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the **TIMBERJAY**

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COVID-19

Business restrictions eased

Walz clears restaurants for limited dine-in service

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Restaurants, hair salons, and other indoor and outdoor venues for recreation and entertainment will see a loosening of restrictions next week as Gov. Tim Walz on Friday announced modifications to the statewide steps taken to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus. "We're not going back to normal," Walz said. "We remain in a world where COVID is a factor in our lives. As we turn these dials we



want to remain vigilant. We can't get lazy, we can't get complacent."

The new guidelines, which go into effect Wednesday, June 10, include:

►Restaurants can open for inside dining at 50-percent capacity, with reservations required. Table service

is limited to four persons per table, or six if part of one family unit.

►Fitness facilities can open at 25 percent capacity, provided they have a regular disinfection routine and provide six feet or more between stations/activities that encourage high exertion.

►Religious worship facilities can expand to 50-percent capacity up to a maximum of 250 people.

►Swimming pools can open at 50-percent capacity.

See...**SAFE** pg. 8

ELY COMMUNITY



Marchers rally for solidarity

Hundreds gather in Ely to support human rights

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY –More than 300 people walked from Central Avenue to Whiteside Park in Ely on Saturday afternoon in support of a Peaceful March of Solidarity. The event organized by local resident Ian Lah was held 12 days after the death of George Floyd while in Minneapolis police custody, which has sparked protests around the world.

Lah invited people to march with him in solidarity and union in support of Black Lives Matter. Supporters of all ages came with signs and most

See... **RALLY** pg. 9

EMERGENCY FIRE RESPONSES

Lake cabin burns

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP— One man was airlifted to the Miller Dwan burn unit in Duluth on Saturday, June 6, after he was injured in an early morning cabin fire on Lake Vermilion.

The man was one of six people reportedly inside the two-story cabin, located on Nelson Road, when it caught fire. The man initially escaped the blaze without injury but went back into the burning building thinking another member of his party was still

See...**CABIN** pg. 10



Greenwood Township Fire Boat 1 works to control the spread of a fully-engulfed cabin fire Saturday morning on Nelson Road. photo by Northland FireWire/Erik Jankila

Gusty winds fuel Ely blaze

One of city's oldest houses a total loss

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – One of this city's oldest houses went up in flames last Thursday afternoon. The three-alarm fire was reported just before 1 p.m. on June 4. Gusty winds fanned the flames



Ely firefighters battled gusty winds last Thursday as they attempted to douse a house fire near the city's downtown. photo by K. Vandervort

CITY OF TOWER

Suihkonen to lead ambulance service

Council OK's moving ahead with airport storage garage

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOWER — Dena Suihkonen will no longer serve as interim ambulance director in Tower. The council voted unanimously on Monday to name Suihkonen as the permanent head of the city's emergency medical services, selecting the longtime EMT and veteran of the Tower Area Ambulance Service over another experienced applicant, Teresa Lanyk, of Soudan.

A four-person hiring committee had interviewed both finalists before recommending Suihkonen. Rachel Beldo, who served on the committee, said she felt the process had been fair and that the recommendation had been made by consensus.

Council member Mary Shedd, who had assembled the hiring committee, lauded their efforts. "I want to thank them for doing a really good job. I think both candidates were really strong," she said.

Suihkonen has served as an EMT on the TAAS for the past ten years and has served as an assistant ambulance director for most of the past eight years. She assumed the director position on an interim

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



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Community notices

New EBT benefits for families

REGIONAL- Did your child participate in free or reduced-price school meals? Because schools are closed, a new program can help provide a food benefit. Take a moment to apply for P-EBT. Apply today at www.mn.p-ebt.org.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services is now offering additional funds for the families of children ages 5 to 18 who qualify for free and reduced-price meals. This new program, called Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), will provide \$325 per child that families can use to purchase nutritious food for their household. Families with children who received free or reduced-price meals at school, and who were between the ages of 5 and 18 on Sept. 1, 2019, may qualify. Benefits are available to two groups:

Families receiving Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on March 18, 2020. Benefits for these families will be issued automatically and will appear on their EBT balance on May 30, 2020. These families do not need to take any action to receive these benefits.

Families receiving free or reduced-price school meals, but not SNAP or MFIP benefits. These families need to fill out a short application for a P-EBT card. Families can apply between June 8, 2020, and June 30, 2020, at www.mn.p-ebt.org. If approved, families will receive a P-EBT card in the mail, which will arrive with the funds preloaded.

MDC to reopen portions of campus to public on June 12

CHISHOLM- The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) announced that they will reopen parts of their 660-acre campus to the public starting Friday, June 12. Amenities to open include the Redhead Mountain Bike Park, the Rustic Pig Food Court, the Miner's Daughter Gift Shop, and the Summer Admissions/Entrance/Trailhead facility at MDC.

Executive Director Donna Johnson stated, "We have been working hard to create a sanitary environment for our guests and staff and have recently signed the "Open for Business Pledge" – a local commitment our organization has taken to uphold best practices concerning COVID-19. That said, we cannot wait to showcase all the new and exciting things happening at MDC this summer."

Here's what will reopen:

- ▶Redhead Mountain Bike Park (soft open) - The first 15.3 miles of completed and looped trail will be open to the public starting Friday, June 12 from dawn to dusk.
- ▶Summer Admissions and Redhead MTB Park Trailhead - MDC's Summer Admin/Entrance will act as the new trailhead facility and will be open to the public during our regular summer hours starting Friday, June 12.
- ▶Rustic Pig Food Court - The Rustic Pig is moving outdoors and will reopen in the food court with a full food and beverage menu. The Rustic Pig Food Court will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., first opening on Friday, June 12. Stay tuned for updates.
- ▶Miner's Daughter Gift Shop - The gift shop has moved back to its summer location after being renovated and packed full with lots of great made-in-Minnesota items and MTB accessories/gear. It will operate during our regular summer hours.

The Iron Range Research Center (IRRC), The museum, trolley, and mini golf will remain closed for the time being.

Events, venue rentals, weddings, all MDC events and workshops that typically take place throughout the month of June have either been postponed or canceled. If you or your organization are looking to host an event, rent a venue, or to book a wedding for 2021, give us a call at 218-254-7959 or send us an email at info@mndiscoverycenter.com.

Please know we take great care in the safety of our employees and guests here at MDC. We are working hard to bring you new virtual experiences, online classes and workshops, and campus activities that you can safely enjoy here at MDC or from the comfort of your home.

Precautions are being taken to keep our staff and guests safe as we begin reopening on a reduced scale. Masks, gloves, sanitation stations, and sneeze-guards are just some of the safeguards in place to ensure our guests that we are keeping our campus as safe and clean as we possibly can.

MDC's Preparedness Plan is in place and follows all required and suggested guidelines from governing authorities. Employees have been practicing self-screening using no-touch thermometers and social distancing is being practiced.

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ONLINE SUMMER FUN Virtual DIY Summer Theatre Kids Camp



The Grand Rapids Players Summer Theatre Camp performed Mary Poppins Jr. last summer. This year, despite COVID-19 restrictions, the show will still go on, online that is. submitted photo

REGIONAL- For the past fourteen years, the Grand Rapids Players have hosted their Summer Theatre Kids Camp at the Reif Center, performing on the Wilcox stage. Not wanting to miss a beat, this year they have focused their energies on thinking outside the box, to come up with an alternative that is COVID-compliant and still promises to have all the elements of education, fun and creativity that families have come to expect.

The program starts now and will run through Aug. 30. Six classic fairy tales with familiar story lines have been crafted into scripts written at an elementary reading level with lines for the characters that range from short sentences for the younger ones to extensive reading for the narrators. Parents are encouraged to join in the fun.

This is a project where kids can

really make it their own production and parents can join in as characters, stagehands, narrators, sound techs and more. They can change the genre from fairy tale to science fiction or fantasy. They can design their own costumes, and even characters, in place of the traditional. They can spruce it up even more by including their own (not copywritten) music, songs, and dance steps.

Everything families need to know is available on the website at www.info@grplayers.com. Each month families can choose from three stories. A pdf Script and Tips packet that includes a script, performance tips, an educational component, suggestions for easy costuming, props, and set construction ideas and information on how to video-record their performance to send it to us. All the videos submitted will be crafted into a production DVD that will be

aired on ICTV as well as GRPlayers' social media outlets. A waiver for parental signature will be included.

The six selections to choose from include The Little Red Hen, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Caps for Sale, The Gingerbread Man, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and The Three Little Pigs.

In order for this program to be successful and to achieve our goal, it is important that families commit to remaining Minnesota Department of Health compliant. Only family members living in the same dwelling can join in on the kids' plays. We want everyone to stay safe, all while enjoying this invitation into the magical world of theatre arts. There is no charge to participate in this outreach program. Visit <https://www.grplayers.com/diysummer-theatre-camp> or email info@grplayers.com for more information.

COOK AREA HAPPENINGS

Cook's Music in the Park will begin June 17

COOK - The free Wednesday evening concert series "Music in the Park" will begin Wednesday, June 17 now that Gov. Tim Walz has approved outdoor entertainment venues to serve crowds of up to 250.

The idea to start up the concert series again surfaced after the city of Cook hosted a graduation celebration parade on River Street in downtown Cook. The orderly and enthusiastic crowd, most wearing face masks, practiced social distancing and seemed grateful to see friends and neighbors, even if from a distance.

Eric Pederson, music coordinator for Cook's Music in the Park, will kick off the 2020 concert season on June 17 and 24 at 6 p.m. The Beefeater Brothers, Eric's band, have performed many Wednesdays for Cook. The band includes Eric Pederson and Mike Randolph and will feature Jimmy Laine on drums and Anna Pederson on vocals.

The July lineup includes performances by The Divas on July 1; R and B on July 8; The Hutter Bunch on July 15; Robert Walker on July 22; and The Beefeater Brothers on July 29. Three August performances: The Hutter Bunch on Aug. 5, Robert Walker on Aug. 12, and The Beefeater Brothers on Aug. 19 will round out the series.

July and August concerts will also have a burger stand available.

Patrons should bring lawn chairs, blankets, and beach towels for seating and practice safe social distancing. Wearing masks is encouraged.

NWFA offers online photography class

COOK - Northwoods Friends of the Arts is taking instruction online with "Take Control! Using the Exposure Controls on Your DSLR Camera," to be offered via Zoom teleconferencing from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 18 by Twin Cities and Cook-based photographer Keith Miesel.

Topics to be covered include ISO, aperture or f/stop, shutter speed, metering, histogram, special exposure modes, and white balance.

The class is free of charge. Pre-registration is required by calling Lisa at 218-780-1151.

Feed My Sheep lunches resume in Cook

COOK- "Feed My Sheep" free brown bag lunches will be distributed every Wednesday this summer from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot, due to COVID-19 concerns. Delivery is available for families with children in the city of Cook. Call the church office at 218-666-5965 by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays to arrange delivery, and leave your name, address, and number of

lunches needed on voicemail if no one answers.

Shoppers can buy direct from Cook Farmers Market vendors

COOK- Cook Area Farmer's Market coordinator Kelly Dahl wants to assure shoppers who don't have computers or don't want to use the market's website that they can still contact vendors directly to order items that will be available for pickup in the park on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon beginning June 20.


Flyers with the names and contact information for confirmed vendors have been posted at Cook City Hall, the Wash House, the post office, Zup's, the Country Store, Last Chance Liquor, and Homestead Mills. Shoppers can call to find out what's available and pricing, and items will be assembled in packages for Saturday distributions.

Current flyers will be available at each Saturday pickup, Dahl said.

For those with computer access, the market's LocalLine online site can be accessed at www.localline.ca/aspens-falls-farm-1. Orders must be completed by June 18 for pickup on June 20.

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THINGS TO DO

Dorothy Molter Museum reopens June 15

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Visitors should make reservations and heed new protocols

ELY – The Dorothy Molter Museum is preparing to launch an online registration system this week as it opens for the season. New procedures allow for daily one-hour reservation blocks for up to 10 people at one time to align with required social distancing guidelines due to the coronavirus pandemic. Once this system is live, it will be linked via the museum’s website under the “Visit” tab.

Blocks will be available 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, beginning Monday, June 15 and museum officials will evaluate the schedule and make changes as needed, according to Executive Director Jess

Edberg.

Those wishing to reserve an hour time slot before the system goes live may call 218-365 4451 or email info@rootbeerlady.com.

“We will be able to take reservations via phone where we walk the customer through the process of pre-registration and take pre-payment,” Edberg said. “We will try to do a brief, introductory mini-tour, as staffing allows, for each reservation, but we will not physically guide groups through the cabins like we have in past seasons.”

The museum has implemented a safety plan that includes physical

barriers between staff and visitors in the Interpretive Center and Gift Shop, adapted visitor guides for proper disinfection after each use, and a one-way entrance/exit system that may be altered for those with physical mobility limitations.

“We created a cleaning protocol after each group, every four hours, and at the end of the day,” she said.

A virtual museum tour can be accessed online. A free downloadable phone app with imagery and audio can be used as an alternate tour guide while exploring the facility. Details are at www.rootbeerlady.com/tour-virtually.

Requirements for visitors include:

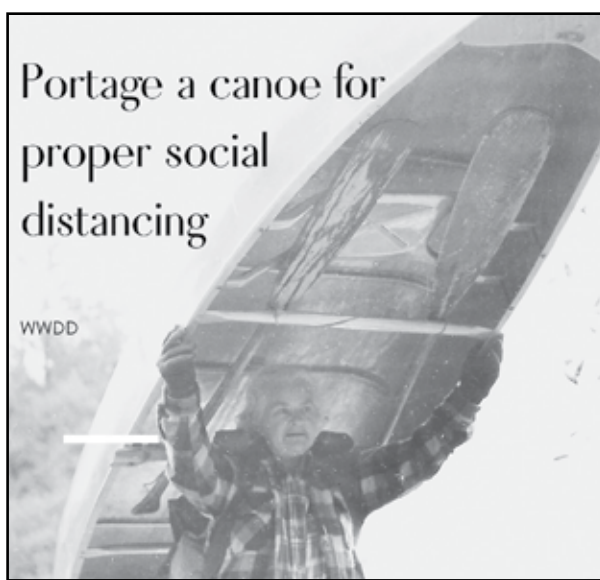
►Visitors are required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth. Disposable masks are available for \$1.

