You can take your ballot to your polling place or put it in the mail. Just be sure it can be delivered before Election Day.

No one knows what the status of the pandemic will be in November. Having an absentee ballot gives us options for voting, so we can fulfill our civic duty without endangering our health. Don't wait. Apply at mnvotes.org or pick up an application at Northland Market in Ely and Zup's in Ely and Tower. Applications are also available at the Ely City Clerks's office and by request from the Ely Library.

Be prepared — get your absentee ballot now.

**Caroline Owens Ely**

### Solutions for change

In college, I took a social justice class. At the end of the course I vowed to myself that I would be a moral agent and a citizen teacher. I was inspired to use what I learned and my privilege to help others. I was also taught growing up that if you have a complaint, you should also offer solutions.

We are all not the same. I mean this in the nicest way pos-

sible. People of color have had to fight tooth and nail to be considered equal members of society. People of color have endured generations of trauma. People of color have to be cautious when they are out jogging, bird watching or doing the most mundane of tasks. People of color are more likely to be imprisoned for small crimes, killed by police, and are more likely to be impoverished.

We need social equity, meaning we need to not just treat each other equally but we must hold up our brothers and sisters who have had to face disadvantages. I've seen our representatives say a lot of nice things to calm the people over the past week; what I haven't seen enough of is representatives using their power to right the wrongs. Here's a list of some things that will help people of color and others who are impoverished or otherwise face disadvantages.

For our lawmakers:

- Make reparations for slavery.
- Give more funding to public schools.
- Create a universal health care system.
- Make public colleges tuition free.
- Release people who are imprisoned for petty, nonviolent crimes.
- Enact serious reprimands for acts of violence and discrimination by police officers.
- Guarantee access to clean water and healthy foods.

I know none of this will happen in a day, but you have the power to make the first steps on this path to racial equity.

For everyone, you need to read and heed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It can be found at [www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights](http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights). You should also treat all other humans with the same level of respect and decency you would give to your grandmother or whomever you respect most.

**Stephanie Ukkola Soudan**

## The week the Twin Cities blew up

I moved to Minneapolis amazed by the squeaky-clean city full of amazing parks and lakes, with alleys that were in better shape than the streets of Chicago, my home for the previous year. At the time Minneapolis was not very ethnically diverse, so I bought a duplex in the Central neighborhood because I didn't want to live in



**BETTY FIRTH**

a place where everyone looked like me. I had grown up in an almost entirely white community, a small town northwest of Chicago, and I welcomed city life with an interesting mix of people. The neighborhood was a pot-pourri of ages, races, and socio-economic profiles with a large contingent of thirty-something liberals with change on their agendas. My block on Portland

Avenue was a cross section of single family and rental properties, long-term owners and renters, and others who came and went fairly regularly. The busy street did not invite interaction with neighbors on the other side.

The multiplicity of cultures in Chicago with its proliferation of small, excellent, and reasonably-priced restaurants had educated and spoiled my palate. I wondered how I was going to deal with the surplus of bland "American" cuisine offered in the Cities. Chicago had also given me, a naive suburbanite,

my first exposure to lying landlords, gang graffiti on my garage, and cheering crowds at Cubs, White Sox and Bears games, complete with men urinating on the wall panels surrounding the Bears stadium. I knew within a couple months that I didn't want to stay. Chicago was just too much...too big, too dirty, too noisy, too angry, too impersonal. Minneapolis looked pretty good in comparison, and I settled for less Mexican, Indian, and Thai food.

Had I known more about living in cities, I probably

would have chosen a different neighborhood, because the area I lived in didn't have the necessary components to make easy connections between residents. It's the everyday things that do that: the grocery store, the library, the drugstore, the laundromat, bank, florist, post office, movie theater, and hardware store. It's the park where you always walk your dog and the coffee shop, food co-op, second-hand store, and small, locally-owned restaurant that you hang out in, getting to

See **CITIES...**pg. 5



## Letters from Readers

### It's time to do the right thing

It is with deep sorrow and a heavy heart that I ponder the events of the last week in Minnesota.

The murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, and three other officers, has unleashed justifiable rage across the U.S. It is time that all white people of goodwill join our black and brown brothers and sisters in their fight for racial justice. Our sense of shared humanity no longer allows us to keep silent on the sidelines. We have been silent for too long. Only when we join in this struggle together, demanding justice for all and an end to systemic racism, will we ever have a hope of achieving a more humane, just, and equitable country. Addressing racial justice is not a Democratic or Republican issue—it is an issue for every American, and at the

very core of America's promise.

Police brutality, typified by the murder of unarmed black and brown men and women by white police officers, is a symptom of a deeper, more entrenched, historical, institutional racism that affects every facet of life in America. There are multiple Americas based on race and class.

The coronavirus has laid bare for us all to see the glaring and unacceptable inequities built into our way of life and its institutions—in education, health care, job opportunity, housing, in wages, income and wealth, and in the courts and the criminal justice system (from policing, sentencing, prisons, etc.). This system-wide inequality is much deeper than a "police problem." Again, there are multiple Americas based on race and class.

In the short term, we must charge murdering police officers with murder. We must apply the same rules to all Americans—no

one is above the law—and send them to prison, holding them accountable for snuffing out the lives of our unarmed fellow citizens. The police must stop applying a death sentence to black and brown citizens for minor infractions. In George Floyd's case, Officer Chauvin acted as accuser, judge, and jury, murdering an unarmed man for allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill. Our outraged sense of decency and shared humanity demand this of us. To do otherwise, sullies and shames us as citizens and darkens the honor of our country. Justice for all in America is a moral issue.

In the long term, we must change the systems that have bred this inequality since our country's founding. It requires an unblinkered and thoughtful assessment of every American institution, and an overhaul to make them work for every American regardless of skin color. It is past time for the creation of a truly just America.

Our black and brown citizens have been begging for systemic change for years—their demands have fallen on deaf ears. But no more. We ignore their demands at our own peril.

The second event that occurred last week was the St. Louis County Commissioners' meeting to consider whether to allow refugees to settle in our beautiful county. As a granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Finnish immigrants to the Iron Range, I wish to honor their memory and their sacrifice by extending the welcome mat to others who are fleeing unimaginable suffering just like they did more than 100 years ago. My Finnish ancestors fled civil wars, persecution, grinding poverty, oppression, and famine. Their story was not that different from the refugees and immigrants fleeing their homelands today. Today's refugees may not look like us, or practice their religions the same way that we do, but at their core, like earlier immi-

grants, they want a safe place to raise their children and an opportunity to work hard.

The vast majority of Iron Rangers have always been open-hearted and generous, always lending a hand to those who were desperate, sharing what little they had. They knew their acts of kindness would be paid back ten-fold. The good people of the Iron Range welcomed my relatives in the early 20th century, as they did yours.

We have so much to learn from other cultures, from the immigrants and refugees who live among us. They help to build vibrant, interesting, and diverse communities. They can enrich rural communities like ours.

It is my fervent hope that in both cases—Mr. Floyd's murder and whether to welcome refugees to St. Louis County—we listen to our better angels, and we do the right thing.

**Valerie Myntti**  
Ely

### ENGAGED CITIZEN

## How to vote safely in Minnesota during the pandemic

by KEITH STEVA  
Timberjay Contributor

Given the risks of COVID-19, many voters are concerned for their safety but are receiving conflicting, confusing and often erroneous guidance as to how to vote to minimize risk. Constitutionally, states can determine how elections are conducted in their own state which results in a lot of differences between states. Therefore, national news is full of stories from many other states dramatizing changing voting processes, legal challenges, and voting rights issues, all of which does not apply to Minnesota.

Fortunately for us in St. Louis County, Minnesota's voting laws and processes are already relatively flexible and open. The only change this year is called "excuseless absentee voting" whereby a voter wishing

to vote by absentee ballot is no longer asked for a reason for absentee voting. This allows all voters to safely vote from home and avoid the polling place. This applies to the Aug. 11 primary election to choose candidates within parties where multiple candidates of the same party are running, and the Nov. 3 general election, including the presidential election. Minnesota allows registering to vote when you vote in person or you may register prior to voting. To learn how to register, visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>.

The traditional "day of election, vote in person at your polling place" is not changing. While election officials are adapting the physical layout to allow for social distancing you may still find yourself in lines. You can find your polling place



by going to <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> or call 1-877-600-8683.

The avoid-the-polls alternative is "early voting by absentee ballot." Early voting starts 46 days before the election, which for the Aug. 11 primary is June 26 and for the Nov. 3 general election is Sept. 28. You do not have to be registered to vote to apply for an absentee ballot, but you must request the absentee ballot; a ballot will not automatically be mailed to you.

You may vote early by absentee ballot, in person, at the St. Louis County Courthouse, County Election Office, 100 N 5th Ave, W # 214, Duluth (218-

726-2385). The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. business days and must be open the last Saturday before Election Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the day before Election Day until 5 p.m. When you arrive, you will be given your absentee ballot to complete and submit in person. You can register to vote at that time with proof of residence.

The stay-at-home early voting choice is to request that your absentee ballot be sent to you by mail. You will need to request an absentee ballot by one of two ways. An easy way to ask for an absentee ballot for the Aug. 11 primary, the Nov. 3 general election, or for both elections is to go online to <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>. Another way to request an absentee ballot is to mail your request to the Secretary of State.

It still requires you, or a family member or friend, to go online to <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2444/english-regular-absentee-ballot-application.pdf> to print out an application, you can then mail, requesting the absentee ballot.

After your request is received by the Secretary of State either online or by mail, you will be mailed an absentee ballot. You will need to read the instructions that come with your ballot carefully; you will need a witness when you vote and complete your ballot. The witness can be either a registered Minnesota voter or a notary, and can be your spouse. Finally, you must mail the ballot back immediately after you finish. Your ballot will not count if it is received after Election Day.

## CITIES...Continued from page 4

know the owners and your neighbors who frequent the same places. We just didn't have enough of those things to provide a core of casual connections, so I never did feel that sense of belonging.

I decided to try the neighborhood association route, went to meetings, and volunteered to be the block captain. The kids would come out if there were food and games, but the parents shied away. Two sisters in their 80s reminisced about earlier days when they held block club meetings in their home; now they were too afraid to let strangers in. The neighborhood and the association were full of good-hearted, hard-working residents, but it seemed like a losing battle to me. A long-term activist resident told me that they considered a neighborhood meeting successful if people showed up and nobody threw any chairs.

I had a home-based business, but I lived the rest of my life outside of my neighborhood. I learned my way around both cities and a lot of suburbs, more so than many Minnesotans who stuck pretty close to home. After a few years, I found the Quakers, and Minneapolis Friends Meeting and Friends for a Non-violent World (FNVW) provided a center for my social, spiritual, and volunteer activities.

Through the years, the Cities changed dramati-

cally; the metropolitan area grew by almost one and a half million people from 1980 to present day. The influx of immigrants brought their cultures and created neighborhoods and businesses including restaurants and grocery stores. The gangs also moved in from other U.S. cities, identifying Minnesota as a market ripe for the harvest. A peace officer from our neighborhood who had lived in St. Louis and Dallas recognized the graffiti identifying each gang, and he tried to warn the mayor, who refused to pay attention, preferring to live in denial. The gunfire was more frequent, occasionally resulting in tragedy, as when a neighbor boy who was mentally challenged, was gunned down in a drive-by shooting because, unknowingly, he wore the wrong colors that belonged to a rival gang. One day I was saying goodbye to a friend in front of my duplex, and a man with a gun ran right by us though the yard, followed a few seconds later by a police officer with his gun drawn. They disappeared into the back, running toward the alley. She looked at me, wide-eyed and said, "Are we in a movie?" We never heard what happened.

But the gunfire and occasional problems with tenants were not the worst of it. What got me down was the persistent lack of civility: the broken glass

on the sidewalks, the litter everywhere, the noise from overly loud boom boxes on porches, through open windows, and from jacked-up stereo systems in passing cars, making the glass in my windows rattle. There was seldom a cheerful greeting, except from the children who helped me plant peppers and flowers the last summer I was there. I was white and a landlady and not to be trusted.

But it was still my neighborhood, my home for twenty years, and I defended it to those who would criticize or ask, "Why are you living here?", like the policeman who responded to a call I made. They were asking

the wrong question. They should have been asking how to make cities and neighborhoods work better for everyone. They should have been identifying the lack of resources, the lack of interest in providing more opportunities, education and jobs, the lack of knowledge about building strong communities. Some of my tenants were low income, some were black, and we were often treated with disrespect when we asked for help from the police who I wanted to ask, "Why are you living in Eden Prairie?"

I was eager to leave the city, but it wasn't until after I moved to Ely that I realized how shredded my nerves were from the

constant urban energy drain. It took me about six months to really relax and breathe more easily. I feel grateful every day that I am lucky enough to live in this small, quiet town where we have our differences, but I believe, at the heart of it, we know we're all in this together when we greet each other in the grocery store or post office. But my heart broke last week when George Floyd was killed in my old neighborhood, and the city and country blew up, boiling over with the pent-up

frustration and anger of people being ground down by poverty, injustice, and hopelessness, trapped by a system that changes way too slowly or none at all. Will this be enough to bring recognition and the will for revolutionary change? Only if we insist and work to make that happen.

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DINING

# Area restaurants reopening with outdoor dining

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- A morning thunderstorm did little to dampen the enthusiasm for the return of sit-down outdoor dining at Tower's two open restaurants, Benchwarmer's Grille and Good Ol' Days.

Jeff and Laurie Williams, from Waconia, were enjoying their lunch at a sunny table behind Good Ol' Days on Monday. The couple was visiting Tower for the first time, on a camping trip at Hoodoo Point. After being cooped up due to the pandemic, they were happily enjoying their time at Lake Vermilion.

"The food is great," they said, as they offered to bus their own table to spare their waitress another trip up and down the back stairs.

Another couple was sipping beer from bottles, enjoying a relaxing afternoon outdoors.

Amanda Mellesmoen and Arielle Petterson were busy wiping off the tables in the new, impromptu outdoor seating area in front of Benchwarmer's. This area has room for 11 tables, and the back deck, which overlooks the mini-park, has another six.

Both restaurants have been busy implementing new safety precautions.

Food is being served in take-out containers at Good Ol' Days and plastic baskets at Benchwarmer's. No condiments are out on the tables. Menus need to be washable (laminated plastic) or one-time use paper. Hand sanitizer stations are being installed. Bathrooms are being regularly cleaned. Indoor staff wears masks when interacting with the public.

Amanda and Gary Mellesmoen Jr. said there has been a lot of last-minute planning, and that the added complication of rainy weather meant there was a lot to think about.

Semo has a large event-style tent set up in his parking lot area, so rain has not been as much of a concern, except for wait staff who then need to take the long way around through the basement to get to tables without getting the food wet. Tables are also available on the front sidewalk.

Both owners are hoping that Gov. Walz will start allowing limited indoor seating soon, even if it's only at 25 or 50-percent of capacity.

Both Benchwarmer's and Good Ol' Days have had a lot of local support from carry-out orders since restaurants were ordered to close back in March.

"We really appreciate all the support we received," said Gary.

Both said that the carry-out business was a little slow to start up, but then became steady

enough to carry them through the closure period.

"We really miss our happy hour regulars," said Gary, who said they are happy to start seeing their locals, along with tourists, again.

Semo said his regular breakfast bunch, the "morning boys," were back for an outdoor breakfast first thing Monday morning, and planned to resume their regular schedule.

Both restaurants are open daily. Good Ol' Days opens at 6 a.m. and serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Benchwarmer's opens at 11 a.m. for lunch and dinner. The ice cream shop at Benchwarmer's is also now open. Doors have been designated as entrance and exit, and the number of customers inside is being limited to one person or one small family group at a time. Benchwarmer's also has an off-sale liquor store.

## Lake Vermilion dining spots

Both Vermilion Club and Bayview Bar and Grill are open, serving diners outdoors and providing carryout.

Vermilion Club is open daily and serving diners on their newly-installed patio. Monday and Tuesday are pizza-only, with a full menu the rest of the week.

Vermilion Club has been offering pizza for carryout since the closures began in March, and even offers dock-side delivery. They are also offering off-sale liquor.

Pizza is available Monday-Thursday from 3 - 9 p.m., and Friday-Sunday from noon - 9 p.m. The restaurant kitchen is open Wednesday and Thursday from 3 - 9 p.m., and Friday - Sunday from noon - 9 p.m. "We are doing our best to follow all state protocols per the Governor's orders," said Autumn Jacobson. "We want to keep our customers and employees in a safe environment."

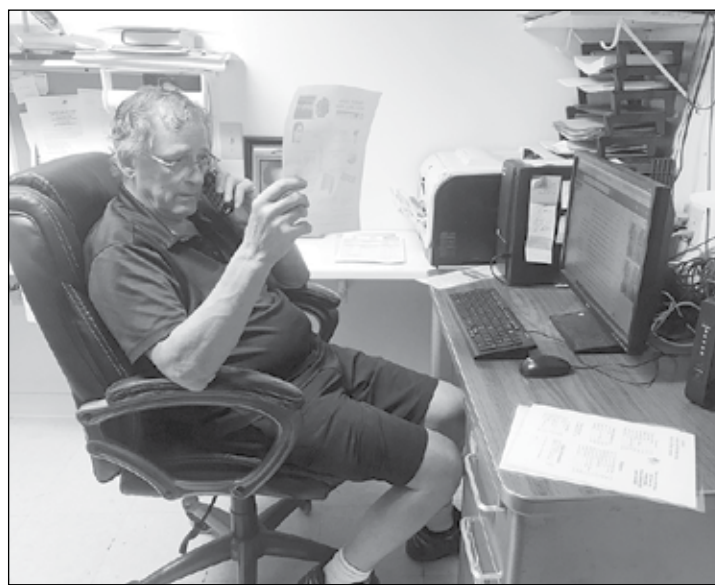
Seating capacity is limited to 50 people, and per the Governor's order, reservations are required.

Bayview opens on Friday, June 5, and will be open Wednesdays through Sundays throughout the summer. Hours will be noon - 9 p.m. Capacity is limited to 50 people out on the deck, tables are limited to four people, or six if part of one family unit. Reservations are required in advance.

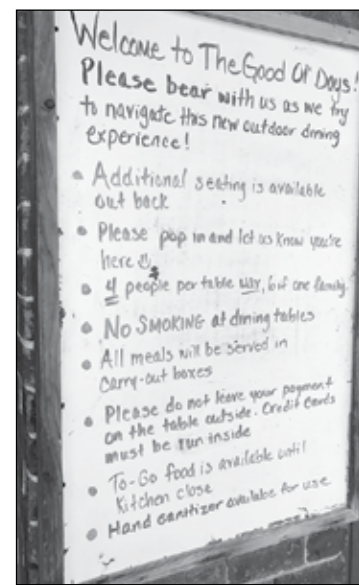
"The times are tough, and we are very thankful to be able to get many of our workers back to work and back to serving our wonderful customers again," Vermilion Club and Bayview wrote on their Facebook page.

## Wilderness Grill

The Wilderness Grill at the golf course at Fortune Bay now features chef Bryan Morcom,



Above: Good Ol' Days owner Randy Semo has been busy ordering the special, and expensive, supplies necessary to keep the restaurant staff and customers safe. Above right: Dining out has a whole new set of rules.



Above: Amanda Mellesmoen and Arielle Petterson wiped down the rain-soaked outdoor tables at the new dining area at Benchwarmer's. New umbrellas were also being installed. Below left: Drive-in, boat-style, for carry-out pizza at Vermilion Club (submitted). Below right: Benchwarmer owners Amanda and Gary Mellesmoen Jr., on the newly-renovated back deck that overlooks the city park and playground. photos by J. Summit



who ran the Moose Bear Wolf Restaurant in Ely last summer. Morcom grew up in Tower and enlisted in the Navy fresh out of high school, then decided to follow his true passion of cooking and he soon attended Le Cordon Bleu school in Minneapolis. After 26 years in the restaurant industry, Bryan has gone back full circle to where he started his culinary career at Fortune Bay when he was 15.

Bryan loves creating new dishes using as many locally grown ingredients as possible as well as his own wild-har-

vested foods. Throughout the year, menu items will be modified to reflect the seasons. Stop by The Wilderness Grill to see firsthand how Bryan and his team incorporate local ingredients.

The Wilderness Grill is now open for limited dine-in service on the outdoor patio. All new lunch and dinner menus are available. Reservations are required. Tuesday -



Sunday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Mondays offers the patio grill menu only 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. The bar open daily at 8 a.m.

The Gold Mine Grill inside the casino is also now open daily.

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

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

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

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

**Tower Cemetery Association**

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN.  
*Thank you to ALL who donate.*  
**We still need your support and the support of others.**

**Checks are to be made out to:**  
**Tower Cemetery Association**  
**PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790**

Thank you,  
The Tower Cemetery Board

Published in the Timberjay, May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2020

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Fresh produce, Karl's bread, Bear Creek Acres meat, Shelby's pies, home-canned and home-cooked goodies, textiles, woodworking and much more. There will be some changes to our layout and procedures in order to keep vendors and customers safe by following CDC guidelines.

**We look forward to seeing you!**



PUBLIC SAFETY

Week of June 8

# Tower's newest firefighters building their skills

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- With an influx of motivated new members, the Tower Fire Department is on the fast track to getting the training needed for Firefighter I and II certification.

Last weekend, seven Tower FD members, along with eight others from area departments, did three days of hands-on training at the Tower Fire Department with staff from the Central Lakes College in Brainerd.

"Our new people will be certified for Firefighter I and II by the end of July," said Tower Fire Chief Paige Olson.

While Olson has already completed both classes, she said the instruction was more advanced than what she had previously taken, and it also included quite a bit of hands-on leadership training for herself, since she had only stepped into the chief role this spring.

"I've never done any trainings like this before," said Olson. "They make the scenarios seem like they are real fires. There are lots of things for all of us to learn."

"We did everything from hose rolling to fire attacks," said Eric Makowski-Budrow, EMS/Fire Training Coordinator at CLC. "In addition to conducting training that ranges from the basics to the advanced, we were here to build confidence in these firefighters. We want them to be competent in their skills along with being confident in what they are doing."

Budrow told The Northland FireWire that the Tower students are very dedicated and determined. "They want to



**Above: Beginning firefighter Victoria Ranua practices skills with a rescue saw. Left: Instructors give firefighters a lesson on operating a powerful saw used to cut into a burning building.** photos by M. Helmberger

learn, and they are very serious about the firefighting profession," he said. "I believe they're having a good time and are enthusiastic about the training, even though it can be demanding."

The training began Friday night and continued through Sunday.

Olson said the department members are

also completing the on-line portions of the class individually.

On Saturday, after 15 hours of hands-on training, the department was called out to do traffic control on Highway 135 for a single-vehicle accident.

"I don't think any of us got home until after 12:30 a.m.," said Olson,

who noted that everyone was back at the hall on Sunday morning to complete the training.

"Everybody is doing great," Olson said. "They love responding. They love helping out. They love working as a team."

The department's participation in calls has also improved greatly, with between seven and nine members responding to emergency calls, Olson said.

The weekend of training included everything from the basics, like rolling fire hose and fire nozzle techniques, to how to safely enter a

burning building wearing full firefighter SCBA gear.

This group of firefighters will do another weekend-long training in late June, which will focus on the skills taught in the Firefighter II class, including advanced interior firefighting simulations.

Information in this article also courtesy of Pete Makowski/Northland FireWire

## St. James to resume in-person church services on June 14

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower will resume in-house worship services on Sunday, June 14 at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School will be at 9 a.m.

Those attending will be practicing social distancing and face masks will be required. Some

masks will be available if needed. There will be music, but no singing. There will be no fellowship hour.

Community coffee, fellowship and prayer will be in the fellowship hall by reservation only to limit the number of people to insure social

distancing. Call Pastor Doug at 218-753-6005 for details.

The worship service will also be recorded for the YouTube Channel (St James Presbyterian Tower, MN).

## THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



### Dear Hearts,

We have been trapped like a rat in a trap!

I really do not know WHERE THAT came from! Probably the British Lit class I cut a lot, until one day I was stopped by the instructor, Dr. Christenson, who said, "You DO know, Miss Milion, that my class meets on Friday, also?"

Never missed again and, just to show off, ACED it!

Professors and teachers ALWAYS say, "You need to know this for your future."

Along with some of you, has this EVER affected any part of your life?

"Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote,

The droghte of

March hath perced to the roote,

And bathed every veyne in swich licour Of which vertu engendred is the flour;

Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages, And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,

To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes...."

Even during the recent medical Hoo Haw, nothing Chaucer popped into my mind.

Hilda kicked in the TV screen within minutes of the order to 'STAY IN PLACE!' or whatever the catch word. She says she was just exercising her right to free speech. I WOULD mention the name of the politician she abhors, but if I do, I suppose The Timberjay will be held financially to blame and might deduct the legal fees from my salary.

We do have our little jaunts and outings that help us pass the time. We take the 'lake' road, but we always seem to end up at the SOS.

For non-locals, the SOS is Soudan's Only

Store!

The SOS is the place to get gas, lottery tickets, scratch-offs, the pound of butter you forgot, ice cream cones, sundaes and in the past, first jobs for teenagers in the 'olden days'!