►Visitors are required to use the hand-sanitizer upon entering the Interpretive Center. The bathroom sink is available for hand-washing.

►Visitors should adhere to all directional and instructional signage.

►Only touch retail merchandise if there is an intent to purchase.

“Our new health safety protocol information will be clearly communicated during the online and phone registra-



Portage a canoe for proper social distancing

WWDD

submitted photo

tion process,” Edberg said. “Visitors are welcome to contact us via our social channels or email with questions.”

Ely Folk School to resume in-person classes

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Some classes will continue to be offered online

ELY - Like many non-profits challenged by the COVID-19 crisis, Ely Folk School was forced to cancel in-person classes this spring. The school turned instead to online classes, which have been successful.

“We’re struggling to hang in there,” said coordinator Betty Firth. “But we’re demonstrating resilience.”

She noted that EFS was among the first folk schools to pivot to online classes.

“Our Zoom cooking classes by Lacey Squire have been very well received, with over 160 par-

ticipants making pizza, biscuits and gravy, Brazilian pastries, and Thai curried chicken,” said Firth. “A photo editing class received rave reviews and participants enjoyed swapping memories during a storytelling evening. Most classes have been offered on a donation basis, and many folks have shown their appreciation through generous contributions.”

With Gov. Tim Walz’s announcement allowing limited opening this week of entities like EFS, the school is taking “baby steps” toward resuming on-site classes.

“One of our first on-site classes will be Photographing Orchids on Saturday, June 20, and we’re scheduling others, including ceramics and blacksmithing, that will work well and safely within suggested guidelines,” said Firth. “DyAnne Korda will be reading from her new book in July, and Kay Vandervort will be offering several jewelry classes.”

Upcoming online classes include Advanced Adobe Lightroom Classic on June 17; The Wonders of Basswood Bark on June 18; Summer Sky Star Gazing on June 19; Storytelling

on June 24; and Intermediate Rosemaling on June 27. Classes to be scheduled soon include Celebration of Poetry & Music, Songwriting, Watercolor, Writing Children’s Stories, and more cooking classes.

As a non-profit, EFS is supported in equal portions by grants, donations, and on-site class revenues, all of which have been curtailed by the crisis. The school received a \$9,000 grant from Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation (IRRR) to develop its blacksmithing program and launch ceramics and stained-glass classes.

“We’ve got beautiful new forging tools, pottery wheels, and a donated kiln ready to install. We hope to offer classes soon,” said Firth.

The IRRR grant also includes funds to develop a map in collaboration with the Bois Forte Band featuring Boundary Waters lakes with their original Anishinaabe names.

“This is an exciting spinoff of our connection with area tribal communities through our birch bark canoe program,” said EFS board chair Paul Schurke. He

See RE-OPENING...pg. 5

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Editorial

Addressing blight

Enforcing blight ordinances will positively impact our communities

The Tower City Council took an important step forward this week in the fight against blight. That now gives the city common cause with neighboring communities, like Ely and Orr, where city officials have been trying to address blight for a number of years.

As those efforts have demonstrated, the fight against blight isn't easy or immediate. Yet it's something that cities large and small can't ignore. Looking the other way may be the route of least conflict for city officials, but it is not fair to the vast majority of residents in our communities who do make an effort to maintain their properties in a safe and attractive manner.

Blight makes everyone in a community poorer, but particularly those who live nearby a blighted property. Numerous studies have demonstrated that blighted conditions reduce the value of neighboring properties by many thousands of dollars. Many blighted residences in area communities are not only eyesores, they are vacant and tax delinquent, meaning they are occupying space that could otherwise be home to a productive, tax-paying family living, working, and shopping in the local area. Every one of our communities is hungry for new residents and short on available housing at the same time. Allowing vacant, blighted properties to continue to exist in our communities is like posting a big “Not Welcome” sign at the entrance to town.

In Tower this week, it was the city's economic development authority that brought the subject back to the council. The Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA) has been trying to find vacant residential properties that it could acquire, rehabilitate, and resell to new owner-occupants. It's Economic Development 101 — bringing more people to town, after all, is good for business. There's clearly demand for affordable housing in area communities, but the supply of acceptable homes is limited. Yet, too many owners of vacant and often blighted properties in the community have been uninterested in selling, preferring to do nothing to address their condition.

Rundown or uninhabitable buildings are just one part of the problem. Some property owners also misuse their properties as unofficial junkyards. Because residential property taxes in our commu-

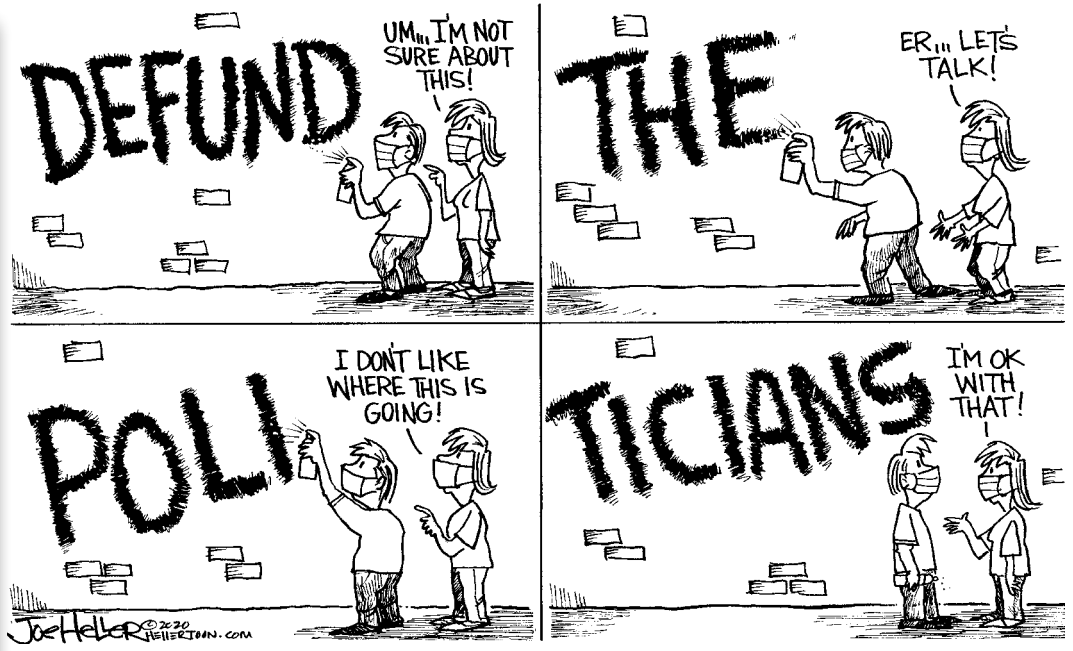
nities are relatively low, some owners have clearly opted to use their yards for cheap storage. One yard located within a half block of Tower City Hall is currently home to eight boats, most not currently licensed, two inoperable and unlicensed vehicles, along with a dilapidated garage and a vacant, unsecured two-story residence that is hopelessly beyond repair.

It's not that cities lack the tools to address blight. Many, including Tower, have adopted model blight ordinances developed by the League of Minnesota Cities. It's the political will to consistently enforce those ordinances that has been lacking in many cases.

Yet blight enforcement can yield major dividends for communities. In 2017, TEDA pushed the city to issue a violation notice and compliance order on the Standing Bear Marina, which had become derelict over the years. Within a couple months, the owners had sold the property to Your Boat Club, which has made significant investment in renovating the long-neglected facility. Indeed, for most cities, blight enforcement is one of their most effective tools for economic development.

We recognize that some will bristle at the very notion of blight enforcement, believing they have a constitutional right to live in whatever manner of disorder they choose. That much is true, but if they wish to live in town, ordinances dictate that their disorder be contained, either within a permitted garage, or their own home. When their “treasures” begin to overflow into their yard or the street, impinging on the enjoyment of others and lowering neighboring property values, it becomes a matter of public concern. Folks who can't abide by that have a constitutional right to move to the country. And even there, they will find that life isn't a free-for-all.

When it comes to blight, progress doesn't happen overnight. The effort in Tower will begin with education and encouragement, particularly for residential property owners. But continued violations could eventually lead to substantial fines for the worst offenders. Hopefully, those offenders will get the message that blight matters before it comes to that.



Letters from Readers

Tensions are high in the U.S.

So far, Trump has managed his own crises. He makes them up, stirs everyone else into yelling at each other, gets people wondering if he's really gone bonkers this time, and then dials it back down a couple notches so people get used to the new level of crazy. But this time he's got two very real crises, and maybe a third, that he has absolutely no control over. One is the economy, which is cratering. Second is the COVID-19 pandemic, which isn't going away, no matter how much we wish it would. Third is people fed up with the militarization of our local police forces all across the country. We are just plain getting tired of being occupied by our own military, even if they are in our supposedly local police forces.

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

BLM March shows Ely's true colors

I wanted to start off by thanking all of the brave members of this community who marched in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and the protests and marches happening around our state, country, and world.

To see how my hometown showed up filled me with hope and inspiration. I am also grateful for Chad Houde and the Ely Police. Their support and graciousness has begun a new chapter in Ely. All of these things showed the true heart of the town I proudly call home.

Growing up in Ely I always knew that this town had love and acceptance running through its veins. If Saturday's march didn't prove that, I don't know what will. To see 300 of my friends and family peacefully marching through the streets and raising their voices against the injustice that is sown into the very fabric of America gave me hope.

Also, having grown up in this town, I know how racism and bigotry are not far under the surface. I hope that this march

has allowed for people with these beliefs to open their eyes, hearts, and souls. That it may be for them a chance to reflect and become a catalyst for change.

When you look at our town and see how it is growing and how people are investing in it, you really begin to grasp the worldly presence that this little town possesses. Every action that our community makes sends ripples around the world. We have a rich heritage. We have an artistic community that is constantly pulling on the world around us to create vast repertoires. We have intellectuals, craftspersons, humanitarians, all woven into the fabrics of our hometown. We are a place of refuge and inspiration.

I firmly believe that Ely is a good place to live, but I believe with even more conviction that my home town has the possibility to be a great place where all persons — no matter what color of their skin, gender, sexuality, or creed — can find solace in a community of open-minded, loving, and diverse individuals.

As I move forward from that march, I am taking that seed of hope with me.

Throughout the next month items will be posted on the march's event page that I hope will continue the conversation, inspire others to stand up, educate, and create accountable actions that will produce a better society as a whole.

Thank you again, all of you courageous humans who marched together. You have started the conversations that will propel Ely into the future.

Love and light, keep living (the good life).

Ian Lah
Ely

Seeking stories from the portage trail

I have been researching the old portage trail between Kawishiwi Lake and Perent Lake in Lake County. I would like to hear experiences or anecdotes from anyone who may have either actually used this portage (over 50 years ago), or from those

who have attempted to use the portage since then or even more recently.

Here is what I've determined about the history of this route:

►Sometime around 1901, two trappers from the North Shore cleared a trail between Kawishiwi Lake and Perent Lake in Lake County. They were locally known as Tame Tom and Wild Bill.

►In 1920, U.S. Forest Service Landscape Architect Arthur Carhart used this same portage trail during a site visit to the Superior National Forest.

►After 1946, the Tomahawk-Kraft Paper Company built a haul road from Forest Center to Kawishiwi Lake and beyond.

►During the next 20 years, parts of the trail were cut over in a timber harvest and the slash was broadcast burned.

►The trail was no longer included on primary base maps after 1960.

►Sometime in the 1970s, the USFS abandoned the trail.

Today, BWCAW entry point 37 on Kawishiwi Lake hosts a rustic Forest Service campground located near the original portage trail.

If you have stories about this portage or if you have heard stories, please share them with me.

Tom McCann
Grand Marais

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

Here's why Black Lives Matter to me

The first reason I can give for why black lives matter to me starts with one word: Christopher.

Christopher is the 15-year-old son of a good friend of mine, Kenya, who lives in North Carolina. He's an excellent student and a good athlete, with a dad who's a professional photographer and mom who's a writer and a web designer.



DAVID COLBURN

Christopher is black, and Kenya fears the day when he gets his driver's license and can go out on his own. I'm not sure if she's already had “the talk” with him about what to say and do to hopefully avoid harm if he's ever stopped by police, but if not I expect it will be coming soon.

It makes me mad as hell that a friend of mine should have to

do that and feel that way. Never did I have such worries raising my daughter.

But what's a mother to feel when discrimination and racism have been a part of her life for decades? In a recent blog column written at the request of a white friend, Kenya described a shopping trip with Christopher when he was nine during which the pair were followed all around a store by white clerks, while none of the other customers, all white, were being attended to at all. It was obvious they were being watched closely because

they were black, and it was so disturbing that they've never been back to that store.

Christopher is almost the same age that Trayvon Martin was when he left the home he was visiting eight years ago to walk to a convenience store for snacks. He never made it back, killed in a scuffle with a vigilante who followed him because he was black and wearing a hoodie and the attacker thought he looked suspicious. When George Zimmerman was acquitted of any crime in Trayvon's tragic death, by a predominantly white

jury, Black Lives Matter was born.