The varieties of ice cream go beyond Vanilla, Chocolate, and Maple Nut.

There are enough exotic concoctions to make even the most jaded BCT (Big City Tourist) feel comfy, cozy, and secure!

Tourists sit on the store's steps, but the locals sit at the picnic table across the way. Across the street is the official WELCOME sign.

There are banks of marigolds and little American flags. The sign also points the way to Lake Vermilion and McKinley Park. In the 'olden days' there would also be a sign that the garden and sign were created by the V.F.W., The American Legion, the Soudan Study Club, the Elks, the Moose...a long list of possibilities!

So to whomever, thanks not just for us

locals as we sit on the S.O.S steps, but to all the visitors who take a bit of our home to theirs.

Thanks to the Masked Gardener!

I just got a wonderful catalog from Dave and Jules Hardy who live at 5B Esker Road, Tyrone, Northern Ireland. There are hundreds of daffodils with fantastic names:

A musical garden, "Amazing Grace," "Canticle," "Minute Waltz..."

A military garden, "Defense Corps," "Little Sentry," and "Marine Corps."


A people garden, "Jodie," "Suzie's Sister," and "Yummy Mummy."

If you noticed canisters around town luring you to insert money for a worthy cause...HHH. It has nothing to do with Hubert Humphrey, Help Homeless Hobos, or Help Hilda get to Hawaii.

It means Help Hilda get more Hostas.

Ta Ta, loves, nice to be back!

Ms. Vera Milion



**the TIMBERJAY**

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OUR COMMUNITY

# Ely slowly reopens following coronavirus shut down

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor



ELY – In response to Gov. Tim Walz’s loosening of social distancing restrictions with the recent “Stay Safe Minnesota” order, businesses in the Ely area are slowly reopening.

As of June 1, retail businesses were allowed to reopen with limited capacity and group gatherings of 10 or fewer people, including places of worship. Restrictions on hair salons, and restaurants and bars, with outdoor seating only, are starting to lift, slowly, but theaters and venues that attract large crowds must remain closed.

Many Ely businesses this week announced their plans and procedures for partially opening to the public. The Ely Chamber of Commerce provides updated information at [www.ely.org](http://www.ely.org). All business information is subject to change without notice.

► P.J.’s Hair Co. is open for appointments only. Please remain in car until staff escorts you inside. Protective face masks are required.

► Steger Mukluks is open for curbside service only.

► Red Cabin Custard has limited hours: Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 9 p.m., and Monday, Tuesday Thursday, and Friday, 3 to 9 p.m. There will be no outside seating. Please maintain social distancing. Cash only.

► Log Cabin Coffee continues drive-thru service Monday-Saturday, or 1-800-662-5711.

7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

► Grand Ely Lodge offers outdoor dining from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. by reservation only, and limited to a maximum of four persons. They recommend all guests wear a face mask upon arrival and departure from the premises. Take-out service is also available for dining on front lawn or picnic tables.

► Ely Steak House is open noon to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday for curbside service only. Call ahead to place order and pay by credit card.

► Dairy Queen Grill and Chill drive-thru and curbside pickup is available 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily.

► Subway is open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Order in store or call ahead. No dining allowed inside.

► Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant is open for curbside carryout Tuesday through Saturday.

► Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. is open daily from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. for takeout only. Face masks required.

► Britton’s is open daily for curbside pickup.

► Zaverl’s Bar opened its outside deck and renovated patio on June 1. Hours, subject to change due to weather, are noon to 10 p.m. daily. No pets allowed.

► Oriental Orchid is open Monday thru Saturday, 3 to 8 p.m. for takeout. Cash only.

► Northern Grounds is open daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for take-out only. Patio dining is set to begin on Tuesday, June 14.

► Piragis Northwoods Co. is now open daily, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please practice social distancing inside store. Curbside service remains available.

► Pebble Spa is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Protective face masks are required.

► Pengal’s is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays. Protective face masks are suggested.

► Ely Surplus and Mealey’s opened for in-store shopping this week. They are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday

through Saturday. Limit of four people in store at one time. Protective face masks are required. Curbside service is by appointment only. No cash. Call ahead.

► Looney’s remains closed.

► Ely Flower and Seed is open daily until 6 p.m.

► Wintergreen retail store remains closed. Order online.

► Lobo Leathers is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. All payments accepted.

► Arrowhead Outdoors is open daily 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

► Burntside Lodge and Restaurant is open for lodging only.

► Crapola will open for walk-in business on Wednesday, June 10, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Take-out orders available. Customers are encouraged to practice social distancing.

► Ely Old Fashioned Candy is open Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Please use hand sanitizer and practice social distance rules.

► J.D. Mills Company is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 50-percent capacity. Protective face masks and social distancing are preferred.

► Sir G’s Italian Restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Outside dining and car

hop service will added. Take out service is available.

► Sisu Designs is now open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Masks are required and available for customers. Only four visitors at a time.

► Spirit of the Wilderness is open 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Social distancing and limited customers required.

► Silver Rapids Lodge opened their deck this week for pizza and bar service.

► Dorothy Molter Museum is only open for curbside pickup for wholesale root beer and online retail orders. No tours at this time

► Art and Soul Gallery is open Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Protective face masks required.

► Potluck Kitchen Store is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Protective face masks suggested. Hand sanitizer available. Limited capacity.

► Catz Billiards and Blues is open daily 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. They will be sanitizing pool and dartequipment between customers. Protective face masks suggested.

► Insula Restaurant is open for curbside pickup, serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and beer and wine to go.

## 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.



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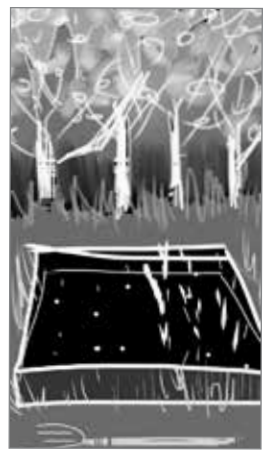
## ELY POLICE CHIEF HANGS UP HIS BADGE



John Lahtonen retired last Friday as police chief of the Ely Police Department. He celebrated with friends and city staff outside City Hall with an impromptu “Not My Problem Anymore” party. photo by K. Vandervort

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



high winds, with hot temps garden plants making progress  
white lilacs blooming

## Ely Tree Board seeks help from residents

ELY – The Tree Board here is seeking support from residents in watering the boulevard trees by their homes. “We are in critical growing months and rainfall alone, unless it’s a real drencher, does not give the trees the water they need to thrive,” said Co-chair Mary Groening.

The Tree Board uses two means to water trees: the green gator bags and the puffy black “tree diapers” at the base of some trees. Gator bags are the superior method of watering young trees if they are being filled once a week, according

to Groening. “In places where trees are not being watered regularly, diaper bags are a better fit because they provide steady moisture to the trees by absorbing water when it rains and releasing it slowly into the dirt around the tree.”

The Ely Tree Board provided tips to help keep street trees strong, healthy, and growing:

- Use a hose and fill any gator bags on the boulevard near your house once a week.
- If you are not able to water, and you have a young tree in front of

your house with a gator bag, message us and ask us to switch it out for a diaper bag.

► Be careful when mowing or weed whipping to avoid the tree trunk “We’ve seen a weed whip hit kill a young tree,” Groening said. Also, please keep those machines away from gator or diaper bags, which can easily be damaged by a quick swipe with a mower or whipper.

Direct questions or concerns to the Ely Tree Board’s Facebook page or email [treesofely@gmail.com](mailto:treesofely@gmail.com).



WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Fourth-grade wax museum



The fourth-grade class at Ely's Washington Elementary School conducted their annual wax museum project this spring despite the distance-learning protocols in place because of the coronavirus pandemic. Nancy Preblich's class ran in the May 29 issue of the Ely Timberjay. John Meyer's students are featured this week. Top row from left, Avary Brandau as Sacajawea, Brenna Hegfors as Dolly Parton, Brady Forsberg as P.T. Barnum, Asher Adelson as Steve Irwin, Brooklyn Sherman as Albert Einstein. Second row from left, Addison Myers as Selena, Cooper Mayranen as an upside-down Harry Houdini, Logan Kainz as George Washington, Jordan Borchert as Temple Grandin. Third row from left, Elena Freking as Iditarod winner Susan Butcher, Laydan and Talan Hart as Orville and Wilbur Wright, Nolan Anderson as Milton Hershey.



Above, from left, Grant Chittum as Jacques Cousteau, Wyatt Devine as Ernest Shackleton, Saylor Sandberg as Princess Dianna, Morgan Scarbrough as Amelia Earhart, Eryk Dominguez as Nikola Tesla, Mattie Lindsay as Marie Curie. submitted photos



NLAA hosts Art Road Show this weekend

ELY – The Northern Lakes Arts Association put out a call for Ely artists to

participate in a community event this weekend to display works of art in their own front yard and eight artists are participating in NLAA's Ely Presents: An Art Road Show.

The unique art show is a community-building event during shelter-in-place recommendations due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A list of artists and

addresses is posted on NLAA's website, [www.NLAA.org](http://www.NLAA.org).

NLAA promotes social-ly-distant viewing on Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7 from

cars, motorcycles, bicycles and on foot.

For more information, contact NLAA at [contact@northernlakes.org](mailto:contact@northernlakes.org).



NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# Drive in a senior, drive out a graduate

## School holds parking lot commencement



## 4-H club will hold virtual pet show for food shelf

COOK- While some folks focus on turning lemons into lemonade, Baytree Field 4-H Club is getting ready to turn their lemons into pet food.

The club has staged a popular pet show at Cook Timber Days in recent years, but with Timber Days canceled there's also no pet show.

"The kids were very disappointed because it's the one thing they do for 4-H for a community thing," volunteer Jenny Knuth said. "They always look forward to seeing a lot of critters come to town and they bring their own critters, too."

The club has kept meeting via Zoom, and at a recent meeting one of the members came up with an idea.

"We've been holding our meetings online," Knuth said. "The kids thought why can't we do something like that for the pet show?"

Contacts were made with the Timber Days committee, who agreed to host the virtual pet show on their Facebook page.

"The plan is for people to post on that thread their pet pictures and vid-

eos underneath the poster flyer," Knuth said. "The kids will be doing the judging once or twice a day as they come in."

Entrants can begin posting pictures and videos of their pets to the Cook's Annual Timber Days page on Facebook beginning Saturday, June 13. Posts can be made until 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 14.

And while the kids will be giving awards for things like the fluffiest dog or best fetch trick, instead of prizes for participants, the club is going to use its own funds to donate \$5 per entry, up to \$75, to the Cook Community Food Shelf to use for families who need food for their cats and dogs.

"I'm thrilled that we have kids that are excited about doing this," Knuth said. "They're doing it because they can. They know folks who are having a hard time may need a bag of cat or dog food, too."

For more information, call Knuth at 218-290-4379.

Mostly cloudy skies last Friday couldn't dampen the spirits of the North Woods Class of 2020 and their families as the school parking lot was filled for a drive-in style graduation ceremony. In likely the first time "Rows 3, 4, and 5, line up at the water tower" has ever been uttered at a graduation, Principal John Vukmanich directed traffic and read the roll call of names as students drove up to the stage and got out of their cars to pick up their diplomas and have their pictures taken.

**Top:** Waiting for the chance to turn her tassel from right to left, senior Amia Kisch listens to the proceedings from the back of a truck.

**Left:** Bethany Cotten steps up on stage to pick up her diploma, have her picture taken, and pick up class flowers.

**Center:** Jerome King works to position his mortar board just right prior to the start of graduation.

**Center right:** Meadow Prescott smiles at a well-wisher as she makes her way to the stage to collect her diploma. Principal John Vukmanich is in the background.

**Bottom:** As if the parking lot and isolation in cars weren't enough to signal that the novel coronavirus made this year's graduation unlike any other, Daniel Crockett wears a mask as he waits for his turn to get in line to receive his diploma.



**OPENING**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19  
4-6 PM  
at the Depot

Fresh produce, Karl's bread, Bear Creek Acres meat, Shelby's pies, home-canned and home-cooked goodies, textiles, woodworking and much more. There will be some changes to our layout and procedures in order to keep vendors and customers safe by following CDC guidelines.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Thank You**

Thank you to friends and family for making my 80th birthday so special! What a celebration it was with a drive-by parade, a Zoom meeting, all of the gifts, cards, phone calls, and 80 candles in the newspaper! I won't forget all the wonderful memories made in the last 80 years!

Thank you everybody!  
Wally Refsdal

**NOTICE \* CHANGE OF HOURS**

Until further notice the **COOK COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF** will only be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. This change will start on June 17.



# Options mixed as restaurants re-open outdoors

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK/ORR- Some area restaurants and bars that have been limited to take-out only since Gov. Tim Walz imposed restrictions to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus started welcoming customers to outside dining on Monday, while others are staying pat for now.

Eager diners flocked to The Landing on Lake Vermilion on Monday, where owner Mark Litherland said they were set up with the maximum outdoor dining spaces allowed.

"We could handle 50 without a problem," he said, noting that appropriately spaced tables were available on the deck outside the restaurant and down by the boat slips, where dockside service is also available.

As with all establishments serving outdoors, reservations are required, and response was initially slow late last week. But hungry patrons turned out in force on Monday,

filling those seats three times over. Litherland said he was confident his customers were both well-fed and safe.

"The key is that we're going to honor what we're told," he said. "We don't necessarily agree with everything, but we're going to honor it. All our servers and bartenders are wearing masks. We're spraying down and disinfecting tables and chairs before and after. We're using single-page menus, not the normal menu for the formal cover, so it can be thrown away once it's been used. We're very conscious and aware of what needs to be done."

Litherland said he was glad to have customers back at the restaurant, but admitted there are still a lot of question marks about how well they can negotiate upcoming weeks of uncertainty. He's particularly concerned about being able to give his staff the number of work hours they would like to have.

"It's really hard because you've got a lot of college kids that are



Diners enjoy the moderate temperatures and light breeze on Tuesday on the deck outside The Landing on Lake Vermilion. Photo by D. Colburn

relying on this income when they're not going to school," he said. "That's really hard. It's fun to see when they come back, but you feel bad for them because they want to work 40 hours. I've got

a whole bunch of them, probably upwards of 15 to 20 kids in college that are coming back. We want them back, we want to pay them, we want to work them, but it's hard. It really is frustrating."

The Landing reopened with its basic take-out menu, which Litherland said will be enhanced with dinner specials as they get a better handle on how many diners they will have. He said they've also bought a woodburning pizza oven that will add a unique flair to their offerings.

"We're not some exotic dinner club, but we have quality sandwiches, burgers, wraps, and we have a dinner menu that we haven't really implemented yet because we've been doing take-out," Litherland said. "We don't know how long this is going to be. We're hoping in a couple weeks we'll see the [COVID-19] counts go down and we can get people back inside."

The Dam Restaurant and the Municipal Liquor Store in Orr, as well as The Old Muni in Cook, also are welcoming outdoor customers. And The Crescent Bar and Grill in Cook, which was briefly closed, has reopened under former and now again current owner Greg LaPatka, providing

outdoor dining as well as carry-out.

The Montana Café in Cook and T. Pattenn's Café in Orr both have chosen to stay with their take-out only service, as neither have sufficient outdoor space to accommodate many diners.

"We are choosing to stay with carry-out, curbside and delivery," Tara Pattenn said. "It is a safety issue for me. But with that being said, if the governor tells us that this is going to be a longer stint we will be looking further into how to do so."

The Montana Café has taken the opportunity to introduce a new item, Montana Mac and Cheese, with a variety of toppings, to go along with its popular take-and-bake pasties and pot pies.

Hours and days of operation, as well as available options, vary greatly among area dining establishments. Customers need to make reservations and should check on their place of choice ahead of time by calling directly or checking their website and Facebook pages.

## FARMERS MARKET

# Cook market goes to virtual shopping

First orders will be available for pickup in city park on June 20

COOK- It's virtually time to start thinking about local farm-fresh produce and other local products as the Cook Area Farmers Market prepares to go online for summer sales to keep the popular goods flowing while keeping customers and vendors healthy and safe from COVID-19.

"The members of the Market will sorely miss the fantastic social aspect of a weekly open-air Market," said organizer Kelly Dahl in a letter sent to past customers. "However, to protect our community, nursing home residents, healthcare resources and each other, an open Market crowded with folks from all over the country is just not possible at this time."

Instead of setting up shop physically, vendors will list available goods on a website called Local Line. The site is accessible via smart phone, tablet, laptop or home computer. Local Line includes a feature for customers to contact vendors with questions.

Customers who register on the site will receive a weekly catalog via email and can place orders through the site no later than Thursdays for pickup on Saturdays, beginning June 20.

Distribution of orders will be from 10 a.m. to noon at the gazebo in Cook City Park on River St. next to City Hall. Masks are encouraged and there will be signs to remind people to re-

duce contact and make distributions go more smoothly, exact change or checks written to the vendors from whom you order is appreciated. Checks should be written to the owners of the farms, as opposed to the name of the farm.

Alternatively, customers can contact vendors directly to place orders if they would rather not create a Local Line account. Many vendors will have products and contact information posted on the Cook Area Farmers Market Facebook page or their own personal Facebook pages. Customers can browse the Local Line site to see what's available and then call, email,

or message vendors to order directly. As with those ordering through Local Line, direct vendor contact orders must be placed by Thursdays so vendors can have time to assemble customer packages for Saturdays.

Access the Cook Area Farmers Market Local Line page at [www.localline.ca/aspen-falls-farm-1](http://www.localline.ca/aspen-falls-farm-1) to view vendors and products and to register. Customers are encouraged to check the Market's Facebook page regularly for vendor information and updates.

More information is available by contacting Dahl at 218-666-9806 or via email at [kdahl@northlc.com](mailto:kdahl@northlc.com).

## CATHOLIC SERVICES

# Masses resume in Cook and Orr

REGIONAL- St. Mary's Catholic Church of Cook and Holy Cross Catholic Church of Orr are now open to the public for Mass but at 25-percent capacity. Seating reservations for weekend Mass are required. Please visit [www.stmmhc.com](http://www.stmmhc.com) for a link to sign up and guidelines to follow while attending Mass.

St. Mary's will have Mass at 8 a.m. on Sundays. Tuesday Mass will be at 9 a.m., preceded by Adoration at 8 a.m. Mass on Thursdays will be at 8 a.m., preceded by Ado-

ration at 7 a.m. The first Saturday of each month a traditional Latin Mass will be offered at 9 a.m.

Weekend Mass at Holy Cross will be at 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Mass will be offered at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, preceded by Adoration at 4:30 p.m.

Confession will be heard 30 minutes before Mass or by appointment.

Mass days and times are also listed on the website.

# Heiam plans fundraiser

COOK- Plans are being made for the 27th Annual W.C. Heiam Medical Foundation Fundraiser tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 15, provided the foundation can accommodate health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19.

"Our intentions are to host the event only if we are assured that we have a safe and responsible way to do so," said a founda-

tion press release. "One of our highest priorities is the health, safety and security of our guests and board members."

The event, held at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade building at 8025 Oak Narrows Rd., could be modified in several ways. The board is considering adding a tent to provide more space for social distancing. They are researching a virtual

auction which could be accessed on cell phones and planning a simplified meal and how it would be served safely.

While not yet prepared to confirm the event will take place, board members ask patrons to reserve Aug. 15 on their calendars and look for future updates on the fundraiser's status.

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

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

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th



CORONAVIRUS

# Rotary Club of Ely cancels annual fundraiser auction

ELY - The Rotary Club of Ely this week announced the cancellation of its Annual Auction, their primary fundraiser usually held in mid-August.

"We do not want to ask local and regional businesses, who are such generous donors, to provide

goods and services for our auction at such a stressful time for them," said Rotary President Jeff Sundell said. "This year, instead, we plan to recognize our donors in another visible manner in the community in August."

The Club's dual fundraisers in the past two

years, the Annual Auction and Raffle, have given it enough resources to continue its good works without jeopardizing its planned activities, Sundell said. "We use the proceeds from our fundraisers on our many local, regional and international projects, donations and scholar-

ships" he added.

With the cancellation of the Auction, the Rotary Club is still considering a raffle or similar fundraiser later this summer as activity begins to normalize with summer residents and visitors due to health concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

The Rotary Club of Ely was founded in 1921 and will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in May of 2021. Ely Rotary has funded benches, tables, and waste bins around Ely, sponsors the Ely Area Food Shelf Penny Jar project in local businesses that raised more than

\$8,000, and has already donated more than \$10,000 to other worthwhile local projects this fiscal year.

Rotary International is a worldwide network of service clubs who provide sanitation and drinking water to the developing world and are working to eliminate polio around the

## ELY...Continued from page 1

each year. Because of the uncertainty around what the coming months will hold for large gatherings and health and safety recommendations, we have made the decision to cancel Ely's 2020 Fourth of July parade. The Fireworks by Premier Pyrotechnics will still go on the night of the Fourth. This has been a very tough choice as Ely's Fourth of July Parade is always a highlight of the summer. We hope next

year we can have a bigger and better celebration."

Council member Al Forsman noted that "scuttlebutt around the community" indicated an effort was in the works to conduct a rogue celebration. "They want to know the council's take on this and whether it would be allowed if they wanted to move forward on their own," Forsman said.

Mayor Chuck Novak confirmed that he, along with Ely Deputy City Clerk

Casey Velcheff, also the Fourth of July Committee chair, received an email on Tuesday requesting the council take a position on a separate committee planning their own celebration in the city.

Novak did not reveal the source of the email. The *Timberjay* confirmed that the author of the email is the publisher of an Ely-based newspaper and printing company.

"I would offer this,"

Novak said, "we have some rules out of St. Paul that we have to adhere to. I'm not sure that MnDOT would allow a permit for a parade on the Fourth of July. But the driving force here is that we have a lot of boards and commissions and the council has to beg for volunteers sometimes. These volunteers put their heart and soul in and wrangle with having to make this type of decision. I'm not in

any mood to override their decision. The only parade on the Iron Range this year is in Eveleth. Everyone else said no. I'm going to respect our committee's decision."

Novak said that in addition to approval from MnDOT for having a parade on the state highway right of way, the city of Ely would need to agree to issuing a permit for any event held in the city.

Council member

Heidi Omerza said the Fourth of July Committee has struggled to find volunteers. "I find it very interesting that when we cancel the event, people are, all of a sudden, coming in wanting to take over and have a parade. I question the validity of this group of people," she said.

Forsman added, "It hurts me that there won't be a Fourth of July parade this year."

## TOWER...Continued from page 1

marching bands, no color guard, no kiddie parade, no Shriners, no school or church floats, no politicians, and no Miss Embarrass..."

Tower has traditionally hosted one of the finest small town Fourth of July

parades in northeastern Minnesota.

"People have supported the Fourth of July for so many years," said committee member Lori Tomsich, who was clearly heartbroken at the idea of having to cancel the

parade.

"I really want to commend this committee," said Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, "but we don't know where we will be come July. We need to act on the side of caution."

The committee is hoping that Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion residents and summer visitors will still show their Fourth of July spirit. The committee voted to purchase over 700 small flags to give away, and they will be encouraging area families to submit photos of their Fourth of July decorating, decorated boats, children's floats and decorated bikes to be pub-

lished online and in The *Timberjay*. Businesses will be encouraged to decorate their buildings. The committee also discussed the idea of having fire trucks and police cars drive around town on July 4, sirens wailing, and also having churches ring their bells and the two towns both sound their warning siren to commemorate the holiday.

The committee voted to go with Pyrotechnic Display for fireworks this year. The company will also be doing the fireworks for Virginia, Gilbert, and Aurora. The company handles the complete show from design, purchasing fireworks, to running the electronically-controlled display, including the cost of insurance liability. The

display is expected to be a non-stop show with aerial shells, specialty pattern aerial shells, candles, comets, mines, whistles and multi-effect items that will last 20 minutes.

"The grand finale of every traditional display is created to paint the sky with a kaleidoscope of color and noise," they wrote.

The Tower Fire Department has traditionally handled the fireworks and has raised money to cover the cost with their charitable gambling. But this year the department does not have anyone who is certified to run the show; and in addition, the tubes used to light the fireworks were damaged, and many need to be replaced. Tower Fire Chief

Paige Olson is planning to be certified, but won't have her certification until next summer, committee members reported.

The parade cancellation comes on the heels of the cancellation of many other traditional Fourth events, such as the Breitung Community Picnic, the pancake breakfast, kiddie parade, sawdust scramble and children's races, and Fourth of July 5K and 10K run.

The committee is tentatively planning to hold an outdoor Harbor-palooza event in mid-August, if safety guidelines can be met. This would include a boat parade, live music, games or races, outdoor food, and more. The committee will hold its next meeting on July 13.

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ELECTION 2020

# Ely voters will have a choice for mayor this November

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

## All three city council incumbents face no opposition

ELY – Voters will have a choice for the top elected office here this year. Mayor Chuck Novak ran unopposed in 2018, but he will be challenged this time around by first-time candidate Eric Urbas.

City Council incumbents Paul Kess, Jerome Debeltz and Ryan Callen also filed for re-election. No one stepped up to challenge them.

An Ely native and 2007 graduate of Ely Memorial High School, Urbas continued his education at the University of Minnesota-Duluth where he earned a degree in business

administration with an emphasis in finance. He is employed with R&R Transfer.