It happened to Trayvon — could it happen to Christopher? Fear of black men in our society is real. Racism is real. My friend Kenya has to live with the truth that her tall, handsome black son could be perceived by some people as threatening, and the fact that she does just rips my heart out. Her family's lives matter to me, as do the lives of all the other black families who can't ever just walk away

See **RACISM...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

TAAS ends up funding the city

The question I asked yesterday of the Tower City Council, "Is the City going to replenish the \$697,299 it owes to the TAAS Ambulance Fund?", was answered, in effect, during the video-conferenced city council meeting last night. Mr. Ceglar, of the city's accounting firm, was present to answer questions and further explain the 2019 city audit. The answer was not good for the Ambulance Service or for the member townships. And the answer is not simple, due to the overwhelming financial problems that the city has gotten itself into.

For example, the accountant was asked about the \$585,694 deficit in the Historic Harbor Project Fund. In reality, the bills for this project have actually been paid, but in doing so, the money was taken from the Tower Area Ambulance Fund. He took us to a page of the 2019 Audit and suggested that the harbor deficit on paper could be eliminated by doing the actual paper transfer from out of the ambulance fund. Other city funds are showing deficits also. The storefront renovation loan program has tens of thousands of dollars in delinquent loans. The city water and wastewater funds are in the red. Even the ambulance fund can't cover all of the problems. The harbor townhouse project is dead. Property taxes in Tower, already high, are going to go up. Utility rates are going to go up very significantly. It reminds me of the Tom Thumb story.

Last night the council kicked the can down the road by forming a "work group" to study the deficit situation. In the end, the ambulance fund that was earned by the TAAS billing for ambulance runs will end up being next to nothing, if not nothing. Supposedly, the ambulance vehicle replacement subsidy fund, raised through payments by the TAAS township members,

is safe from city transfers. This amount is separate from the \$697,299, and is not enough to pay for the new ambulance that was ordered over a year and a half ago. (That's another strange situation.)

One thing I'd like to note is that the TAAS has certainly generated enough money, had it not been spent on unrelated city expenses, to more than pay for the new ambulance, which will cost around \$240,000. Townships need to look into this before they make any more ambulance subsidy payments.

Here is a link to the 2019 City of Tower Audit. Pages 16, 19, 20, 38, 39 and 40 are of interest to TAAS members, <http://www.cityoftower.com/pdf/Tower%20Final%20Audit%20Report%202019.pdf>.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp**

Emotions vs. Truth

With the creation of instant communication, we, as a society, have now learned that we can influence others, many others, with the touch of a button. It does not matter if we are presenting a fact, partial fact, or outright untruth. This ability demands great responsibility. In the past days/months we have seen this ability abused to a tremendous degree....

When we experience an event we often are affected by the emotions of the moment. We take the event at face value and react. The Chinese flu and the death of a man in Minneapolis are two such events in our society currently. A snippet of video, unconfirmed facts and extensive commentaries have had a profound effect on large groups of people. The results of this are evident. History will look back at our ignorant rantings and lack of understanding and shake its head. It is now evident that in both cases our society has "shot it self in the foot."

Here's my point:

A. Power of any kind

demands responsibility.

B. The lack of a common social/moral standard has once again led our society to where we judge before the whole truth is known.

C. Respect is earned, not given, not funded. Remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

D. Truth is waiting to be told. Seek it and don't be led by the sensationalism of the events. Take the time to find the truth

Keep in mind a few things:

No leader in any capacity wants to lead by deception and untruth. Often, they are misinformed and emotionally/politically motivated.

Fear, not facts, has led to wearing masks.

No one wakes up and wants to be a thief or a murderer.

Our country's laws are to be upheld by every member of our society and we are accountable for our actions, all of us.

"We the People." The beginning of our Constitution's proclamation of independence demands that WE must SELF-govern and not wait for the government to govern. If we don't take this responsibility and we give up that right, we will be like sheep and our society will fall to herd mentality that is controlled by emotion, fear, and anger.

ONLY YOU AND I CAN DO THIS, not the government. Think about it.

**Bud Van Deusen
Eagles Nest**

Requeste an absentee ballot to ensure your vote

Why vote? We've all heard the reasons why people vote and don't vote. They range from "the electoral college makes the decision, so why bother," to "politics don't affect my life."

Here's another way to look at it: If 100 people vote, then 51 of them decide the election. But, if 100 people are eligible to vote, and only 60 people vote, just 31 people will decide the election.

And what if only half of those 60 people vote? Just 16 people will decide the election.

Luckily, we are in a state and a county with a proud history of strong voter turnout. But, when none of us knows whether there will be another wave of coronavirus in the fall, voting may become more challenging.

Now is the time to seek an absentee ballot or if you have not voted at your polling place before, to get registered to vote.

The easiest way to register is online at mnvotes.org. Any U.S. citizen who will be at least eighteen years old on the day of the election may vote. To vote in Minnesota, an individual must have resided here for twenty days preceding the election. An individual must have also completed all parts of a felony sentence and not have been ruled legally incompetent by a court.

Citizens may also complete their voter registration at the Ely City Clerk's office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Voter registration can, of course, be completed at the polls on Election Day. The clerk's office is also happy to answer any questions you may have about voting, or contact the MN Secretary of State office 1-877-600-8683 for more information.

**Kay Vandervort
Ely**

My mask protects you, your mask protects me

After reading about strategies used in countries such as Austria and Japan where the COVID-19 is now under control, one factor stands out. In these countries, people cooperated. They all wore masks. In the end, by wearing masks, lockdowns were unnecessary and in time, the spread of COVID was eliminated.

For some strange reason, many seem to think that asking one to wear a mask is an extreme violation of one's personal

freedom. I read an article about risks for the spread of the virus. An example is that even in a grocery store if everyone is required to wear a mask, the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus is dramatically reduced.

More information about COVID-19 surfaces on a daily basis. What is clear at this time is that the virus is spread through airborne droplets. Masks prevent the expulsion of these droplets into the air. So, if I wear a mask, my mask protects you and when you wear a mask, your mask protects me. Obviously, when we both are wearing masks, the protection is even more effective. This should not be that difficult to understand or to do.

Wearing a mask is now a social courtesy. I am grateful to business owners who have the plastic shield in front of the cash register, whose cashiers wear masks and gloves, and who ask that customers wear masks in their stores. I am grateful to all others around me who are wearing masks.

I feel uncomfortable when I see people not wearing masks in public spaces. Some say they don't believe in wearing a mask, as if this has anything to do with one's belief system. Much misinformation unfortunately spreads on social media about masks. However, if everyone cooperates, wearing masks in public spaces and practicing social distancing, the need for additional lockdowns can be prevented as well as an increase in the number of cases and deaths from the COVID. These strategies were effective in other countries where people did not feel that their rights were compromised by the simple mandate to wear a mask. People gladly cooperated and no lockdowns were necessary.

So I wear a mask. And am deeply grateful when I see all of those other masked people.

**Ellie Larmouth
Tower**

RACISM...Continued from page 4

from the realities of racism in America.

The second reason black lives matter to me is that for most of my adult life my life has mattered to them.

When folks here in the north lands of Minnesota ask me where I came from, my standard response has been that I moved here from Montana and am a small-town Kansas native. Both are true, but they omit a huge swath of my adult life that was spent working in large metropolitan areas.

Over a span of about 25 years, my professional life in early childhood education included years spent in Dallas, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, south Los Angeles, and Spokane, Wash. All of those jobs brought me into treasured relationships with people and communities of color and provided experiences both sobering and enriching. I've been warmly invited into the lives of so many black colleagues, families, and friends that the injustices I've seen firsthand continue to pain me greatly, even as I make a new home for myself in very white northern Minnesota.

As a professor at St. Louis Community College, I worked for five years at the Ferguson campus. If Ferguson rings a bell, it's likely because of the police shooting there of Michael Brown and the ensuing riots. I'd left Ferguson by then, but problems with racism in area police departments were openly acknowledged and longstanding when I was there. It took less than a semester of being at SLCC to learn what a mess the Ferguson police department was when it came to policing the black community. Meanwhile, I was sickened nearly every spring after graduation when invariably some of my associate-degreed black students were passed over by programs in predominantly white neighborhoods who preferred hiring white staff with no degrees over far more qualified black candidates. I know that happened because those programs would then send some of those unqualified staff to my program to take classes.

When I moved from SLCC to the St. Louis County, Mo., Head Start program, one of my friends and colleagues had an experience that feeds

my present-day concern for Christopher's future.

I came to work one day to find the office abuzz about what had happened the night before to our Fatherhood Initiative coordinator, Wendell. He had been stopped by the police for "driving while black." After proceeding from a stop light on a street near Forest Park, he was pulled over by officers who told him that there had been some "trouble" in the area and that they needed to check him out. Wendell and his buddy were told to get out of the car, whereupon they were frisked from head to toe by one officer while the other searched the car. Finding nothing, the officers sent them on their way without any apology for the unjustified and illegal invasive search. Here was a man of exceptional integrity, a master's-degreed social worker, a friend and colleague of mine, who was reduced to tears as he retold the horrific story. He reluctantly filed a complaint, knowing that nothing would ever come of it, and nothing did. That's the way it worked back then, and for the most part still does unless someone is standing nearby with a camera. Would there be such

uproar over the death of George Floyd if it hadn't been captured on video? We all know the answer is a resounding "NO."

Driving while black, walking while black, swimming while black, and as we've seen recently, even bird watching while black can be dangerous for even the most educated, well-established black men in America, and often those dangers come in unprovoked encounters with police. Frankly, the best thing whites could do for police instead of dismissing the problems as a few bad apples is to demand that the police weed those bad apples out of the system so that their actions don't make the work of good officers harder and more dangerous. Unfortunately, it hasn't happened, but perhaps the protests in the wake of George Floyd's abhorrent and tragic death will bring change.

Black lives matter to me. For those of you inclined to respond with "all lives matter," of course they do, but you're sadly missing the point. We're not saying "only black lives matter" or "black lives matter more." Parents love all their children, but we all know sometimes one needs

more attention than the others. Black lives matter to me because it's long past time to address the issues that keep my black friends, colleagues, and children and families I've worked with and care about from fully reaping the benefits of being Americans.

And frankly, black lives matter to me because I'm tired as all get out of seeing my friends have to worry over things white people never give a second thought to, tired of seeing them having to be more qualified than whites to compete successfully for the same job, tired of worrying about the fate of the Christophers of America and the world. I'd like to experience a life free from the angst of seeing people I care about suffer injustice in their lives. Striving to clear the hurdles in the paths of the black people I care about isn't nearly as hard as having to deal with the hurdles myself, but it's my responsibility to tackle if I ever hope to experience the peace and equality I wish to see in the world.

RE-OPENING...Continued from page 4

notes the map was first proposed a century ago by USFS planner Arthur Carhart and renowned Bois Forte band member Leo Chosa.

"We hope that residents and visitors alike will be pleased to learn that our famous lakes, many now named after loggers,

miners, numbers, or days of the week, actually have beautifully lyrical and descriptive native names. It's a novel and exciting project that will honor our canoe country Ojibway legacy," said Schurke.

The IRRR grant on which EFS is dependent for its summer

survival requires a dollar-for-dollar match from community donations.

"Our EFS friends have been generous in the past," said Schurke "While these are tough times, we're hoping their support will ensure we can unlock this critical grant. Our spring fund

appeal is being launched this week to help keep EFS afloat."

Donations are universally deductible up to \$300 per individual or \$600 per couple, Schurke noted, due to a provision in the recent federal CARES Act.

"We hope people will visit our website, www.ElyFolkSchool.org,

where our spring fund appeal and our upcoming online and on-site classes are posted. During these restrictive times, community connecting points like EFS are more valuable than ever."

Subscribe Today • (218) 753-2950

Week of June 15

Monday
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is June 16.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermillioncountry.org.

Tower Food Shelf

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf is not able to increase its hours at this time, but anyone needing an emergency visit can contact Food Shelf Coordinator Marge McPeak at 218-753-3503.

LOCALLY GROWN
Tower Farmers Market opens on Friday, June 19

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market is looking forward to a safe 2020 season when we open on Friday, June 19 at 4 p.m. at the train. Market vendors will be following COVID-19 safety recommendations provided by the Minnesota Farmers Market Association, including practicing social distancing, more spacing between market vendors, use of an on-site handwashing station at the market, and more. Face masks are encouraged but will not be required.

Following the guidelines, on-site consumption of food will not be allowed this year. However, we expect our usual wonderful mix of baked goods, meat, craft, produce, and canned goods vendors to be back at the market. We hope to see you there, too, to support your local vendors who work hard all year to bring you the variety you've come to expect.

New vendors are always welcome. Tables are \$25 for the summer. Check out our Face-



book page or call Janna at 753-2916 or Mickey at 984-3951 with any questions.

SUMMER READING



Hoodoo Point installs two new Little Free Libraries

TOWER- Hoodoo Point Campground has two brand new Little Free Libraries, one for adult books and the second for children's books, installed near the campground store.

The first was donated by campers Wanda and Marlin Parks, whose grandson built Little Libraries as part of his Eagle Scout project. The second is from Dale and Linda Burgess, and is installed next to a little red sitting bench. Campground manager Julie Kranz said they hope both campers and area residents will take time to browse, take a book, and if possible, leave a book!

Other little libraries are located on the Greenwood walking/biking trail, on Isle of Pines, on the front porch of the Timberjay, and by the Soudan Store alley.

Pictured are Keanna, Epiphany, Carmen, Thomas, and Tayah. photo by J. Summit

St. Martin's Baby Shower for Life fundraiser a success

TOWER- The Baby Shower for Life (sponsored by the St. Martin's Quilt Ministry) was a great success. Thank you to all who contributed to this project. Even with our church closed, parishioners and community members found a way to get their donations to us. Items were boxed and delivered to the Women's Care Center in Duluth this past week; we received lots of smiles and thanks from the staff.



Two named to Central Lakes College 2020 spring semester honors list

REGIONAL- Gavin Olson and Gunnar Olson, both of Tower, were recently named to the President's List at Central Lakes College. The President's List includes 410 students who earned a grade-point average of 3.75 to 4.0 while enrolled for at least 12 credits.

Vermilion Country School honor roll



A Honor Roll

- Caleb Ramponi
Leah Anderson
Alexander Dorman
Alyssa Pratt

B Honor Roll

- Brody Anderson
Elijah Schmitt
Jacob Dorman
Danica Starkman

Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY! Call 218-753-2950



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).

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

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round
Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister

Summer Hours through Sept. 30
Tuesday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Recycling canisters available at the canister site when open.
For info: 1-800-450-9278



OPENING Friday, June 19 4-6 PM at the Depot



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

ISD 696

Ely students, staff mark end of school year



Ely teachers and staff recently paraded in a school bus and vehicles around town marking the end of the school year. Fans of all ages turned out.

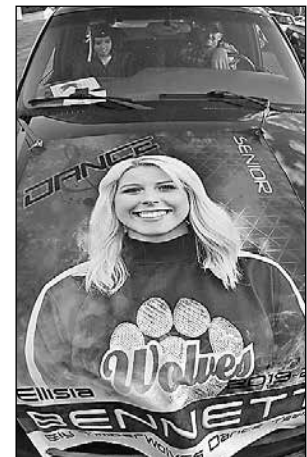


Teachers Kaley Hotaling, left, and Sarah Mason, above, were all smiles as the 2019-2020 school year, which featured distance learning due to COVID-19 came to an end.



A stage, above, was set up in front of the Ice Arena. Ellisia Bennett's car, right was decorated with a unique hood poster Lauren Porthan had her own fan club, below. photos by K., Vandervort

Class of 2020 graduates with unique outdoor commencement



Ely Senior Center reopens

ELY - The Ely Senior Center is set to begin "normal" activities as Gov. Walz continues to lift restriction for public places. Bingo resumed this week and will be played on Wednesdays beginning at 1 p.m.

A safety plan, in place for visitors out of caution over the coronavirus pandemic, is posted on the door and bulletin board. They will be enforcing social distancing. Masks are recommended but not required.

Ely Food Shelf open June 17

ELY - Food distribution here will move back to the Conan Street Food Shelf location on Wednesday, June 17. Drive-up distribution will be held 12 to 4 p.m.

Volunteers will obtain household information in one area and then food will be distributed in another area for loading into your own vehicle. Please practice social distancing precautions due to the coronavirus pandemic. Wearing of face masks is suggested.

Please approach from West Pattison Street near Amici's, turn right on 2nd Avenue near Carefree Living, then right on Conan Street. Watch for signs and follow the directions of volunteers directing traffic.

To maintain social distancing, please stay in your vehicle until you are instructed get out to load your food into your vehicle. There is plenty of food so it is not necessary to arrive early, doing so adds to the congestion in the neighborhood. If possible, arrive after 1 p.m.

Volunteers will be delivering food to area apartments and townhouses on Thursday, June 18. Please call 218-235-8912 to reserve food for delivery.

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.

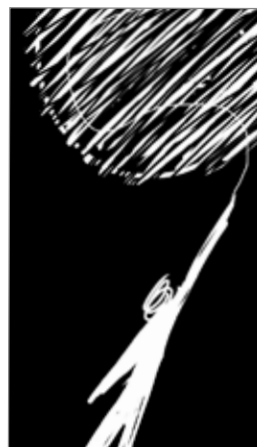
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED

- Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment.

Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



shake, rattle, and roll big life changes all around

loosely hanging on



the TIMBERJAY

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St. Louis County Area Solid Waste Facility Site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station
9384 Hwy 21 N. between Ely and Babbitt
Summer Hours
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm
Tue: 9:30am-3pm
Wed: noon-6pm

Aurora Transfer Station
5910 Hwy 135 N.
Hours
Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm
Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm
Sat: 8am-noon

Embarrass Canister Site
7530 Koski Rd.
Hours
Thu: 10am-5pm
Sat: 12:30-4:30pm

Soudan Canister Site
5160 Hwy 169
Hours
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:
8am-5pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility
5341 Regional Landfill Rd
Hours
Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Regional Landfill
5341 Regional Landfill Rd (east of Virginia)
Hours
Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm
Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Summer hours effective April 15 through September 30th
For recycling information go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

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



Spirit of the pow wow prevails at Nett Lake

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- The importance of a pow wow is not to be found in the numbers of people who attend, but in the hearts of those who preserve its meanings and traditions.

Evidence of that was on display this past weekend in Nett Lake, which in normal years would have been the site of the Bois Forte Band's Saa Gii Ba Gaa pow wow acknowledging the arrival and renewal of spring.

The Bois Forte Tribal Council officially canceled the pow wow on June 4 due to concerns over the novel coronavirus and Gov. Tim Walz's restrictions on crowd sizes. At the same time they gave the go-ahead for the annual spring ceremony on Friday morning, recognizing the sacred nature of that event in Anishinaabe culture.

"Every spring we have that ceremony after the lake opens and before the leaves come out," said tribal elder Gene Goodsky. "We're asking for growth of all plants,

rebirth of all the animals and the birds. We're asking for rebirth for everything. We're asking for regrowth of the wild rice, the fish. Over in Vermilion they do the same. What we're doing is feeding the lake."

Goodsky said that the ceremony was later than usual because of a series of deaths in the community.

A central feature of Nett Lake is Spirit Island, and it figures prominently in the Nett Lake community spring celebration.

"There are some little people there, spirits, and then there is a grandfather spirit there that takes care of the wild rice. Those are the ones we make an offering to," Goodsky said.

Gifts of blankets, hand-held tools, kitchenware, and other household items were offered and their spirits released to the spirit world, Goodsky said, while the physical items will be saved to give to a visiting drum circle at an upcoming pow wow to distribute to their members. Participants in the ceremony were given a sign their

gifts had been received.

"After we got done we were packing up and a nice eagle came over," Goodsky said. "To us that means he came to accept all the tobacco that we smoked, and he came to get the offerings. Everybody was in awe when he flew right by and made a couple of circles and then took off. That was beautiful. It made the hair on my neck stand up."

But for people like Goodsky and Chaz Wagner, who works at KFBT radio in Nett Lake and is a member of the Bois Forte drum circle, forgoing the weekend pow wow was simply not an option.

"The pow wow puts a shield around us," Goodsky said. "I told our leaders we have to have the pow wow, we have to put that shield around us. It's not just the pow wow; we need that protection."

Wagner contacted fellow drum circle members, then used social media to alert Nett Lake residents that the groups would be performing all of the traditional songs at the pow wow circle at the government center on



Elder Gene Goodsky, left, joins members of the Bois Forte drum circle as they perform a traditional pow wow song at Nett Lake, with Spirit Island in the background. Photo by D. Colburn

Saturday and Sunday. Attendance was open only to Nett Lake residents, and appropriate health measures and social distancing were required.

"Straight up traditional and the good of the community coming together," Wagner wrote.

Welcoming weather Saturday brought out a crowd eager not only to honor traditional Anishinaabe ways and beliefs,

but to see and greet other people after a long period of confinement due to COVID-19 control measures.

"It was nice to be able to get out and do something, to socialize," said Heart Warrior Chosa. She and her granddaughters Rose Blossom and Lila were the only community members who attended Saturday who braved the overcast and windy con-

ditions to return Sunday. The trio danced as drum circle members Darren Langren, David Morrison Jr., and Wagner were joined by Goodsky on several songs.

And as the final cadence of the final song sounded, as if on cue, the clouds parted and the sun shone brightly, perhaps yet another sign of approval from honored ancestors.

Friends group reveals plans for Riverfront Park

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Cook Friends of the Parks has a vision for enhancing recreation opportunities at Riverfront Park, and when Tammy Palmer and Carrolle Wood described that vision at a recent city council meeting, members were eager for more.

Palmer took the lead at the outset, prefacing her description with a question.

"The number one question is who is going

to pay for this?" she said. While plans haven't been developed to the point of a solid budget as of yet, Palmer asked the council for their support.

A central feature of the plan would be to add three picnic tables and two grills to the park, with picnic tables possibly set in concrete slabs to secure them.

Council member Liz Storm asked if they had considered using concrete picnic tables, which she said the Forest Service has used with good

success.

"They're sturdy and nobody is going to do anything to them," she said.

Wood replied that the tables they were considering are comparable to the durability of coated playground equipment. Palmer said they came with a 50-year warranty.

Palmer and Wood said they would like to approach Canadian National railroad about putting up a fence to separate the adjacent rail line from the park, providing ben-

efits for both safety and appearance.

The pair noted that the park, which they propose be named Veterans Riverfront Park, can be developed in phases. Once initial improvements have been made, they talked about collaborating with the state Department of Natural Resources to consider putting in a kayak and canoe landing, along with helping to clean out the river to make it more navigable for watercraft. A landing also would

give people a place to go fishing.

"The DNR would more likely be on board if it's already a park," Wood said.

Wood said they wouldn't install playground equipment because they don't intend to make the park a destination place to draw kids. The designs are oriented more toward family-centered activities.

Council members approved additional development of plans and cost estimates to be pre-

sented at a future meeting for consideration.

Palmer and Wood also got permission to explore the possibility of doing a drive-in style movie event at the city park. Council members urged them to consult with Carol Carlson at the Comet Theater about the idea, and Palmer noted that if Friends of the Parks moves ahead with the park improvement plan they may not have enough money to stage a movie event.

Insurance decision coming soon on possible auto shop fire payout

ORR- A decision by the company that insured Wally's Auto Service, decimated last fall by a devastating fire that gutted the building, could be coming within weeks, giving Orr City Council members clearer direction as to what to do about getting the property cleaned up.

Mayor Joel Astleford reported at Monday's council meeting that the company's investigation of the fire was completed May 28. The company has up to 60 days in which to decide whether or not it will pay out on the policy. If the company decided not to pay, then the city would have to pursue action of its own through the blighted properties ordinance to have the property taken care of, Astleford said.

A contact made by the *Timberjay* on Tuesday with the state fire marshal revealed that investigation is ongoing. The department did not provide

any additional details or timeline. The November 2018 fire at the Cook Zup's and March 2018 fire at Fortune Bay are also listed as still under investigation.

Power struggle

If the city wants to keep using Lake Country Power poles for the line that controls the water and air mixture for the water tank on Moose Lake Hill, it's now going to cost something, according to water and sewer director Paul Koch.

"We have to pump water into a pressure tank on top of that hill because it doesn't get fed by the water tower," Koch explained. "That's the communication we use to control the pump. It's been on the poles since it was put in in the 60s, I think."

The city was notified by LCP that they intend to replace the poles the city line has been anchored to. To provide for proper spacing between

their lines and the city's, the poles would have to be taller. Orr would be required to pay the difference in cost for the taller poles and pay monthly rent to continue using them.

Koch said he was exploring alternatives such as putting a pressure switch at the bottom of the hill that would eliminate the need to use the LCP poles.

In other business, the council:

► Approved a low bid of \$500 from Lakes Gas to repair a leaking 500-gallon propane tank at Old City Hall.

► Accepted dona-

tions to the ambulance service of \$50 each from Steven and Vicki Brewer, Thomas and Laurie Larson, and Curtis Deering and Anne Holloran, and \$100 from Dakota Electric, all in honor of services provided to Ron Larson of Woodbury prior to his passing on May 11.

► Approved a contract with Dr. Julie Houle of Hibbing to serve as medical director of the ambulance service. Houle will donate 10 hours of service per month, and will be paid \$165 for additional hours up to an annual total not to exceed \$3,600.

THANK YOU



The North Woods Class of 2020 would like to thank everyone who helped make our final weeks of high school feel so special! We loved seeing the signs, banners, and special messages that you shared with us throughout our communities. We'd also like to thank everyone who planned and attended the Senior Parade. Each and every gesture was truly appreciated!

Sincerely,
North Woods High School
Class of 2020

Read us online at
www.timberjay.com



the *TIMBERJAY*

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OPENING
Friday, June 19
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ELEMENTARY GARDENS

Sprouting apart but blooming together

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Ely students grow a school pollinator garden while distance learning

ELY – Washington Elementary teachers continued facilitating a pollinator garden this spring despite the distance learning protocols put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Although we were apart, we grew as learners together,” said third-grade teacher Kaley Hotaling. “We all look forward to the day when we can be together in our building once more.”

This spring, students started growing flowers at home, and then came to school with their families late last week to transplant the flowers into the garden in front of the school with the help of fourth-grade teacher Nancy Preblich.

“This activity helped to symbolize unity at Washington Elementary,” Preblich said, “to promote community, learn about plant life, and help to create pollinator habitats.”

Pollinators such as bees, wasps, butterflies, beetles, hummingbirds, and even bats are critical to the world’s food production.

“According to scientists, one out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators,” Hotaling said. “Nearly 75 percent of the world’s crops require pollination. That means it is important to conserve and establish pollinators’ habitats.”



Top: Students start planting. submitted photo

Right: Tara and Kevin Boerst help their daughter Anika plant some flowers. photo by K. Vandervort

Far right: Aspen gets some help from her mother Sara MacCoy. photo by K. Vandervort



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NOTICE

ely area food shelf

Wednesday, June 17
the Ely Area Food Shelf will be distributing food curbside from **Noon-4 PM** at the FOOD SHELF located at 15 West Conan Street.

Directions: Approach from West Pattison Street near Amici's, then turn right on 2nd Ave, then right on Conan Street. Watch for signs and follow the directions of volunteers directing traffic.

Curbside pick-up will continue. We will take your household info in one area and then you will drive ahead to load your food into your vehicle to maintain social distancing. Please wear a face mask if you have one. We have plenty of food, so it is not necessary to line up early.

To avoid congestion in our neighborhood, arrive after 1 PM. Help us be good neighbors.

We will be delivering food to the apartments and townhouses on Thursday, June 18. Please call 218-235-8912 to reserve delivery.

For questions or to volunteer, please call 218-235-8912.

Thank You!