In seeking elected office for the first time, Urbas said he is running for mayor because he “wants Ely to survive.” He noted that the community has missed some opportunities to grow.

“I think a lot of people want to keep living in Ely and I think there are some opportunities to gain some incentives and pull some industries into town. There are more opportunities out there,” he said.

“Growing up in Ely, my family is in Ely, my grandparents

are from Ely. I don’t want Ely to fizzle away,” Urbas said. “I know a lot of people. I’ve traveled around the country. I talk to people, and knowing people is a big deal in politics. Getting more industry and more families here is my main mindset.”

Urbas said his platform is Ely.

“I want to help take care of Ely right now, before there is nothing left here. I think I have some good ideas. It seems there has been no change. I’m a young kid but I’m weathered in Ely. There are things that can change and some things that we want to

stay the same.”

Novak is seeking a fourth consecutive two-year term, and he said that he is “nowhere near done” with his priority list to improve the community.

“We need to fight for our trailhead project, continue building on our infrastructure needs, continue to protect our city’s financial position,” he said. “My top priority remains our economic survival.”

Novak knows his way around the Capitol building in St. Paul. “My experience in building some real solid relationships at the Capitol has benefitted our

city in terms of important financial support for our projects. It is a real benefit to be able to walk into the offices in St. Paul and be recognized by so many state officials,” he said.

The Aug. 11 election will allow Ely School District voters to make an up or down choice for the \$10 million bonding referendum for the building facility renovation project.

Three school board positions, now held by Heidi Mann, Tom Omerza and James Pointer, are also up for grabs this year. No primary provision is in place in the district. Filing will take place later this summer for the November election.

## ORDERS...Continued from page 1

against the action.

Minnesota deaths tied to COVID-19 surpassed the 1,000-mark last weekend and health officials said they expect a spike in cases this month. The second phase of the state’s “Safer at Home” re-opening plan went into effect on Monday, June 1. State officials continue to pay close attention to the daily intensive care counts, a key metric, as they work to manage the spread of the disease so it doesn’t overwhelm the state’s health care system.

Forsman presented the motion for consideration, in opposition to the measured re-opening steps, last week at a council study session and originally requested a special meeting so the measure could be passed quickly, but later rescinded that request.

Forsman said he considered other resolutions recently introduced in other communities in the state allowing businesses to open, including the city of Eveleth and some townships. He said he was willing to change language that would have the city

defend business owners in court.

“I don’t want to put ourselves in a commitment to spend all of our dollars defending ourselves in court. The intent is there that we want to support our businesses but not commit to using all of our legal means,” he said last week. “I might have overreached with that. I think somehow we could also add in to include our churches and places of worship.”

Fear of reprisal from Gov. Walz and state officials weighed heavy on the minds of some council members who worried that the city could be penalized and not receive local government aid or bonding dollars.

They took the week to think about their actions and addressed the issue on Tuesday, a day after many businesses began opening in a limited fashion according to procedures spelled out by the state Department of Health.

Mayor Chuck Novak said at the May 28 study session he believes the city has an obligation to protect the rights of all its citizens.

“We take an oath to

protect the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Minnesota and support the rule of law,” he said. “I don’t see us expending our resources enforcing these executive orders.”

On Tuesday night, Forsman noted that he received both community objection and support in the matter.

“I just want to point out that the resolution itself does not in any way force any business to open. It encourages every business that chooses to open to do so following the guidelines of the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health,” he said.

Council member Paul Kess argued that Forsman’s resolution also “intends to oppose any infringement by executive orders, and requests relief from Walz’s executive orders,” he said. “Personally, I prefer to have my health directives determined by professionals,” he added, noting that he contacted several health care professionals who oppose the resolution on the basis of public safety.

“The city is declaring itself separate from the

Governor’s orders. I’m opposed to that,” Kess said.

Novak reiterated his opposition to the resolutions.

“This puts us in a controversial position moving forward considering what is going on in the state right now,” he said. “I don’t want to poke the Governor in the eye with a sharp stick after what has happened over the last five to seven days. This is the wrong time to proceed with this.”

Council member Jerome Debeltz said he was opposed because “the state could really hold things against us. It could hurt our LGA (Local Government Aid). This could hurt the people of Ely,” he said.

Council member Heidi Omerza seemed to base her continued opposition on the recent racial protesting in Minneapolis and across the world.

“To be fair, we were in a different situation a week ago, and I already voiced my opposition to this,” she said.

Council member Ryan Callen said, “I am worried about potential

LGA getting slashed,” he said. “We also have a great working relationship with the Governor and St. Paul and I don’t want to risk that,” he said.

Campbell did not comment on her support for the measures.

Novak asked three times for a motion to advance Forman’s resolution “Urging Governor Walz to Allow Businesses in the City of Ely to Reopen,” and heard no response.

### Outdoor seating

Council members adopted two resolutions allowing for temporary outdoor dining in the city of Ely and for the ability of businesses to apply for a temporary permit from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to use the state highway right-of-way for outdoor seating.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said he believed that all businesses

were to be allowed to open at 50-percent capacity on June 1. The majority of restaurant establishments in the city are on the state highway right-of-way on Sheridan Street.

“State law does not allow any alcohol sales or consumption on the right of way. MnDot is working on new rules for right-of-way use and it looks like we (city of Ely) would have the permit and enforcement,” he said.

Novak noted last week that the state fire marshal recently reduced business occupancy rates from one person per 30 square feet to one person per 60 square feet and Gov. Walz’s executive orders reduces that capacity even more. “That’s the final nail in the coffin. Even before the virus, restaurants were shutting down a day or two a week. We don’t need any more devastation to our local economy,” he said.

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# AUDIT...Continued from page 1

expenses, such as construction of the new facility for Lamma Manufacturing and the purchase of a new ambulance. Most of the cost of the new ambulance will actually be incurred in 2020, although Tower's clerk-treasurer, Victoria Ranua, included that expense in current budget, so the expense won't contribute to a deficit when the 2020 audit is completed next year.

The 2019 budget, which was the subject of Monday night's audit, was approved by the previous administration in December of 2018.

Ceglar noted that the city's general fund lost ground in 2019, by approximately \$78,000. While the city's year-end general fund balance actually increased, to \$349,082, most of that increase was due to a loan the city received from the League of Minnesota Cities to cover expenses on the harbor trail project.

The city's general fund was also impacted by the city's decision to establish separate bank accounts for the ambulance and Hoodoo Point Campground. Funds in those accounts had previously been included as part of the general fund.

Efforts to develop the city's harbor in 2019 added another \$92,000 to the ongoing debt in that category of spending. After more than a decade of false starts and delays on potential development, the city has racked up \$585,000 in

unfunded expenses on the project.

Ceglar noted that the city has also failed to address a longstanding issue of delinquent loans, which has added to the city's cash flow problem. He said about \$7,804 in loans that the city made to property owners to help them pay for sewer repairs has yet to be repaid. About \$15,000 in commercial rehabilitation loans are delinquent as well, while an outstanding principal balance of approximately \$119,000 for a grant and loan to Tower Harbor Shores also remains.

Ceglar said that a continuing deficit in the city's utility account will need to be addressed. "Generally, water and sewer activity funds should be self-supporting," said Ceglar.

The city's water and sewer fund, by contrast, ran a combined \$53,537 in the red. Even excluding depreciation costs, the city's water account experienced a deficit of approximately \$13,500. "That's when we recommend that cities look at raising rates," Ceglar said.

Ranua noted that the city would likely need to raise rates by approximately \$53 per quarter in order to return the utility accounts to break-even.

The Tower Economic Development Authority's special fund also showed a deficit of \$139,788 last year. Ranua explained that the funding gap is due primarily to the fact that some of the costs associated with

the construction of the new manufacturing facility weren't reimbursed from the IRRR's loan proceeds until this year. While TEDA is supposed to act as an independent authority, the city council continued to make most decisions for the body in 2019. That's changed in the new year, as TEDA is now functioning as envisioned in state law and its originating resolutions.

Ceglar's report, at times, highlighted the disconnect between the accountant's view of city financial affairs and reality. Ceglar's report also cited sizable cash balances in several accounts where the funds don't really exist. His report cites \$235,166 in the city's commercial rehabilitation account, including \$60,000 in cash, while the account's actual bank account shows just \$8,192 in actual cash remaining.

On paper, the ambulance account shows a fund balance of \$926,151, while the actual cash in the account was far less than that as of the end of 2019. The missing funds reflect the dozens of cash transfers made by the former clerk-treasurer, without council approval, in 2018 and 2019 as she sought to pay the city's bills by tapping a number of earmarked accounts.

In response to questions from council member Dave Setterberg, Ceglar acknowledged that the project deficits he has cited for several years are on

paper only, and that they don't reflect unpaid bills. He noted that eliminating the deficits will require paper transfers only, which won't impact the city's cash position.

### Other issues

In his findings, Ceglar again addressed the issue of the city's limited segregation of duties, which poses an accountability risk. He said that's a typical shortcoming that auditors cite in most every small city, due to limited resources for staffing.

Ceglar also noted that the city was slow to complete bank reconciliations and other financial accounting this year, which he attributed to the turnover in the clerk's position. "Any time you have three different people doing things, it muddies the water quite a bit," he said.

Council member Rachel Beldo commented that she sees the progress that's been made in the past several months. "I just want to reiterate that Victoria stepped into her new role in October, and had quite the undertaking to get things in order and get things sorted out and just wanted to acknowledge the work that she and Terri have done and work that they'll continue to do to get things straightened out."

In other findings, Ceglar cited his belief that city officials in Tower may have run afoul of state law in recent years for accepting personal

discounts on propane from the city's fuel supplier. The discounts had been a longstanding practice in the city but became controversial this year when council member Mary Shedd questioned the propriety of the practice. Ranua also questioned whether the discounts ran afoul of state law and had asked the auditors to look into the issue. Ceglar said it does not appear to be a violation for other city employees to receive the discounts, but that any city official, such as a council member or the clerk-treasurer, involved in the contracting decision should not have a personal financial interest.

In his management letter, Ceglar cited several issues, including:

► Documents on city projects, grants, and bids were not on file at city hall, as required. "Outside third-party engineers and grant consultants were relied upon to present documents that the city should have on file," noted the letter. Ceglar said the city's decision to hire Nancy Larson was a big help. "She got a lot of stuff in order," he added.

► The lack of documentation on the basis for a \$245 payment that the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board makes to the city of Tower and whether the city ever authorized payment of \$45 per month in additional compensation to former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith for secretarial services. The deputy clerk,

who currently provides those services, is not paid above and beyond her regular wages.

► Many bank balances in various accounts are significantly less than what they should be. "Transfers were made to and from savings accounts that were meant to be set aside money for specific purposes. There was no indication of council approval to transfer the funds..." states the report. The lack of authorization for transfers in the past has been a major concern for Ranua as well and all transfers are now being processed through council action and are subsequently reimbursed. "We're now following what's in the charter," said Ranua.

► Airport operations and maintenance grant submissions had not been made for a significant period of time. According to Ceglar, such submissions are normally done quarterly, and he recommended that the city ensure that it seeks reimbursement for qualified airport expenses. Ranua said most of the backlog had been cleared up by interim clerk-treasurer Ann Lamma and that she expects to have all the submissions up to date before the end of 2020.

While the management letter included 12 points in 2019, that's actually a reduction over the 18 points the auditors raised in the 2018 audit.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# County board approves key land sale to TEDA

Five-acre parcel expected to enhance development prospects near Tower's harbor

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— The St. Louis County Board has approved the sale of approximately five acres of county land located at the intersection of Hwy. 169 and Marina Drive, to the Tower Economic Development Authority. The board approved the sale on June 2, contingent on the passage of a resolution of support by the Tower City Council for the continued operation of the county's public works facility, also located

on Marina Drive.

The land has been eyed as a key component for potential development in and around the city's harbor for the past few years. The parcel was part of a 16-acre piece purchased by the county for its Public Works garage in Tower, but the portion sought by TEDA, located on the east side of Marina Dr., has not been used by the county. The property does, however, contain significant high ground that would be amenable to eventual harbor-related development. It

**Right: This land to the east of Marina Drive, at the intersection of Hwy. 169, will soon be owned by the Tower Economic Development Authority based upon county board action this week.** photo by M. Helmberger

also provides easy access to an adjacent privately-owned parcel that includes the Marjo Motel.

Combined, the county parcel and the private property, owned by the Mesojedec family, amounts to approximately 23

See **LAND SALE...**pg. 2B



## SURPRISING WINDFALL

# Unexpected fame

Ely outfitter reaps benefits of romance novel's popularity

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

**E**LY – In the bleakest darkest days of the economic shut down here this spring due to angst and caution over the coronavirus, an unexpected ray of sunshine focused on a local outfitter's business.

A Twin Cities author, entrepreneur and celebrity of sorts, happened to utilize the services of the Ely Outfitting Co. several years ago for trips with her family into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Her experiences in the outdoors and positive impressions of the city at the end of the road found their way into a romantic comedy novel.

"The Happy Ever After Playlist," by Abby Jimenez, was an instant hit and top seller on Amazon, and received glowing reviews in national media outlets such as *USA Today*.

In response, a growing fan base suddenly clamored to get their hands on t-shirts from the now-famous outfitting company.

As Ely Outfitting Co. owner Jason Zabokrtsky related recently, the fledgling author asked him to read her manuscript to "make sure she got things right" in terms of camping in the wilderness and the Ely community.

As it turns out, the main character

“Abby told me the character and description was all coincidence.”

**Outfitter Jason Zabokrtsky**

in "The Happy Ever After Playlist" is named Jason, who grew up in Ely, and worked at his parents' business named, of course, The Ely Outfitting Company.

"Abby told me the character and description was all coincidence," Zabokrtsky said. "And of course, the character is strikingly handsome as well, which is also merely a coincidence."

The character in the story grew up guiding dog sled trips in the winter and canoe trips in the summer, and while the parents still have the outfitting business, "Jason" is launching a music career and moves to Los Angeles and falls in love. (Read brief story synopsis on Page 2B)

In the real world, Zabokrtsky founded Ely Outfitting Co. about 13 years ago, and said he could never make a living by singing. Modesty didn't allow him to comment on the "ruggedly

See **BOOK...**pg. 2B

**Top: Nick Bailles, of Ely Outfitting, packages t-shirts made famous by a new best-selling romantic comedy.**

**Right: Jason Zabokrtsky.**

**Below: Jimenez's dog Stuntman Mike with the cover of her new book and a cupcake.**

submitted photos



## ACHIEVEMENT

# Three area students among Alworth winners

**REGIONAL** – Three area students are among 66 Minnesota high school seniors selected to receive scholarships from the Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund to pursue bachelor's degrees in math or science.

Recent graduates Apolonia K. Homer, of Ely Memorial, Maude F. Lenz, of Northeast Range, and Nicole (Coley) A. Olson, of North Woods, will each receive \$20,000, distributed over eight semesters, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

With Minnesota schools being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, scholarship certificates have been mailed to recipients' homes.

"It's an unfortunate reality that we can't congratulate this year's scholarship recipients in person and tell them how their commitment perfectly reflects Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth's desire to strengthen the fields of math and science,"

said Patty Salo Downs, Alworth Memorial Fund Executive Director. "We mailed a few paragraphs with that message, along with the scholarship, for use by parents who might wish to hold a private award ceremony at home for their student."

Since 1949, the Alworth Memorial Fund has distributed more than \$52 million among over 5,000 motivated young people. The Fund is available to students in 60 high schools, plus home schools, located in 10 northern Minnesota counties. Additional information about the Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund is at [www.AlworthScholarship.org](http://www.AlworthScholarship.org).



**Coley Olson**



**Apolonia Homer**



**Maude Lenz**



BOOK...Continued from page 1B

handsome" moniker. "I am moved that (Abby) found the Boundary Waters so wonderful to include that and our company and community in her book," he said. "It was the first romance novel I ever read and I was really impressed. Her characters are really deep and the dialogue is fun if not genuine and real." In another coincidence, "The Happy Ever After Playlist" was released just as society shut down because of the COVID-19 health situation. "Our phones were not ringing at all," he said. "It was the quietest spring, in terms of (wilderness) trip

inquiries and planning, that I've ever seen. Nobody wanted to even reach out to us and consider doing a Boundary Waters trip." Jimenez's first novel, "The Friend Zone," happened to mention a real Midwest business, and a large fan base who discuss the story online decided that having a t-shirt from the business, The Wooden Legs Brewing Co., was necessary. So, with Jimenez's second novel, that dedicated fan group expected to have access to t-shirts from the Ely Outfitting Co. "Abby asked me if we had t-shirts available online," Zabokrtsky said.

"We don't do that. We have some t-shirts in our outfitting office here on Sheridan Street. Abby warned me that I will probably see an uptick in shirt sales." Within two days, Ely Outfitting Co. established an online store in anticipation of the sales rush. "Abby shared our link with discussion group members and as soon as that happened we were getting a t-shirt sale about every four minutes," he said. "That lasted for hours. Almost immediately we had well over a hundred of our shirts going out all over the country." According to

Zabokrtsky, the t-shirt sales windfall was literally the only money coming into his business. "We had no trip deposits. Sales were down 90-plus percent at the time. We didn't know if we would even be open this summer. There were some scenarios that were pretty scary," he said. "This was a bright spot for us to have a little bit of money coming in and it was fun, to be part of the energy and enthusiasm as Abby's fans celebrated the book and their passion for the characters," he added. Jimenez warned

Zabokrtsky that he might get some book tourism business as well. "I was told that her dedicated fans like to live the book in certain ways. She told me not to be surprised by new customers to Ely Outfitting Co. who want to experience the Boundary Waters." As the company's basic Ely Outfitting Co. logo t-shirt was flying off the shelves, their local supply house, Hand-Done T-Shirts, also enduring the COVID-19 economic downturn, was able to supply the needed inventory.

"We are very appreciative for what they continue to do for us," he said. "This was really a fun little experience," Zabokrtsky said. "It was nice, a ray of light when it was so dark around here this spring. It was nice to get some business to Hand-Done T-Shirts. This really kept me going during this tough time." Since the easing of the stay-at-home orders, the phones are ringing again at Ely Outfitting Co. "We have been getting lots of interest and inquiries as we get closer to summer."

MEET THE AUTHOR

Abby Jimenez, author of "The Happy Ever Playlist," is also the founder and owner of Nadia Cakes in the Twin Cities, and is a past winner of the television reality show, Cupcake Wars.

"The Happy Ever After Playlist" was actually the first book I ever wrote and the book that got me my literary agent," she said. "While we were shopping it to publishers, I had the idea to go back in time and write 'The Friend Zone' so we could live through the events that made Sloan who she is in her story. Since 'The Friend Zone' came first on the timeline, we led with that as my debut novel."

She provided a brief synopsis. "Two years after losing her fiancé, Sloan Monroe still can't seem to get her life back on track. But one trouble-making pup with a 'take me home' look in his eyes is about to change everything. With her new pet by her side, Sloan finally starts to feel more like herself. Then, after weeks of unanswered texts, Tucker's owner reaches out. He's a



Abby Jimenez

musician on tour in Australia. And bottom line: He wants Tucker back.

"Well, Sloan's not about to give up her dog without a fight. But what if this Jason guy really loves Tucker? As their flirty texts turn into long calls, Sloan can't deny a connection. Jason is hot and nice and funny. There's no telling what could happen when they meet in person. The question is: With his music career on the rise, how long will Jason really stick around? And is it possible for Sloan to survive another heartbreak?"

Jimenez suggested that fans read "The Friend Zone" before "The Happy Ever Playlist."

"Both books are standalone novels, but 'The Friend Zone' will give 'The Happy Ever After Playlist' so much more depth," she said.

Jimenez said her real experiences in the Boundary Waters and interactions with the Ely community contributed greatly to the story.

"Whenever I write, I like to name real places and experiences in my stories. I think it is fun for readers to find real places in the fiction they are reading," she said.

LAND SALE...Continued from page 1B

acres, located between the harbor and the Standing Bear Marina and Your Boat Club, that could be available for future development.

"I'm pleased to see that the city's long-term interest in acquiring the Marina Drive property is finally on the brink of becoming a reality," said Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad. "This acquisition will enhance the development potential for the harbor area and support the substantial redevelopment investment made by the new owners of the Standing Bear Marina."

The county and TEDA agreed on a sale price of \$9,900, but the sale won't be consummated until the city council approves a resolution that affirms their support for the county's public works facility. Public works officials expressed some concern that residential development in the area could create resistance to their continued operation in the area due to the dust and noise that the facility generates. The city council is expected to approve that resolution of support at their regular meeting in June.

Kringstad said the latest development "confirms the wisdom of having strengthened the authority of a more autonomous economic development authority, which can act more independently for positive development in the city." Kringstad also offered thanks to

County Commissioner Paul McDonald, and the late Commissioner Tom

Rukavina, for their support of the city's development efforts.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$14.59-\$20.15 per month and business services are \$21.00-\$48.66 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 20 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-855-954-6546 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



Congratulations to the following 2020-21 Scholarship Recipients

Table listing scholarship recipients and amounts, including American Legion Drum and Bugle Corp Scholarship, Bob and Lil Cary Memorial Scholarship, George Covich Memorial Scholarship, etc.



WE ARE IRON • The Campaign for the Vermilion Community College Foundation

During this time of uncertainty, now more than ever, we need your help to support our students. Please consider making a donation to the VCC Foundation online https://www.vcc.edu/about-foundation-alumni/ or use the form below and mail to VCC Foundation, 1900 E Camp St, Ely, MN 55731

Form with three steps: Step 1 (VCC Textbook Fund, VCC Emergency Fund, VCC Foundation Scholarship Fund, Undesignated-as needed for operating expenses), Step 2 (One-time or Recurring gift amounts), Step 3 (Personal Check, Voided Personal Check, Credit Card).

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## Obituaries and Death Notices



### Faith F. Brodeen

Faith Farnell Brodeen, 88, of Cook, passed away on Friday, May 29, 2020, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. An outdoor memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 5 in the parking lot of First Baptist Church of Cook. A private family interment at Hillside Cemetery in Angora will follow. Friends are invited to the Brodeen farm after the service for coffee and refreshments outdoors. Arrangements are with Sunrise Funeral Home in Hermantown.

Faith was born in Virginia, to Carl and Lucille Sundeen, on March 13, 1932. She attended Elementary School in Silverdale and graduated from Cook High School in 1950. She came to faith in Christ as a young girl through missionary Sunday School teachers in Silverdale. She married Irving Brodeen on Nov. 24, 1951. They set up their home in rural Cook and began dairy farming. They were married 60 years before Irving passed away on Dec. 11,

2011. Their marriage was blessed with six sons, Randy, Pat, Darrel, Curt, Dave and Tim.

Faith had many interests, but her primary focus was being a homemaker and devoted mother to her six sons. She was a dedicated member of First Baptist Church of Cook, and was active in teaching Sunday School, serving on the Missions Committee, Bible Studies, and Prayer Ministry. Faith enjoyed taking trips with Irving and her family, and traveled with her church on a mission trip to Ukraine. She was an avid gardener, enjoying her flowers and vegetable garden. Her jams, canning, and cooking were shared with family and friends. She decorated wedding and birthday cakes for over 40 years. She also worked for the Cook Hospital in housekeeping and laundry. Her greatest joy was her walk with the Lord, and serving and loving her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved watching many sporting events and cheering for the kids enthusiastically.

Faith is survived by her sons, Randy (Lauri), Patrick (Karen), Darrel (Barb), Curtis, David (Shari) and Tim (Kelly) Brodeen; 11 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; sisters, Lorraine Carlson and Hope (George) Blomberg; and twin brothers, Carl and Ed Sundeen.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Irving; parents, Carl and Lucille Sundeen; sister, Winifred Egerdahl; and brothers, Eugene and Dennis Sundeen.



### Deloris V. Scott

Deloris Vinona Scott, 97, a resident of Coleraine for over 60 years, passed away on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at her son's home in Soudan, where she had spent the previous five months. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to either Essentia Health Hospice in Virginia or Grand Rapids, or to Recycled Lives, PO Box 408, Cambridge, MN 55008. Private family services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Deloris was born on March 25, 1923, in Blackberry, to John and Faye (Staley) Sandstrom, and grew up during the Great Depression. She graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1941 and worked for over a year for the Wartime Rationing Board in Grand Rapids. She married William C. Scott on Oct. 17, 1942, in Tallahassee, Fla., where he was stationed with the Army Air Corps. They spent the rest of the war stationed in Pennsylvania. After the war, they bought property in the Wabana area country, north of Grand Rapids, where they lived until 1954. They then moved to Coleraine, living with her in-laws in the house where Bill grew up; she lived there the rest of her life.

Shortly after moving to town, she began working for Dr. Baich, the family doctor, first in nearby Bovey, then in Coleraine. It was all on-the-job training; officially she was a "doctor's assistant", though eventually she did everything an LPN would do, and more - giving shots, running x-ray equipment, etc. She worked there until mid-1969, when she quit so that she and Bill could do more traveling. They traveled extensively, usually throughout the American West, especially Montana and Wyoming. She said many times that they probably knew Montana better than most Montana resi-

dents. Her most memorable trip was to Guatemala in the early 1990s, where she saw grinding poverty. She never forgot it, and, in later years, gave generously to Recycled Lives, a Christian missionary non-profit dedicated to bettering the lives of people living in poverty in third world countries, sponsoring a family in Guatemala.