ISD 696

Ely school board moves forward with technology initiative

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – School board members here Monday night agreed to move forward with expanding plans for implementing technology in the classroom, made even more necessary this spring when students were sent home due to caution over the coronavirus pandemic and teachers were thrust into a distance learning environment.

Termed the “One-to-One Initiative,” the program is intended to provide all students in ISD 696 with equal access to technology.

Superintendent Erik Erie said providing an electronic learning device for each student as technology tools become integrated in classrooms was an important factor in the district’s 21st Century Learning proposal to the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for referendum support.

“Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and we were forced to go into distance learning mode,” Erie said. “Having to rely on a great deal of technology to provide learning engagement with our students during distance learning, it became very evident that many of our students and families lacked access to technology.”

Erie said as many as 130 devices were distributed to Ely students this spring to address those inequalities.

When the One-to-One Initiative was introduced, administrators and technology personnel expect-



Ely Memorial High School choir students held a virtual concert on social media at the end of the school year. Shown clockwise, from upper left, Hanna Littler, Amelia Pluth, Grace Erickson, Cora Olson, Gabe Mann, Adrianna Bishop, Desiray Lawrence, Sophia Kurnava, Matthew Janeksela, Margaret Renner, Caitlin Priebe. submitted photo

ed to have the luxury of considerable time to study how such a program could be implemented in the classroom. Distance learning protocols forced them to address technology inequities more quickly. COVID-19 is still the driving factor as the district looks to the start of the new school year and the very real possibility of continuing distance learning.

Federal funding through the economic stimulus CARES Act and school budget adjustments and transfers, made available through executive orders from Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz with guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Education, opened new financial opportunities.

Board members this week were presented with a preliminary budget for the 2020-21 school year that included a proposal to use approximately \$375,000 in CARES Act funding and reserved fund balance transfers for the One-to-One Initiative.

Erie proposed com-

binning a one-time federal CARES Act grant of more than \$87,500 with \$75,000 of transfers from the federal grant, and monies from a variety of reserved fund balances, including basic skills, \$200,000, gifted and talented, \$60,000, and staff development, \$40,000, to pay for the program.

“These fund balances have grown over many years,” said ISD 696 business manager Spencer Aune in an audio presentation to board members, “and the use of them will not affect current programming or the unreserved fund balances for the next fiscal year.”

Board member James Pointer asserted he had a hard time understanding the implementation of the One-to-One Initiative and how it would impact the budget for next year.

“There is no real proposal there,” he said. “We didn’t have a discussion on how it would be implemented. There is no example of how you are going to alleviate the internet concerns we have

here in rural America. I personally would like to see a full-blown proposal breaking down on what the true expenses are, how you are going to implement this, and what kind of training there will be for teachers.”

Pointer noted that he is not in favor of the One-to-One Initiative.

“A lot of research that I’m reading says to get kids off of technology and get them away from it as much as we can and now the school is going to give them technology for five days a week, six hours a day. Personally, I don’t think that is the right thing,” he said.

Board member Heidi Mann highlighted concerns voiced by an Ely teacher over decimating the Gifted and Talented program funds.

“He said he feels good about where the program was heading in terms of using those reserves to establish a Gifted and Talented program and wants us to think carefully in making a decision,” she said.

Erie explained that planning was being accomplished on the Gifted and Talented program when the coronavirus hit.

“That was actually part of our collaboration plan with one of our neighboring schools,” he said. He noted that as much as \$7,900 is put into that fund each year, so reserves will continue to build until needed.

“We have an opportunity now to use these fund balance transfers,” Erie said. “That’s why we picked them apart now. Spencer and I went over the reserve funds. We are still able to offer programming in those areas.”

Erie proposed using \$60,000 of the \$70,000 balance in the Gifted and Talented fund.

“We will have close to \$18,000 (\$10,000 balance plus \$7,900 in the 2020-2021 budget year) sitting in there with nothing to do because we don’t have a program now,” he said.

Mann proposed approving the One-to-One Initiative in a broad way and expected a more detailed proposal to consider in the near future.

Board chair Ray Marsnik agreed with Mann’s suggestion.

“I think we could (approve the fund transfers) and move forward with the One-to-One Initiative and eventually look at a plan with all the details,” he said.

Board members agreed.

Other business

In other action, the board:

► Approved a lease agreement with Happy Days Preschool for the

2020-21 school year and authorized a discount of \$1,000 due to lost revenue when school was closed because of the coronavirus.

► Approved a 2020-21 school year contract with Arrowhead Regional Computing Consortium.

► Approved annual premiums of \$167,245 to Vaaler Insurance for the 2020-21 school year.

► Approved quotes from Dean Foods for milk products, Pan-O-Gold Baking Co. for bread products, Lucky Boy Services for snow removal services, and Superior Fuel Co. for propane for the 2020-21 school year.

► Tabled approval of the middle school/high school 2020-21 schedule until further information is provided.

► Hired Holly Sherman as Memorial School secretary, beginning Aug. 11.

► Accepted the resignation of bus driver Ron Rikkola.

► Approved a request from Ely Community Education to use the pickle ball courts, following Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines.

► Tabled a request for payment for unused vacation days from the district’s at-will employees, and a request from the Ely Principals Association, Ely Education Association and AFSCME employees to carry over unused personal days into the 2020-21 school year.

SAFE...Continued from page 1

► Movie theaters, bowling alleys, museums, and other indoor entertainment facilities can open at 25-percent capacity.

► Outdoor entertainment venues can open for up to 250 people.

Personal care services such as hair salons, barbershops, and tattoo parlors can increase capacity to 50 percent provided they provide appropriate social distancing and both workers and clients wear masks.

Area businesses have been scurrying the past few days to notify customers and make necessary modifications to accommodate increased capacities.

The news was a mixed blessing of sorts for Cook’s Montana Café, where owner Megan Brodeen has taken advantage of the restrictions on indoor dining to do some remodeling of the dining area. Half

of the dining room is still under construction.

“The new regulations might have caught us with our wall down,” Brodeen said in a Facebook post. However, a few dine-in seats are available by reservation.

“We understand that this isn’t the most ideal situation and we all miss gathering over a great meal together, but we appreciate the support and understanding.”

In Ely, the Ely Steak House announced it would be opening indoor dining starting with lunch on Thursday, June 11.

“One-and-a-half-hour seating times will be implemented to help maximize our limited capacity and to ensure tables and chairs are properly cleaned and sanitized for everyone’s safety,” the restaurant’s social media page said Wednesday. The restaurant

also encouraged patrons to wear masks.

Movie goers in Cook will still have to wait until mid-July for a possible re-opening of the movie screen at the Comet Theater, which also has a retail shop that is open.

Owner Carol Carlson said that the 25-percent limit on theater capacity would make it nearly impossible to make enough money to cover the 60-percent fee she has to pay a distributor and also pay staff. There also isn’t much at all available in the way of films right now, as with the closure of theaters, studios and distributors have been releasing many new titles directly to online services.

“I can start when I’m ready and when there’s a good product,” Carlson said. “We’ll see what’s being released. Nothing this month, that’s for sure.”

Team sports

While the eased restrictions were good news for many, sports enthusiasts’ hopes for resurrecting limited baseball and softball competition were dashed by additional guidance issued after the governor’s press conference.

The state Department of Health guidelines classify baseball, softball, basketball, soccer and numerous other sports as “medium risk,” and football, wrestling, group cheer, and other sports as “high risk.” For both high and medium risk activities, games and competition against other teams, even in unofficial scrimmages, are not allowed. Teams can practice as long as they remain under the 25-person limit, including coaches, and provide appropriate social distancing as

described in the guidelines.

Should the guidelines remain unchanged going into the start of the new school year, it could force another round of team sports season cancellations.

Walz said the modifications were based on the type, length, and predictability of social contact in each setting. He emphasized that businesses should focus on safety for employees as well as patrons.

“We’ll head back to our restaurants, head back to our gyms and fitness centers,” Walz said. “We’re going to make sure we’re not asking workers to go back into unsafe conditions.”

State Health Department Commissioner Jan Malcolm reviewed COVID-19 testing and case information for the past two weeks and was cautiously optimistic about current

trends.

“What you see here is a pretty interesting pattern,” she said. “We appear to have hit kind of a plateau with smaller waves in it. Metro hospitals have been busy, but statewide we’re in good shape for critical care capacity. This shows an encouragingly stable situation.”

More than 11,000 tests were administered statewide Thursday, Malcolm reported, with capacity for daily testing up to 15,000.

However, Malcolm said she didn’t know how the pandemic may continue to unfold.

“I can’t really predict with any confidence what’s going to happen in the next couple of months,” she said. “The bottom line is that we’re likely dealing with high levels of COVID-19 transmission for months to come. We have to learn to live with COVID-19.”

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June 2020

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<p>Thursday, June 11 Ely Joint Public Works Facility 10am - 2pm 2210 E. Sheridan Ely</p>	<p>Thursday, June 18 Cook Transfer Station 10am - 2pm 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Cook</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 24 Soudan Canister Site 10am - 1pm 5160 HWY 169 Soudan</p>
<p>Virginia HHW Facility at the Regional Landfill 5345 Regional Landfill Road Virginia, MN 55792 (218) 741-8831 Year round hours of Operation: Tuesdays & Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Hibbing HHW Facility at the Hibbing Transfer Station 3994 Landfill Road Hibbing, MN 55746 (218) 362-5922 Year round hours of Operation: Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p>	

RALLY...Continued from page 1

wore protective face masks as the coronavirus is still very real, even in Ely.

"Having grown up here, I knew there were people who had so much heart with the protests happening in other places but couldn't be part of them because we live so far up north and because of COVID-19," Lah said. "I hoped for maybe 30 people and we had 10 times that. I was overwhelmed by the turnout and so happy my town participated in this show of solidarity."

Once at the park, the group gathered around the "Peace Pole" and hung a wreath in support of Black Lives Matter.

"There was a real sense of peacefulness and reverence that was exhibited," Lah said. "Together we tried to show that Ely isn't only a beautiful town, but a town with heart and soul who supports our brothers and sisters as we demand justice for the murders of so many men, women, and trans persons of color. Black lives matter."

Lah said he is collaborating to continue highlighting human rights issues this summer in Ely.

The march to the park was originally planned to take place along Sheridan Street, a state highway



More than 300 people participated in a peace rally last Saturday in Ely. They walked on Chapman Street from Central Avenue to Whiteside Park where they held a brief rally. photos by K. Vandervort

right of way. Prior to the rally, new Ely Police Chief Chad Houde met with Mayor Chuck Novak, Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, and City Attorney Kelly Klun to discuss the issue.

"We talked about the marchers' First Amendment rights, our concern of the route planned, and the possibility of the march becoming violent," Houde said in an email obtained by the *Timberjay*. "I made

the determination to contact Ian and discuss his plans and offer a different route to use."

Lah reached out to the police department to inform them of his plans.

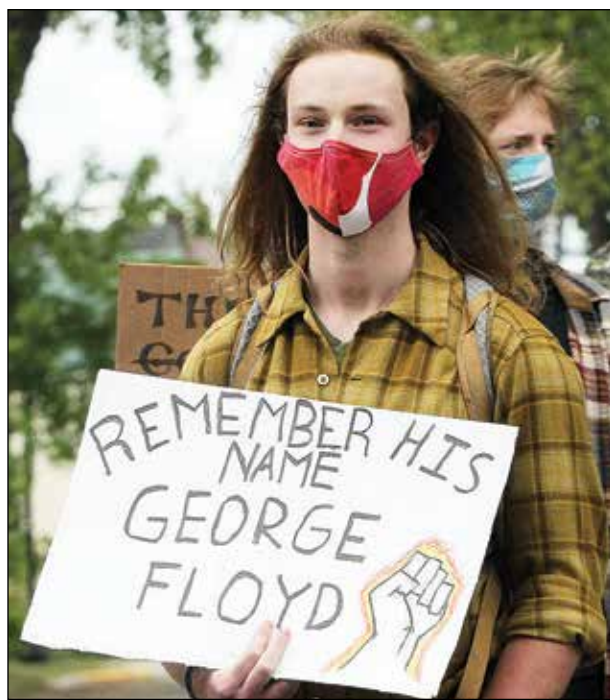
"We had a good conversation," Chief Houde said. "Ian never planned on walking on the roadway of Sheridan Street. His intention was to use the sidewalk. Ian was very open to changing the planned route of the march from Sheridan Street to

Chapman Street."

Houde said he informed the Sheriff's Department and State Patrol of the planned march.

"(County Deputy) Lt. Skelton offered to have an extra deputy in the area and he also advised Virginia-area deputies to be aware of the planned march in the event it turned violent," he said.

According to Chief Houde, the State Patrol had all their troopers in the



Twin Cities, but offered to notify the state Department of Transportation if the road had to be closed.

"Ian agreed to stay on the sidewalk and not obstruct other pedestrians or traffic," he added.



TOWER...Continued from page 1

basis in March after the dismissal of then-director Steve Altenburg.

In other business, the council approved the low base bid of \$445,000 from Lenci Enterprises for the construction of a 40x40 foot heated storage garage at the Tower Airport to store maintenance equipment. The city had been holding off on the project, out of concern for funding the five-percent local match on the project. But with passage of the CARES Act to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Aviation Administration was given the greenlight to provide full funding for many of the airport projects already in the pipeline, including Tower's.

The council didn't approve the bid without questions, however, including the soft costs associated with SEH engineering. Those costs include \$60,000 for design and an additional \$60,000 for project administration. At a total cost of \$585,862, the storage facility will cost approximately \$365 per square foot to design and build.

According to SEH engineer Matt Bolf, the contractor will have until September 2021 to complete the job but has indicated they intend to begin work immediately in hopes of completing the project yet this year.

While the project won't cost the city any money, Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua said she expects it could create cash flow challenges depending on the timing of the work. "I think it can be managed, however, primarily through good communication," she

said.

Council member Dave Setterberg questioned whether the expenditure had been budgeted. Ranua confirmed that the project had not been included in the city's 2020 budget, but she noted that a budget adjustment was up later on the council agenda. The city's previous failure to budget for large project expenditures was among the concerns raised in the city's recent audit, and Setterberg said he wanted to avoid that issue going forward.

In other action, the council:

- Accepted a recommendation from the Tower Economic Development Authority to undertake a more systematic and sustained approach to dealing with blighted properties in the city. TEDA Executive Director Marshall Helmberger discussed how the city's inconsistent enforcement of blight violations was hampering TEDA's ability to restore the city's housing stock, and to transition blighted commercial property to new owners willing to make improvements. Helmberger said the enforcement effort should begin with an educational approach in hopes of obtaining voluntary compliance first. The city's blight ordinance, however, does allow for stiff penalties if property owners don't take steps to address concerns identified.

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said addressing blight has been one of his top issues and he volunteered to serve on a working group to take up the issue. Other expected members of the

committee include Shedd, Helmberger, and Ranua.

- Approved a 30-year lease agreement with the Prospector ATV Trail group for access across city-owned land with minor language changes.

- Approved the spending of \$5,000 toward roof repairs at the Vermilion Country School. TEDA director Helmberger had made the request on behalf of the economic development authority, which owns and manages the building under a lease agreement with the grades 7-12 charter school. Helmberger, in comments to the council, noted that the city had taken net proceeds of approximately \$210,000 over and above the debt service on renovations over the past several years, without any significant reinvestment in the facility. The building's roof has been leaking for years due to ice damming, but the city never took steps to address the problem until now.

The \$5,000 will cover just under half the estimated cost of the roof repair, with TEDA expected to cover the rest of the expense from the revenues generated by the school lease.

Ranua noted that the expense was not in the city's budget, but she prom-

ised to find it in savings from other portions of the budget. "The amount of deferred maintenance at [the school building] is just astoundingly sad to see," she said.

- Appointed Mary Shedd to serve as zoning administrator until the reorganization next January. Shedd had been serving in an interim capacity since late 2019. But when no one else applied for the post after recent advertisements for the unpaid position, Shedd agreed to continue through the rest of the year.

- Appointed Rick Worringer as the airport zoning administrator.

- Approved a resolution stating continued support for the county public works facility in Tower. The sale of adjacent county-owned property to TEDA was contingent on approval of the resolution, which was approved under the consent agenda.

- Had further discussion on the city's audit with Devin Ceglar of Walker, Giroux, and Hahne. The council also established a working group to examine and recommend ways to address issues of concern raised in the audit's management letter.



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<p style="text-align: center;">2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">MSRP \$35,935</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Sale Price \$30,173</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">SAVE \$5,762</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; color: white;">OR CHOOSE 0% APR*</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">2020 CHEVROLET COLORADO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Crew Cab Long Box Z71 4x4</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">MSRP \$40,170</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Sale Price \$35,808</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">SAVE \$4,362</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; color: white;">OR CHOOSE 0% APR*</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">2019 CHEVROLET BLAZER AWD</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">MSRP \$42,895</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Sale Price \$38,087</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">SAVE \$4,808</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; color: white;">OR CHOOSE 0% APR*</p>	

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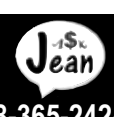
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ELY...Continued from page 1

and most of the structure was fully engulfed before firefighters arrived. Thick black smoke filled the sky and blew toward the Ely Post Office and Ely School buildings.

The homeowner, Paul Starkovich, was inside the building, located at 15 S Central Ave., across the street from the Ely Area Credit Union at the southwest edge of the downtown business district, with a friend and two dogs at the time of the fire, according to authorities. All made it out safely. Starkovich was taken to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and treated for injuries. He was treated for second-degree burns and sent home, according to his daughter-in-law Tasha Starkovich. "Later, he was brought back to EBCH," she told the *Timberjay*, "and found out he had sustained a broken hip while trying to get out of the fire. He took an ambulance to Duluth where he had hip surgery that afternoon." He is recovering and reportedly doing well.



Paul Starkovich

According to Ely Fire Department Chief Tom Erchull, Ely firefighters, the Babbitt Fire Department, and Ely Ambulance Service were simultaneously dispatched at 12:47 p.m. The Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department was also dispatched for mutual aid assistance.

"Arriving firefighters found a large portion of the house engulfed in heavy smoke and flames," Erchull said in a press release. "The two male occupants made it outside, although one was taken to a local hospital with burns. Two dogs inside of the house were able to get out safely."

"Through a coordinated operation involving all three fire departments, the blaze was contained to the house," Erchull added. "The house received extensive damage and is likely a total loss."

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Ely Fire Department, Ely Police Department, and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office. The Ely Ambulance Service provided medical standby and rehabilitation services to the firefighters, while the Ely Police Department, Lake County Sheriff's Department, and the Ely Public Works and Utilities departments also assisted at the scene.

Power lines sparked and ignited, along with a power pole, near the structure as large crowds gathered to watch the inferno. Power was shut off for several hours in the



vicinity. Internet service to businesses and homes in the area was also offline for several hours that day. Utility crews spent all day Friday restoring service.

Ely historian David Kess said the residence is commonly known as the Asa Camp house. "Camp Street was named after him," he said. "The Asa Camp house is one of the oldest residences in Ely still standing." The structure was reportedly built as a boarding house in the 1890s.

Before the fire, Kess was planning to write a *Windows into Yesterday* article about the house for the Ely-Winton Historical Society this summer. Look for more information in an upcoming issue of the *Ely Timberjay*.

The Asa Camp house, at 15 S Central Ave., was one of the first homes in Ely, was believed to have been built in the 1890s as a boarding house. The cause of the fire is under investigation. photos by K. Vandervort



"Our family friend, Lou, and two dogs made it safely out of the fire as well," Tasha said. "Our cousin, Shane Starkovich, who lives in the upstairs apartment was not home at the time of the fire, as he was on a fishing trip with no cell service. He did not know anything about (the fire). He lost absolutely everything in this fire."

A Fire Relief Fund is set up at the Ely Area Credit Union to help the family, under the names of Paul Starkovich and Shane Starkovich. "We greatly appreciate all the love and support already extended to our family," Tasha said. "We absolutely cannot thank everyone enough!"

To donate: Ely Area Credit Union Paul Starkovich and Shane Starkovich Fire Relief Fund, 2 E Chapman St., Ely, MN 55731. For more information, call the credit union at 218-365-3131.

CABIN...Continued from page 1

inside. He suffered burns and other injuries in the rescue attempt, none of which were considered to be life-threatening.

The other five members of the party were uninjured in the incident. The log-sided cabin, perched on a rock bluff overlooking the lake, was

completely destroyed.

The fire was reported around 7:48 a.m. and county dispatchers alerted the Greenwood, Tower, and Breitung fire departments, all of which responded along with the Tower and Virginia Ambulance and the St. Louis County Sheriff's

Department. The cabin was mostly collapsed by the time fire crews were able to arrive. St. Louis County records show the property is owned by Timothy Latterner, of Wayzata.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.



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CITY OF TOWER

Payments to former clerk-treasurer under question

Police chief may have dismissed complaint without adequate investigation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER—A long-standing, and apparently unauthorized, monthly payment to former Tower Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith, was a brief subject of discussion with the city's auditor at Monday night's city council meeting here.

Keith, who served as clerk-treasurer from 2013 until her dismissal last July, began paying herself \$45 monthly from city funds shortly after assuming the clerk's position. The payment, which was in addition to her regular city wages, was variously coded as "fire department head pay" and later as "wastewater meeting pay."

Current Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua first discovered the extra payments in January, after she began the process of recoding the city's payroll for improved efficiency and greater transparency.

Ranua questioned the basis for the payments and after her review of minutes from both the city council and the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board going back several years revealed no motion authorizing the extra pay to Keith, she prepared and submitted her concerns about the payments to the state auditor and the county attorney's office in February. The county attorney forwarded the matter to County Sheriff Ross Litman, who referred it to the Breitung Police for investigation. In her email to the county attorney, Ranua noted that public officials have a legal obligation to report possible unauthorized expenditures of public funds.

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund acknowledged this week that his investigation found no evidence in any minutes that the city council had ever authorized the payments to Keith, which was the primary concern raised by Ranua. Under state law, it is a misdemeanor, at minimum, to expend public funds without proper authorization. Despite that, Nylund dismissed Ranua's concerns in a police report that he produced in late April. In it, Nylund said he reviewed minutes of both the wastewater board and the city council and spoke with four current or past members of the wastewater board. One member, a Breitung supervisor, thought the payments to Keith were for her attendance at meetings, while

another recognized that the wastewater board paid the city of Tower for staff time. A former member couldn't remember whether the payments were authorized and a fourth member declined to give a statement.

From these inconsistent statements, Nylund concluded: "After reviewing all statements and documents no evidence of malice or deceit to deceive the City of Tower \$45 per meeting by Keith was found."

Nylund, in his report, cites minutes from the wastewater board that authorize payments, ranging from \$200-\$245 per month, from the wastewater board to the city of Tower. Those payments reflect the fact that city hall staff do spend time on wastewater board matters (including more than attending meetings) and that the city of Tower pays their wages for that time. The payments from the wastewater board are meant to recoup that expense for the city.

The wastewater board is an entirely separate joint powers board with representation from both the city and the township.

In her complaint, Ranua noted that the waste-

water board maintains its own separate financial accounts and hires and pays its own employees. And it pays its board members \$45 per meeting. The wastewater board, however, never approved any such payments for Keith, since she was not a member of the board and was presumably already being compensated as part of her city wages for the time she spent in meetings.

Ranua noted in her report to the county attorney that the previous clerk-treasurer, Ann Lamppa, had not been paid the extra \$45 for the time she spent in wastewater board meetings. Nor did deputy clerk Terri Joki-Martin receive the extra pay when she assumed the wastewater board meeting duties in January of 2019. Instead, as city payroll records confirm, Keith

continued to pay herself the \$45 per month coded as wastewater meeting pay even though she no longer attended the meetings. Ranua noted that the monthly payments continued for more than five years, totaling \$2,970 during that period.

Nylund, in his April report, never explained his lack of concern over the payments, given that he acknowledged finding no clear authorization for the disbursement of the city funds to Keith. However, in response to a question from the *Timberjay* this week, Nylund indicated that the fact that members of the city council signed the payroll vouchers provided the legal foundation for the payments.

Ranua concedes that the payroll vouchers submitted by Keith each month were signed by city

council members, yet in her original email to the county attorney, Ranua noted that the paycheck that Keith had received did not list a source of funds, but merely lumped all sources together, making it very difficult for anyone signing the voucher to recognize the additional payments. "She could have easily coded it to indicate the type of pay being received, as I am currently doing, but did not," wrote Ranua in her February email. "The voucher listed only the lumped amount, it never called out the wastewater pay separately."

Ranua had noted that a member of the council would have had to examine Keith's union contract,

which spells out her base pay, in order to recognize that the former clerk-treasurer was receiving the extra payment. "The voucher signers were thus unaware that an additional amount was being paid to the employee," Ranua had noted in her original email.

Like most city employees at the time, Keith was covered under a union contract that spelled out in precise terms, her compensation. Nylund acknowledged that he never reviewed the union agreement for a possible explanation of the additional payment. The *Timberjay* did review the union agreement and found no mention of the \$45 monthly payment.





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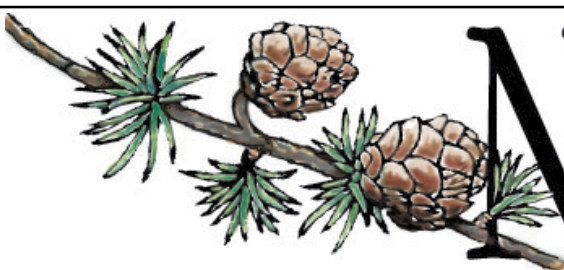


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VIEWING WILDLIFE

Sanctuary opens to visitors

A 30 year-old bear named 'Peanut' is back this year

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary reopened for first-time, first-served bear watchers this week, a welcome event for patrons and staff alike as the popular attraction has been making adjustments on the fly to create opportunities that comply with the state's COVID-19 guidelines.

"It's wonderful, but it has

been very stressful," Executive Director Steph Horner said. "We're trying to do things as safe as we can."

Like many other businesses and nonprofits, the American Bear Association visitor center and offices on Hwy. 53 south of Orr closed its doors to the public when ordered to do so, although merchandise sales were still available online. The association board indefinitely postponed the annual May opening of the sanc-

tuary as they awaited a relaxing of restrictions and guidance from Gov. Tim Walz.

The organization was hopeful the sanctuary would open for visitors by mid-June, Horner said, but recent moves by the governor to relax COVID-19 restrictions allowed them to accelerate the process.

A pre-registration system was implemented that would

See BEARS...pg. 2B



A young cinnamon-phase black bear sniffs a branch at the Vince Shute sanctuary this past weekend. The facility is now open for visitors, with limitations. photo by D. Colburn

Play ball?

Not quite, but Ely youth teams can practice for now

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely School Board met in special session Monday night to approve a request from the Ely Baseball Association to re-open the ISD 696 ball park to facilitate some form of the summer tradition.

While all spring sports were canceled as school closures and distance learning protocols were put in place because of the coronavirus, Ely and many other communities are planning and hoping for a hybrid summer baseball program.

With the school board's approval, practices started on Wednesday for youth baseball players, but if and when actual games will be played is anybody's guess. According to the Minnesota Department of Health and Phase 2 of the Stay-at-Home orders, youth baseball organizations can only practice and train.

In making his request to the school board, Ely American Legion Coach and School Athletic Director Tom Coombe said games will only be allowed in a subsequent phase of the state's "Stay Safe" order.

Prior to the school board's unanimous approval to open Veterans Memorial field for the summer, Superintendent Erik Erie reported to school board members that the school district's attorney drafted a lease agreement with the local baseball association that is in effect for June, July and August of this year.