In the 1980s and 90s, she was a 'volunteer' for many years at the Itasca County Nursing Home in Grand Rapids, work of which she was very proud; she was Volunteer of the Year on one occasion. Deloris was a serious gardener, and her plants and flowers were the envy of many in town. She was also an avid reader and quilter and, in her later years, loved working on jigsaw puzzles.

In hospice care since last summer with terminal cancer, she continued to live independently, aided by family members and hospice, until April, when she became bedridden. The family would like to thank all the staff and volunteers of Essentia Health Hospice, from Grand Rapids, Virginia and Ely, for their marvelous, compassionate care. They were wonderful to mom, and she loved every one of them.

Deloris loved, above all, spending time with family. Having grown up poor during the Depression, she was tough as nails and yet completely soft-hearted. She was always there for her family, always seemed to know what was needed; she was our rock, the glue that held us together.

Deloris is survived by one daughter, Alice Faye "Toots" (Gary) Wildgrube of Grand Rapids; one son, William Lynn (Muriel) Scott of Soudan; one sister, Cleone Sherman of Alexandria; two grandsons, David (Kim) Scott of Fargo, N.D., and Timothy "T.J." (Deva) Scott of Stuttgart, Germany; two step-grandsons, Terry (Erin) Peitso and Scott Peitso, both of Soudan; great-grandchildren, Stephanie Scott and Ashlynn Scott, both of Fargo, N.D., Brody Scott, Hudson Scott and Savannah Scott, all of Bushnell, Fla., Jordan Peitso of Tower and Hannah Peitso of Soudan.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 60 years, Bill; sister, Glenice Newton; and an infant brother and sister.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF TOWER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

#### CITY OF TOWER, MINNESOTA SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of Tower to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at the City Hall, 602 Main Street, Tower, MN 55790. Questions about this report should be directed to Clerk/Treasurer Victoria Ranua at clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com or 218-753-4070.

#### Revenues and Expenditures for General Operations (Governmental Funds)

	Total 2019	Total 2018	Percent Increase (Decrease)
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Taxes	\$ 410,186	\$ 422,957	-3.02%
Licenses and permits	10,479	10,441	0.36%
Intergovernmental	1,202,464	938,854	28.08%
Charges for services	926,708	847,941	9.29%
Fines	2,277	2,926	-22.18%
Gifts and contributions	31,364	30,317	3.45%
Interest	13,688	17,950	-23.74%
Miscellaneous	52,743	22,480	134.62%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 2,649,909</b>	<b>\$ 2,293,866</b>	<b>15.52%</b>
Per Capita	5,396.96	4,671.82	15.52%
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
General government	\$ 283,976	\$ 188,209	50.88%
Public safety	603,743	634,306	-4.82%
Public works	209,851	134,766	55.72%
Culture and recreation	316,624	602,929	-47.49%
Economic development	38,334	97,636	-60.74%
Administration	88,491	140,884	-37.19%
Miscellaneous	3,500	1,999	75.09%
<b>Debt Service</b>			
Principal	555,743	131,101	323.90%
Interest and other charges	49,578	43,902	12.93%
<b>Capital Outlay</b>			
Airport	49,390	107,796	-54.18%
Culture and recreation	48,964	3,318	1375.71%
Economic development	1,706,540	1,397,770	22.09%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 3,954,734</b>	<b>\$ 3,484,616</b>	<b>13.49%</b>
Per Capita	8,054.45	7,096.98	13.49%

Published in the Timberjay, June 5, 2020

### CITY OF TOWER, MINNESOTA STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUNDS Year Ended December 31, 2019

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds		
	Water Enterprise Fund	Sewer Enterprise Fund	Totals
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash received from customers	\$ 126,575	\$ 77,588	\$ 204,163
Cash paid to suppliers	(95,216)	(50,054)	(145,270)
Cash paid to employees	(19,664)	(18,818)	(38,482)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>11,695</b>	<b>8,716</b>	<b>20,411</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Loan payments received		2,621	2,621
Operating grants and contributions	100	100	200
Interfund financing of cash deficit	(24,841)	24,841	
Prior year cash deficits implicitly financed	19,428	(19,428)	
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(5,313)</b>	<b>8,134</b>	<b>2,821</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Principal paid on debt		(16,000)	(16,000)
Interest and fees paid on debt		(850)	(850)
<b>NET CASH USED BY CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(16,850)</b>	<b>(16,850)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>6,382</b>		<b>6,382</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, JANUARY 1</b>	<b>12,813</b>		<b>12,813</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, DECEMBER 31</b>	<b>\$ 19,195</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 19,195</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Operating loss	\$ (27,060)	\$ (26,477)	\$ (53,537)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	13,553	27,452	41,005
Net pension liability, deferred outflows, and deferred inflows related to pensions	141	141	282
Increase in:			
Accounts receivable	(1,774)	(1,284)	(3,058)
Increase (decrease) in:			
Accounts payable	27,108	9,157	36,265
Salaries payable	(939)	(939)	(1,878)
Customer deposits	666	666	1,332
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$ 11,695</b>	<b>\$ 8,716</b>	<b>\$20,411</b>

Add'l financial statements on page 6B

Published in the Timberjay, June 5, 2020

### 2020-2021 and 2020-2022 Cook Hospital Bids For Propane

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 PM, June 23 with contracts to begin October 2020.

Propane Bid #1: 180,000 gallons for 2020-2021  
Propane Bid #2: 360,000 gallons for 2020-2022

A contract for 24-hour emergency service and biannual maintenance of vaporizers must be included in Bid #1 and #2. Must be able to provide backup propane tank of 2,000 gallons or more and keep it filled in the event of an emergency or main propane tank failure.

The sealed bids must be marked "Propane Bid #1 and Propane Bid #2" and be delivered to Cook Hospital, Teresa Debevec, CEO, 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723.

Bids will be opened at the board meeting of the Cook-Or Health District on June 23 at 6:30 PM.

Teresa Debevec, CEO

Published in the Timberjay: June 5, 12 & 19, 2020

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**BLUE-EYED GRASS**



Sunny and sandy locations are a likely place to find this mid-spring bloomer with its distinctive, six-petaled flower. There are as many as four species of blue-eyed grass in Minnesota, but the **Mountain Blue-Eyed Grass**, *Sisyrinchium montanum*, is found mostly in northern Minnesota.

The example above was one of several growing along a sandy logging road near Pfeiffer Lake. While this plant may produce several flowers in a season, they tend to bloom one at a time. While it's called a grass, it's actually a diminutive member of the Iris family.

### Outdoors in brief

#### Anglers can weigh in on management of bluegills

REGIONAL—Anglers can weigh in on whether to keep fewer bluegills from some Minnesota lakes as a way to protect and improve the size profile of one of the state's most prized and frequently caught fish. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources area fisheries staff worked with local anglers and angling groups to identify lakes where bluegill size could be improved by lowering bag limits. Under this proposal, some lakes would have a bag limit of five bluegills and others a limit of 10. The statewide limit is 20 bluegills per angler. Bluegills are also known as sunfish.

The DNR has posted a list online of lakes proposed for reduced bag limits, as well as how people can provide input at [mndnr.gov/sunfish](http://mndnr.gov/sunfish).

#### Controlling beavers simplified by DNR

During spring, beavers become more active, and the Department of Natural Resources reminds landowners, renters and land managers that recent law changes have simplified beaver management in Minnesota. Removal of a beaver dam causing damage no longer requires a permit if the course, current or cross-section of the waterway is not changed. If removal of a beaver dam changes the waterway, a public waters work permit from a DNR hydrologist is still required.

Beavers causing damage on private property may be removed without a permit by landowners, renters or an authorized agent. Government entities and road authorities only need a permit to remove beavers if the removal occurs two weeks before or after the beaver trapping season or within the season if removal is done by an unlicensed trapper.

See us at  
[timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com)



### QUALITY OF LIFE

# Redhead is rad

With focus on quality of life, IRRR is investing big in mountain biking

Jim Plummer now knows what he's doing after work most days. Plummer, who works for the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation's mineland reclamation division, was among those who helped in the development of the Redhead mountain biking trails at the Minnesota Discovery Center, formerly Ironworld, in Chisholm.

The first phase of trail development, which includes about 15 miles of trail, is all but completed and a soft opening to the public is set for June 12. But Plummer, who is exercising his mountain biking itch these days, has already had a head start exploring the trails. The trailhead is conveniently located barely 100 feet from the door to his IRRRR office, located at the Discovery Center. We should all be so lucky.

Not that he isn't sharing the wealth. This past week, he led me on a shakedown cruise deep into what is likely to become one of the hottest mountain biking trails in the Midwest once I tell you. And believe me when I tell you, word is going to get out.

As you drop going off the rim and descend into the mine pit, it's easy to forget you're anywhere in the Midwest. It's been called the "Grand Canyon of the North," and, sure, there's a bit of hyperbole there, but it gives you an idea that this isn't going to be like exploring a typical northern Minnesota logging road. The trails, variously designed for all skill levels, twist and turn through numerous switchbacks that wind

through open forests of aspen and birch, with frequent stunning views of steep, multi-colored rock walls and crystalline pit lakes.

"It offers the kind of viewsheds you don't often find in the Midwest," said Scott Linnenburger, the principal at Boulder-based Kay-Linn Enterprises, the firm that's building the trail. "It feels much more similar to canyon country or desert areas in Utah or Colorado than to a forested region," said Linnenburger.

Linnenburger's company has plenty of experience. To date, they've built over 600 miles of mountain biking trails, although he said some of the trails built at Chisholm were among the toughest to construct. "We've really got some of the best trail builders in the country working on it— and they work in a variety

See **REDHEAD**...pg. 5B



Top: Jim Plummer focuses as he works a curve along a steep embankment along the Redhead trail in Chisholm.

Above: A small waterfall rushes down to one of the many small pit lakes along the trail.

Below: Plummer talks about the economic implications of the trail. photos/M. HelMBERGER



MARSHALL  
HELMBERGER





**Fishing reports**



The Zimmer family of Sioux Falls, S. D., pose with a couple nice Lake Kabetogama walleye. submitted

**Kab-Nam area**

With our northern border still closed, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts are looking to get as far north as possible and Kabetogama is definitely a destination on their list.

Most fall in love with Kab immediately and return year after year after experiencing what an amazing area this is.

Walleyes are scattered right now. With water temperatures inconsistent around the lake and Mother Nature throwing up and down weather at us, the bite is tricky but with a little perseverance you will find fish. Walleyes are holding in many areas. Shallow windblown structures such as points with inside turns and weedy bays are producing fish.

Most walleyes are being caught in the 4-10 foot range with a wide variety of presentations.

Smaller jigs have been the go-to tipped with minnows and pieces of crawlers. Long lining crank baits has also been effective when covering shallow water. Don't overlook a slip bobber tipped with a minnow or leech. When the bite is finicky this can be the best approach. Areas with current have also been producing, especially on calm days. During the day fish are also being caught on break lines and shallow reefs (18 to 25 feet) as fish move deeper. In most cases, a slow approach with small jigs has been most effective with the bite being best early morning and evening.

With bays warming up and bait fish moving in, northern pike are active and on the prowl. Where bait fish and other food sources are schooling, the pike are there taking advantage. Casting large baits is the way to go.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
<b>75 46</b>				<b>73 48</b>				<b>68 54</b>				<b>80 59</b>				<b>76 57</b>			
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.
05/25	77	53	0.05	05/25	76	50	0.04	05/25	76	56	0.02	05/25	82	55	0.01	05/25	76	53	0.03
05/26	81	56	1.46	05/26	80	51	0.00	05/26	78	57	0.26	05/26	68	59	0.11	05/26	81	56	0.06
05/27	74	60	0.28	05/27	74	60	0.22	05/27	69	56	0.22	05/27	81	55	0.35	05/27	74	58	0.20
05/28	81	51	0.00	05/28	80	50	0.00	05/28	82	56	0.00	05/28	72	52	0.00	05/28	81	50	0.00
05/29	74	49	0.00	05/29	72	46	0.00	05/29	73	47	0.01	05/29	57	46	0.01	05/29	73	48	0.01
05/30	58	40	0.00	05/30	58	35	0.00	05/30	58	42	0.00	05/30	57	41	0.00	05/30	58	43	0.00
05/31	59	32	0.00	05/31	57	31	0.00	05/31	59	43	0.00	05/31	73	39	0.00	05/31	58	32	0.00
Total			4.41	YTD Total			3.54	YTD Total			4.40	YTD Total			NA	YTD Total			3.29

**REDHEAD...**Continued from page 4B

of conditions. They often work on steep slopes, but here it's always steep."