"Our attorney, insurance carrier, and Minnesota School Board Association all agree that the (ISD 696) is following the right protocols in all steps," he said.

The American Legion baseball season is canceled for 2020, and Coombe said Ely and other programs, for players age 19 and under, will affiliate under the Senior Babe Ruth umbrella. For players 17 and under, Ely will move from Junior Legion to VFW baseball. The Iron Range Baseball League, for players age 13 and 14, will go forward if games are allowed.

The Ely Baseball Association developed protocols for the 2020 season out of an abundance of caution for players, coaches, umpires and fans due to COVID-19.

►Players and coaches must have their temperature checked prior to every practice session and game. Those with temperatures above 100.3 will not be allowed to participate.

See BASEBALL...pg. 2B



FINE WOODCRAFT

Restoring memories

Even small craft can hold big sentimental value for owners

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Above: Jeff Larson takes a brief break from working on the Rehbein at the Sunrise River Boatworks in Tower.

photo by D. Colburn

TOWER- It was a typical winter for Sunrise River Boatworks partners Dana Hein and Jeff Larson, as they worked in their heated Tower shop on restorations of three wooden boats, but there was a pleasing, unique twist to the task. All three, two 23-footers and an 18-footer, were for local owners.

"They're all special," Larson said about the boats they take in, "but it was a special winter for the area to have three Lake Vermilion boats that are due to go back on the water this summer."

Hein was busy giving the last Vermilion craft a final inspection on Friday morning, closing out the duo's sixth winter in the shop, but inside, three more boats, the most their workshop will accommodate, were lined up in various states of restoration.

Larson said the duo has been working together for over 20 years.

"Dana and I had a custom wood shop up in Ely and we did a lot of remodeling," Larson said. "We were going to start working on our own boats.

We found a building in Tower, and there was a need locally. We knew there was work out there, but there's no guarantee. You've got to earn it. We were prepared to do that."

The pair made a connection with Aaron Starkey, owner of Sunrise River Boatworks, and the Tower shop is a contractor operating under the Sunrise banner.

While Larson and Hein pride themselves on their craftsmanship, there's another aspect of the business that's equally important.

"You're saving history, keeping history alive," Larson said. "You're honoring the men and women that were part of the industry back in the day when they were built new. I often wonder what they would think sometimes about how we take craft they had built and re-do them with some modern materials and techniques they didn't have access to. A lot of the boats now are probably nicer than when they came off the showroom floor."

And it's not only the preservation of physical history

that keeps Larson enthusiastic about his craft.

"Every boat has a story, and that's what I like," he said. "Some stories get lost over the years, depending on what happens with the boat. But some stories don't because some of the same people still own them or it's been in the family or with the neighbors and they can always tell you about it."

Larson stepped around two larger boats in the shop to point to a small boat that looked somewhat like a cross between a canoe at the bow and dinghy at the stern. The exposed middle third section of ribs had the gleam of fresh wood, while the outer hull, covered with weathered red fiberglass, was still awaiting repair.

"It's called a Rehbein," Larson said. "These were made in Duluth by Mr. (Lloyd) Rehbein. He made them in his garage. The current owner, it was his father-in-law's. He proposed to his wife in this boat."

It turns out, as often happens with stories that are passed along orally, that the owner didn't actually propose to his bride-to-be in the boat, but it was abundantly clear that if not for the boat, there might not have been a proposal.

The Rehbein

Al and Pattie Pitoscia are celebrating their 46th anniversary this year, and they recalled

the role the Rehbein played in their courtship, which took place on Island Lake north of Duluth. Pattie's family had built a cabin there, and a lake cabin wasn't complete without boats.

"I believe my dad actually knew Mr. Rehbein, and he actually built that and a canoe for my dad," Pattie said.

"We were 15, 16, that's a long time ago," Al said. "Moms and dads weren't real excited about late nights having their daughter out alone with her boyfriend up at the lake. However, she was able to drive that boat over to the Island Lake Inn area where I happened to be hanging out, and she would pick me up and we would go out in the middle of the lake and 'garden by the moonlight' and all that stuff."

"It had no running lights; we weren't exactly safe or legal," Pattie laughed. "My parents wouldn't know because they thought I was there with my friend."

Al didn't deny that the topic of matrimony occasionally came up during their nighttime outings.

"I'm sure there were plenty of conversations that I probably deflected about marriage at one time or another in that boat," he chuckled.

"We did talk about how many kids we wanted to have,

See MEMORIES...pg. 2B

“You’re saving history, keeping history alive.”

Jeff Larson

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Uncertainties about next year dominate board meeting

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- In years past, ISD 2142 school board members haven't scheduled a working session in June, but the situation surrounding the novel coronavirus has made this year anything but typical.

So the board convened Tuesday to look at issues related to operations for the upcoming 2020-21 school year, with most of the discussion driven in one manner or another by the limited direction from the state Department of Education as to what to expect in August.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said she's received word that the state will issue guidelines next week that will propose three possible scenarios district should be planning for - all students returning to classes as normal, continuation of the distance education model used for the final two months of the year just completed, or a hybrid model of education that would combine elements of onsite and distance education.

"The state department said there is a possibility we could use

all three next year," Engebritson said. "They will tell us the week of July 27 what we will start the school year with."

Engebritson reported that she has been meeting with other superintendents in the region to share plans, and that following a meeting last Friday with 22 Range superintendents she wrote a letter to the state Department of Education asking for them to give districts more leeway to respond to local conditions.

"If the virus really isn't hitting us up here, we'd like to have more local control for our districts," Engebritson said.

Board president Dan Manick reinforced Engebritson's position.

"We don't want anybody in danger, none of us do. Nobody knows where this thing is going yet," he said. "What we do best is teach our kids in our buildings. We have to be able to have control ourselves."

Engebritson discussed several ideas generated by principals in a brainstorming session about what a hybrid approach could entail, such as having all elementary students return in smaller class sizes while high

school students continue in a distance learning mode but come to school at least once a week.

"There's talk about having their meals in their classrooms, having the music teacher go to each class so you have less movement, having less kids out at recess time," she said. "We'll know more next week when they send the guidelines."

However, Engebritson said that although ideas have been generated, no decisions have been made about what school might look like in the fall because there hasn't been any guidance from the state.

Board members once again discussed a plan for compensating coaches in the event seasons are shortened or canceled. While there was general consensus around not paying coaching stipends if seasons are canceled before practices begin, they were less certain how they would handle mid-season changes.

Engebritson distributed guidance from the Minnesota School Boards Association that outlined an option for paying coaches based on activities that they actually completed and hours devoted to them, an

approach which would entail detailed recordkeeping.

Board member Christine Taylor offered an alternative in which a coaching stipend would be divided by the total number of days in a particular sport season, yielding a daily per diem amount. Coaches would be paid that daily amount for the number of season days completed. As this was a working meeting, no action could be taken on the alternatives until the formal June meeting.

Engebritson asked the board to consider allowing her to join in collaboration discussions initiated by Hibbing, Nashwauk-Keewatin, Chisholm, and Floodwood. Hibbing previously sent a letter to area districts seeking input on possible sports collaborations, but the initiative has been expanded to look at how collaboration might benefit all areas of education.

The collaborative has partial funding from IRRR, and collaborating districts will pay an additional fee to retain a facilitator for the process. Engebritson said Mt. Iron-Buhl, where she also is superintendent, is joining the collaborative, and if ISD 2142 were to join the fee would

be \$2,500. Members agreed to entertain a formal proposal at the next business meeting.

Before the meeting adjourned, several members expressed interest in continuing to have school board meetings accessible by Zoom or some other format.

"I like having it easily available to the public," Taylor said. "If we're here to serve people I don't think it should be hard for people to participate in democracy."

Board member Troy Swanson agreed.

"With our district being so large, you can get more people involved with board meetings in this format," he said. "They don't have to drive to Virginia or Tower or North Woods."

Members asked Engebritson to research state statutes and other guidance to determine the parameters under which using an interactive online platform such as Zoom would be permissible once the current state of emergency imposed to combat the coronavirus pandemic expires.

BEARS...Continued from page 1B

allow 10 visitors per hour on the sanctuary's huge observation deck, and the process worked for allowing visitors this past weekend. But with Walz giving the green light last week for larger gatherings for outdoor activities, Horner said they've tossed the pre-registration system aside.

"This week we found we are able to have 66 people on the deck per hour," she said. "That will make it feel a bit more normal."

Now visitors can drive to the sanctuary's admissions parking lot to pick up and pay for tickets, but they should anticipate the possibility of delays in getting to the observation deck, Horner said.

"Because of social distancing on the bus, we can only take 15 people instead of 60 at a time," she said. While they plan to

run multiple buses to try to compensate, uncertainties about how many people show up at a given time will undoubtedly create bottlenecks.

"You might not get on the deck at the time you want to because of the fact that we're at a limited capacity"

Attendance is typically lower until early July, which should ease some of the potential challenges, Horner said. She's somewhat concerned about how they will accommodate larger crowds in July and August.

"I hope that it doesn't stay this way," she said. "It will get interesting if [the restrictions] stay."

Special attraction

"One thing that's really cool and exciting is that our oldest bear came back this year," Horner said. "She's older than all the interns. Her name is

Peanut. She was the runt of her litter."

The only way to conclusively determine a bear's exact age is to extract and dissect a tooth, Horner said. Using old records and pictures, and noting that "she's starting to get gray now," Horner said they're fairly certain Peanut is about 30 years old.

"She's outlived all of her siblings and quite a few of her offspring," she said.

Also unusual this year is that the sanctuary is home to two mama bears with five cubs, Horner said.

Facilitating the work of caring for the bears and connecting with visitors, Horner said she currently has 13 interns with varied levels of experience and will soon have four more.

"We have a handful of people returning and that helps immensely," she said. "They kind of have

Right: A young bear rests in a tree at the Vince Shute Sanctuary, near Orr, this past weekend.

photo by D. Colburn

been our anchor."

Private photography sessions and photography classes are once again available to the public for a fee, and Horner anticipates that they also will host the popular Breakfast with the Bears event. In addition to the visitor center, a gift shop on the observation deck is available, limited to five people at a time to comply with social distancing requirements.

The wildlife sanctuary is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and closed Mondays. Tickets may be purchased at the booth in the admissions parking lot. In the event of inclement weather, the sanctuary will



be closed. Should a storm cause visitors to be evacuated from the observation platform, the sanctuary will be closed for the rest

of the day.

MEMORIES...Continued from page 1B

I remember that conversation there," Pattie said.

Sentimentality appears to be a family trait. Al and Pattie first met at the Proctor Skating Rink, and when the building was torn down years later, Al went to the site and picked up some pieces of concrete from the foundation.

"I still have them in my garage," Al said.

The couple's granddaughter, Hailey, has that same sentimental streak, and when a discussion arose about whether to do some repairs to the cabin or

restore the boat, she knew exactly what she wanted.

"That's the first boat that I learned to drive on," she said. "Almost every family member, the first boat they've started on is our little Rehbein."

Pattie wanted to focus on the cabin and display the weathered boat inside, but Hailey found an ally in Al.

"It's part of the family legacy," he said. "It has been one of those things that every individual in our family has come through in four generations now. We've got some younger

grandkids coming up and they need to experience that."

It wasn't automatic, but Al and Hailey eventually prevailed.

"It's just a family heirloom that we wanted, and she caved," Hailey said.

"Hailey is very sentimental with things like that," Pattie said. "Knowing that my dad and mom and my brother and myself grew up with that boat means a lot. It's important to me especially now that I've lost my brother. It's a lot of

memories of me and my brother going out fishing in that boat. One time we were out in that boat we caught seven walleyes in seven minutes."

A woman that Al worked with told him about the Tower shop, and while he was already considering other options, the drive to Tower was worth it, he said.

"They just seem to do things a cut above, and their vision was a little more forward-thinking," he said. "I saw the work that Jeff and Dana do—they're artisans,

they're not just people who build boats. I was really impressed."

The Pitoscias are in no hurry to get the Rehbein back. They have other boating options at the cabin, and will let Larson and Hein take as long as they need to get the Rehbein just right.

"We'll mix up some stains and get some similar color to blend that," Larson said, pointing to the new ribs. "Then we'll flip her over and re-do the glass."

These are the sorts of stories that Larson and

Hein enjoy.

"We need to make money to afford to keep the shop going, but that's not the only goal," Larson said. "It's the pleasure of the work, seeing the smiles, keeping the history alive, seeing a boat come in and go back out on the water, and the stories that pop up. The owner of this will put more money into this than what it's worth on the open market, but that's not what's important to them. It's keeping the memory alive for the family, and that's pretty cool."

BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

► Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap before participating in any workouts. Players and coaches are encouraged to use sanitizing wipes after contact with any shared equipment.

► Social distancing is required in the dugout, outside the dugout and at the ballpark.

► Workouts in "pods" of 10 or less are required with no crossover between groups.

► Essential personnel only are permitted on field of play and in dugout.

► Parents and fans are

encouraged to social distance while at the ballpark.

► Masks are not required to be worn by players, umpires, coaches or spectators.

► Players are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.

► Players are encouraged to bring their own water or beverage to consume. No shared coolers.

► In the event of a player or coach testing positive for COVID-19, health officials will be notified and direction sought for next steps.

► The Ely Baseball

Association requests that the school district provide hot water in the bathroom facilities.

► Once games begin, and if concessions are allowed, the Ely Baseball Association will take appropriate steps to ensure safe operations.

School board member James Pointer asked for clarification on the draft safety protocols, including social distancing in the dugout and keeping the baseball sanitized while the game is in progress.

"We are limiting the dugout to not more than five players at any one time," Coombe said.

Players will be directed to occupy the space outside and around the dugout when necessary.

"During play, the ball is shared equipment. Is there any way to mitigate that?" Pointer asked.