Plummer said it was amazing to watch the trail crews at work as they traversed the slopes and loose rock with their equipment, while managing to keep everything upright and ensure that the trails are kept in place. And the trail crews didn't use brute force as they did their work. Instead, they sculpted the trails into place, like artists using the terrain as their palette. The result is a trail that is both exciting to ride and, at times, gorgeous to view.

**Economic revival?**

The Redhead project, at a cost of \$1.777 million, is just one of three major investments in mountain biking that the IRRR is making in the area. The growing emphasis on mountain biking comes in the wake of the economic revival experienced by the communities of Crosby and Ironton, after the creation of Minnesota's first state park dedicated to mountain biking on former Cuyuna Range mine spoils. The park has attracted more than 25,000 riders annually to the communities, providing millions of dollars a year in new tourism-related spending. That's sparked an entrepreneurial revival with 15 new shops and restaurants— along with new residents— since the opening of the park several years ago.

IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips said he was impressed with the changes that the Cuyuna trails have brought to Crosby and he hopes to see similar changes in Chisholm. While he had initially looked at a smaller investment in trails, he said the experienced people that IRRR staff consulted said if they wanted world class

**If you go:**

The trailhead starts right from the Minnesota Discovery Center parking lot in Chisholm. Signage is expected to be in place and maps should be available for the soft opening planned for June 12.

trails, that would truly attract more than just local riders, it would require a major project that would interest the best trail builders in the business. Between the Redhead trails, the expanding network at Giants Ridge and the Tioga trails near Cohasset, Phillips said the region now has more than enough trails to bring people in for multiple days of riding. Add in new trails in Duluth along with the Cuyuna system and Phillips sees a likely "circle tour" for mountain bikers.

That's the hope of former Chisholm City Council member Marty Halverson, who was riding the new trails himself last week. The city of Chisholm will have responsibility for maintaining the trails and the city's liability insurance will cover the associated risks from injuries— two issues that made the trail agreement for the Redhead somewhat controversial in Chisholm. But the small city also stands to be among the biggest beneficiaries of the additional visitation that the trail network— which should be up to 30 miles by the end of the summer— is expected to bring. Halverson said he's already heard from some local business owners who are planning to revamp their operations to cater to bikers— and he expects to hear a lot more of that in the future. "I think this is just the tip of the iceberg and it's an awfully

big iceberg," he said.

Linnenburger agrees. He notes that recent outdoor industry surveys put the number of avid mountain bikers at around 10 million in the United States. He says about 20 percent of those riders report taking at least one mountain biking-focused vacation annually. "Most of the avid bikers in the Midwest that I know leave the Midwest when they take that vacation every year. Now, they have someplace that's a whole lot closer, with some of the best trails in the world."

While attracting visitors is a major goal of the investment in trails, Phillips sees it as something more. It's about creating the kind of quality of life in the region that will attract new residents, businesses, and business owners. That's been a major focus for Phillips, and it's a tried and true development formula that has created growing and prosperous communities in many rural parts of the country, particularly in the western United States.

The trails are also a good fit with the Minnesota Discovery Center and the adjacent county fairgrounds, says Phillips, because the related infrastructure, including showers, kitchen facilities, a restaurant, and amphitheater would be extremely useful for large group gatherings or biking expos which are likely to come as the site gets known. Bringing large numbers of tourists to the region was the original goal of Ironworld, but Phillips acknowledges that it's been difficult to attract visitors to the Mesabi Range. "Most of our tourism in the region has been focused in places like Ely or Grand Marais," said Phillips. "Now we have something that may really start getting tourists to the core Range."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF TOWER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

CITY OF TOWER, MINNESOTA  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,  
AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
Year Ended Dec. 31, 2019

Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds

	Water Enterprise Fund	Sewer Enterprise Fund	Totals
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Charges for sales and services	\$ 127,683	\$ 78,206	\$ 205,889
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Cost of sales	80,427	43,002	123,429
Salaries	18,725	17,879	36,604
Employee benefits	5,246	4,864	10,110
Miscellaneous	2,033	7,902	9,935
Repairs and maintenance	33,600	2,271	35,871
Supplies	1,159	1,313	2,472
Depreciation	13,553	27,452	41,005
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>154,743</b>	<b>104,683</b>	<b>259,426</b>
<b>OPERATING LOSS</b>	<b>(27,060)</b>	<b>(26,477)</b>	<b>(53,537)</b>
<b>NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>			
Grants and contributions	100	100	200
<b>TOTAL NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(467)</b>	<b>(367)</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>(26,960)</b>	<b>(26,944)</b>	<b>(53,904)</b>
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION - JANUARY 1</b>	<b>390,868</b>	<b>775,081</b>	<b>1,165,949</b>
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION - DECEMBER 31</b>	<b>\$ 363,908</b>	<b>\$ 748,137</b>	<b>\$ 1,112,045</b>

Add'l financial statements on page 3B

Published in the Timberjay, June 5, 2020

CITY OF TOWER, MINNESOTA  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION PROPRIETARY  
FUNDS - December 31, 2019

Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds

	Water Enterprise Fund	Sewer Enterprise Fund	Totals
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 19,195	\$	\$ 19,195
Accounts receivable	6,756	4,319	11,075
Due from other funds	24,841		24,841
Loans receivable		7,804	7,804
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>50,792</b>	<b>12,123</b>	<b>62,915</b>
<b>NONCURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Capital assets			
Infrastructure	542,160	1,098,096	1,640,256
Less accumulated depreciation	(111,364)	(248,087)	(359,451)
<b>TOTALNONCURRENTASSETS</b>	<b>430,796</b>	<b>850,009</b>	<b>1,280,805</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>481,588</b>	<b>862,132</b>	<b>1,343,720</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Related to pensions	4,509	4,509	9,018
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	50,169	13,501	63,670
Salaries payable	10,364	10,364	20,728
Accrued interest payable		142	142
Due to other funds		24,841	24,841
Customer deposits	5,478	5,478	10,956
Revenue bonds payable - current		8,000	8,000
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>66,011</b>	<b>62,326</b>	<b>128,337</b>
<b>NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
PERA net pension liability	43,132	43,132	86,264
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>109,143</b>	<b>105,458</b>	<b>214,601</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Related to pensions	13,046	13,046	26,092
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	430,796	842,009	1,272,805
Unrestricted	(66,888)	(93,872)	(160,760)
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$ 363,908</b>	<b>\$ 748,137</b>	<b>\$ 1,112,045</b>

Published in the Timberjay, June 5, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

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**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 707**  
Nett Lake, Minnesota  
**PART-TIME BUS DRIVER**

Position: Part Time Bus Driver  
Qualifications: Valid MN Driver's License, Valid MN Bus Endorsement or able to obtain bus endorsement; Ability to pass criminal background check; Ability to pass random drug testing

**Duties:** Drive school bus for AM and/or PM routes; Other duties as assigned.  
**Rate of Pay:** \$20.10 hr. AM or PM routes are a two-hour minimum  
**Terms of Contract:** Hours to be determined. Expected start: AM start Mon.-Fri. 7:00; PM start: 3:00 Mon., Tues, & Thurs.; 1:45 Wed. and 2:45 Fri.  
**Anticipated Start Date:** September 8, 2020  
**Due Date:** Applications can be found at www.nettlakeschools.com. The district will begin reviewing applications on Friday, June 19 at 3:00 PM. Paper applications may be picked up at the Nett Lake School Office, M-F, 8:00-3:00. Please call before you come. 218-757-3102.

If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Varichak @ 218-757-3102. Equal Opportunity Employer

Published in the Timberjay, May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2020

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**Answers**

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

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

	1		8						2
7				3			8		
		3			9			7	
		6		2			1		
	3					7			9
9			6					4	3
8			3					6	
	9	2		8			4		
	6				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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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

## HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA - Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

## HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

## BUSINESS SERVICES

T & T STUMP GRINDING- Stump grinding, clean-up and debris removal. Call for your free estimate. 218-780-6278. tfn

TIP TOP CHIMNEY LLC- Cleaning, repairs, inspections, caps, liners, and minor roofing repairs. Call or text 218-290-5370. 6/12

## FOR RENT

SOUDAN HOME FOR RENT- 2BR w/garage. Available July 1. \$700/month plus utilities. 218-750-4512 6/12

## CABIN CARETAKER

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## GARAGE SALE

GUY'S GARAGE SALE- Hunting, fishing, tools. Friday, June 12, 8am-4pm. Northside Soudan, follow the signs.

GARAGE SALE- Hand and power tools and other misc., wire feed welder, rolling tool-box lower unit, Husqvarna 450 chainsaw, much more! Friday and Saturday, June 5-6, 9-5 both days. 21 Third Ave., Soudan.

## REAL ESTATE WANTED

WANTED TO BUY- Retired couple looking to purchase lake home in the Ely area. Must be free of fiberglass insulation. Call 218-365-2126. 6/12

## SUPPORT GROUPS

ELY AA GROUPS TO MEET BY PHONE- Starting immediately, the Ely Wednesday and Saturday AA Groups will not meet in person. A conference call meeting has been set up. At 7:30 on either night, call 978-990-5000, and enter the access code, 965850#. Once the meeting has started, use \*6 to mute and unmute your phone. If any other group would like to set up phone meetings, please call Anna Nimity at 218-290-2681 for assistance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- Light construction, painting, general labor. Call or text 218-290-5370. 6/5

HELP WANTED- HOUSE-KEEPER at Garden Lake Resort, Ely. Call 612-803-6538. 6/19

HELP WANTED- Afternoon shift cook, and night bartender needed at Good Ol' Days Bar and Grill in Tower. Apply in person or call Randy at 218-753-6097.

## WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

## Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

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## FALL NICKNAME

## Super Crossword

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 "Alto Rhapsody" composer	1 German car
7 Amount of medication	2 Yell of cheer
11 Very close pals, briefly	3 California's Santa
15 Lay away	4 Castaway's shelter
19 Handbook	5 Irked with
20 Among other things, in Latin	6 Sluggish mammal
22 A, in Austria	7 One trying to lose weight
23 Start of a riddle	8 Yoko of music
25 With the stroke of —	9 Big inits. in fuel additives
26 Busily engaged	10 Elver, e.g.
27 Actress O'Grady	11 Lauren of "Key Largo"
28 Actor Baio	12 Natural talents
29 Riddle, part 2	13 Daughter, in Dijon
37 Brain part	14 Paradise of "On the Road"
38 Vends again	15 Manatee or dugong
39 New York port on Lake Ontario	16 Praise with a cap motion
40 Some weather lines	17 "Just the last item is left"
44 Untold millennia	18 Tried to get
45 Gallery works	21 Kingly
46 Frat.'s counterpart	24 Snapshot, for short
47 Riddle, part 3	28 Blues singer — Monica Parker
53 Epitomize	29 Stepped off
	30 Little snack
	31 Wind instrument
	32 Prove false
	33 Indigent
	34 General — chicken
	35 Monopoly card statistic
	36 Spear
	41 Nonetheless
	42 Detach, as a book page
	43 Clown prop
	45 Flat — board
	48 Radiates
	49 Hawaii "hi"
	50 Tolerate
	51 50-50 gamble
	52 Cheat
	56 Use one's
	106-Across
	57 Impulse
	58 Guesses at JFK
	59 Judo hall
	60 Too large to be strained, maybe
	62 Former UN leader Kofi
	63 Doughboys' conflict: Abbr.
	64 Bleach
	65 Shout at
	68 Magic hex
	69 Actress Smith of Tyler Perry films
	72 Bullfight holler
	77 Passing grade, barely
	78 Greek philosopher
	79 Slezak or Eleniak
	81 Shaw playing a clarinet
	82 Powerful car engine
	83 On — (of equal value)
	84 Nero's 53
	85 Faithful wife of Geraint
	86 Suffix with bachelor
	87 Booming jets of old
	88 Nero's wife
	89 Crassness
	94 Winged ones in heaven
	95 Absorb
	96 Part on a drama series, say
	97 Dreadlocks wearer, often
	98 Basked
	101 "I love you," in Spain
	102 Sushi sauce
	103 Vanzetti's partner in anarchy
	104 D-day time specification
	109 Forest lair
	110 Ingested
	111 Mingle
	112 Rd.'s cousin
	113 Authorize to
	114 Lofty work
	115 Floor cover
	116 Relaxing site

**SNOWFLAKES**  
by Japheth Light

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦ Difficult  
♦♦♦ Medium  
♦♦ Easy

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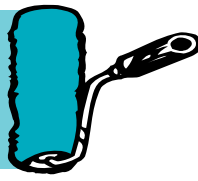
Answer

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





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