"Other than stopping play to run out onto the field and wipe down the ball after a hit, no," Coombe said. "I haven't seen that requested anywhere. We will use our due diligence and as much common sense as we can without going overboard and making things too cumbersome."

School board chair Ray Marnik reiterated

the fact that no games are allowed at this point.

"In this phase of the 'stay safe' order, practices are allowed," Coombe said. "When and if we get to the next phase, games will be allowed. Whether that is in two weeks, three weeks or a month, we don't

know. We are hopeful that at some point this summer we will get to a point where we are playing games."

He noted that a local physician reviewed the safety guidelines.

"He is very supportive of what we are doing," Coombe said.

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WHO WANTS FASTER INTERNET SERVICE?

Survey to gauge interest in broadband in Lake Vermilion area

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Tower-Soudan, Lake Vermilion area part of survey to attract private providers

REGIONAL- A region-wide effort is now underway to survey local residents to find how many are in need of broadband internet service, and how much households are willing to pay. The results of the survey will be used to attract a private provider or providers for broadband service in our area.

Local broadband planning groups in Tower-Soudan, on the East Range, and in the Quad Cities are part of this joint effort, which is being funded by private business donations, Minnesota Power, PolyMet, local communities, and matching grants from the Blandin Broadband Committee.

A \$75,000 grant from Blandin to Tower-Soudan earlier this year was used to increase access to broadband internet and technology at Tower-Soudan Elementary and Vermilion Country School, the Tower Civic Center/Depot area, Breitung Town Hall, and also provided free computers to low-income families.

"It is really important for people to fill out the survey," said broadband committee member Joanne Bassing. "We have to get numbers. If we get



good participation, it will show the providers that we really want broadband."

The survey can also be completed on paper, and copies will be out at area convenience stores and businesses.

"We need to publicize this the best we can," said Bassing. "We are not mailing this survey out." Bassing said they hope to have area cities and townships help promote the survey also.

Greenwood Township has been conducting its own survey, in addition to this joint effort.

You can find a link to the survey at www.ramsmn.org under the broadband tab.

The joint Blandin Broadband Committee (BBC) is a collabora-

tion between the Blandin Foundation, St. Louis County, and Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. The group met earlier this month and selected NEO Connect to conduct the survey and assist with the planning process.

NEO will identify existing assets within the study area, including existing fiber optic cable, conduit and other telecommunication infrastructure, and assets. Once the existing assets are mapped, NEO will identify gaps in service coverage and will put together a plan to fill those gaps. Other planning activities will be working with local stakeholders and regional service providers, establishing

plans and estimated capital costs, and identifying potential partners to facilitate improving broadband infrastructure. This effort will help existing service providers by facilitating open discussion about how to jointly solve communication gaps in coverage as well as improving existing infrastructure to enable faster broadband speeds.

NEO Connect recently completed a study for the Iron Range communities of Hibbing, Chisholm, Cherry, Mt. Iron and Buhl. The study facilitated a plan to apply for grant funding in partnership with a service provider, Consolidated Telecommunications (CTC), a Minnesota-based service provider. CTC applied for and was awarded a \$5.2 Million ReConnect broadband grant last year for Cherry and Great Scott townships and fiber to the home is being installed at this time. This project will provide speeds much greater than even the state's standard.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, internet usage from home has increased by 92 percent across the U.S. The pandemic has magnified the need to have reliable, affordable and robust internet service at home to

support telecommuting, online education and telehealth applications and much more.

The study has aligned its goals with the state of Minnesota's broadband objectives. The state has set a goal for all Minnesota businesses and homes to have access to at least one provider of broadband with download speeds of at least 100 megabits per second and upload speeds of at least 20 megabits per second (100/20 mbps) no later than 2026. Many areas on the Range have less than 10 mbps down and 1 mbps up, which make working from home or distance learning a real challenge.

"NEO is thrilled to be working with the Iron Range Communities and RAMS on this project," company CEO Diane Kruse said. "We are big supporters of community and regional collaboration to improve broadband services and look forward to working with the key stakeholders of the Iron Range communities and this region to put forward a plan."

For more information, visit www.NEOconnect.us, or contact Steve Giorgi at sgorgi@ramsmn.org; or Whitney Ridlon at IRRR at whitney.ridlon@state.mn.us.

Pam Brunfelt takes seat on the LVCC board

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER - The newest member of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center board brings a career's-worth of experience in education, historical society management, and researching the history of the Iron Range.

Pam Brunfelt retired from teaching history at Vermilion Community College a little over a year ago. Since then, she has been working to finish her research about the importance of Iron Range steel for the World War II effort.

"If I live long enough, this will turn into a book," she said, "otherwise I will leave my research to the Iron Range Research Center."

Brunfelt spoke at the Tower-Soudan Historical Society's annual meeting a couple of years ago about her research, which has shown that 70 percent of the iron ore used in the production of military equipment for World War II came from the Iron Range.

Now Brunfelt's love



of history and education will help the LVCC as it moves into a new phase, creating ongoing community cultural, history, and arts programming to take place at the still-under-construction cultural center on Tower's Main Street.

LVCC Board Chair Mary Batinich is excited to have Brunfelt on the board, noting she adds a wealth of knowledge and experience as the board looks to start offering programs in the building.

"The city of Tower needs this project," said Brunfelt. "It has a lot of potential for lifelong learning opportunities. I like that."

Brunfelt said she is hoping that she will get the opportunity to be part of the learning effort and

has ideas for classes she would like to teach.

The board has sponsored over 40 educational programs in the past few years, using alternative locations. But the group's goal is to use the LVCC for both locally-organized and other regional events, such as hosting musical performances during the Northern Lights Music Festival.

The building, which includes the 125-plus-year-old historic St. Mary's Church along with newly constructed lobby, gallery and lower level spaces, will feature spaces for lectures, concerts, art classes, community meetings, and more. An elevator will make the building handi-

cap-accessible.

While the focus of the board to date has been on fundraising for the construction project, Brunfelt said her role on the board will be to focus on the educational and historical aspects of the center.

"I have a different perspective than others on the board," she said, noting that in addition to her background in teaching, she has many years of experience working for and managing non-profits.

Brunfelt grew up in Britt, and said she always wanted to teach at a community college. Her time at VCC gave her the opportunity to both teach and do research on the history of the range.

"VCC is a great place," she said. "There are wonderful people there and the students are there because they want to be there. They are on a specific journey."

Brunfelt said she couldn't choose what her favorite class to teach was. "It depended on what I was teaching," she said. "I loved teaching all of them."

The board will soon be announcing the start of the final phase of the building's exterior renovations, including finishing the roof.

The LVCC board

had to cancel its annual Midsummer Fundraiser this year, "Songs of Norway," which will be rescheduled at a later date. The group has been working hard to raise other private donations to fund the project.

Once the exterior renovations are finished, the building's interior will still need to be completed.

Other board members include Linda Haugen, Mary Batinich, Don Erickson, Elaine McGillivray, Ryan Bajan, James Martilla, Sue Ellis, and Sharon Legg.

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Thank You!
The Northeast Range Music Boosters would like to thank all patrons, parents and communities for your support of our high school band program. We were supposed to go on a trip to Florida this past spring, but due to the cancellations of everything, we are rescheduled to go next year on **March 24 - April 1, 2021.**
Due to the continuing pandemic, we will NOT be marching this summer in parades either. Although we are disappointed with how things have changed, we are grateful to our communities that we live in and their continued support of our school and our music program. Please continue to support us and watch us next year.
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HOME AND GARDEN

Lawn and shrub damage likely caused by voles

A high rodent population meant this past winter was among the worst in recent years

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — If you're like many homeowners in the North Country, you may still be dealing with the impacts from vole damage this winter. When the snow melted in April, many homeowners in the area were surprised to see a significant amount of damage to both

lawns, shrubs, and young trees.

A high population of voles, particularly meadow voles, was responsible for much of the damage. Lawns were among the hardest hit as snow melted to reveal that voles had been busy feasting on grass under the snow, leaving trails of dead and heaped grass in their wake. According to the University

of Minnesota Extension Service, if you see raised, grass-lined tunnels and big bare patches left behind after the snowmelt, you're almost certainly looking at damage from voles.

While the grass will grow back in most cases, since voles typically don't eat below the soil level, where the growing crown of most grasses is located,

Right: Bare ground and heaps of dead and dry grass were common sights in the area as the snow melted earlier this spring— telltale signs of vole activity.

they can slow the springtime recovery of your lawn.

Shrubs and small trees

See **VOLES...**pg. 5B



RECREATION

Trail comes to life

Volunteers make headway on new Ancient Cedar Forest Trail

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — A small contingent of volunteers have begun work on the toughest portion of a roughly mile-and-a-half-long loop trail through a primarily upland forest dominated by old white cedar. It's like a forest primeval, within the city limits of Tower, cut off over the years by a protective moat of wetlands that have made access to the site difficult.

But thanks to funding from the North St. Louis County Trails Task Force, itself funded by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, and Lake Country Power's Operation Round-Up, volunteers are building a roughly 500-foot boardwalk that will traverse the moat and give easy access to the upland portions of what is being called the Ancient Cedar Forest Trail.

It's a project that's been in the "talking about" stage for several years, but the project is finally a go thanks to the grant funds and the volunteer effort. "It's pretty satisfying to see the work finally underway," said Jodi Summit, president of Friends of the Vermilion Country School, one of

Top: Jodi Summit wields a drill gun while Miranda Kishel looks on.

Right: Victoria and Todd Ranua saw boards while Summit readies the router.

Below right: The end of the trail so far, with dozens of cross ties spread along the trail ahead.

photos/M. Kishel

three partners on the project. "We're really thankful to our funders for helping to make it possible." The Wagoner Trails Club and the Tower Economic Development Authority are the other two partners in the effort. The construction of the boardwalk is the biggest expense for the project, given the cost of lumber and the large torx screws used to assemble it all. In addition to the boardwalk, the grant dollars will fund both directional and interpretive signage beginning along the Mesabi Trail, near the historic train depot.

Volunteers are building the boardwalk from rough-sawn tamarack, which is both very strong and rot resistant. The rough-sawn lumber, cut

See **TRAIL...**pg. 5B



Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
EARLY CORALROOT



The **Early Coralroot**, *Corallorhiza trifida*, is one of our smaller orchids and it is often distinguished from other orchids by the lack of any prominent leaves.

It's tiny flowers have the typical orchid-like features, albeit nowhere near as showy as many other members of the family. These flowers can be easy to overlook, given that the narrow stem and flowers may stand no more five or six inches high. They're usually found in small groupings on the forest floor, usually in deeply shaded, and often wet, locations.

Like other coralroots, the Early Coralroot lacks leaves because it doesn't need the chlorophyll that most plants require to produce their own food. Instead, this orchid feeds off of decaying vegetation, utilizing the abilities of various fungi in the soil.

Wildfire danger continues in area

CROOKED LAKE — A June 2 wildfire in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area is the latest reminder that despite recent rains, the area remains drier than normal and that all it takes is a day or two of dry weather and wind to boost fire danger to dangerous levels.

As local residents, cabin owners, and visitors spend more time in the outdoors across the Superior National Forest, forest officials are asking the public to be extra vigilant.

The June 2 wildfire was reported late in the day near Thursday Bay on Crooked Lake, along the U.S.-Ontario border. Fire crews responded and quickly suppressed the fire, limiting it to about five acres in size. Fire officials determined that an escaped campfire, from a shore lunch at an unofficial camp site, was the cause of the fire.

Since April 23, Forest Service fire crews have responded to 18 fires across the Superior, although most remained under an acre in size. All of the wildfires on the Superior this season were human-caused ignitions.

BE ALERT

Give turtles a break

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— It's egg-laying season for turtles in the North Country and that means drivers can help out by watching for them as they cross area roadways in search of the exposed sand and gravel. Turtles are slow to reproduce and while a single female may lay a couple dozen eggs, very few of the eggs escape predators and those few that do face many other challenges along the way.



A snapping turtle was busy laying eggs along the shore of the East Two River in Tower this week. photo by J. Summit

Because turtles are reptiles, rather than amphibians, they must come on land to lay their eggs, and they are particularly vulnerable when they do. Because roadsides often contain the exposed sand or gravel that turtles prefer for laying their eggs, they're at high risk of being struck by vehicles this time of year. Turtles are especially active after rain, when the sand and gravel is easiest to dig, so be especially careful when driving either during or after a substantial rain. Studies suggest that deaths from vehicles during this time of year are a primary factor in the decline of turtle populations in the U.S. and elsewhere, so you can help by doing your part to reduce the number of turtle deaths on North Country highways.

VOLES...Continued from page 4B

also took a hit this winter, and they often won't come back, depending on the extent of the damage. When not eating grass, voles are frequently busy eating the inner bark of woody plants and as they do so they often remove enough of the tree or shrub's circulatory system to kill the plant. Ornamental shrubs and fruit trees seem to be among their favorites. Homeowners should protect young fruit trees, in particular, in the fall by wrapping them, which helps to discourage damage from voles.

You'll need to take steps in the fall in order to reduce vole damage in the future. Total vole elimination is impossible as they are typically present in naturally grassy areas, however a homeowner can discourage them from causing damage in their yards. Each fall the homeowner should remove any weeds, wild grasses, or plant litter around their yard to get rid of food sources and protection areas for the voles.

With a little work even the unwanted damage from voles in your yard can be repaired. For more information about voles, visit www.extension.umn.edu and enter "voles" in the search bar.

Voles are small, brown, mouse-sized rodents, but with smaller ears and short tails. Here in the North Country, they spend the winter under the snow, where they inflict their damage usually undetected until spring.

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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.
06/01	72	40	0.00	06/01	71	40	0.00	06/01	73	43	0.00	06/01	81	54	0.00	06/01	71	34	0.00
06/02	74	53	0.51	06/02	74	54	1.00	06/02	79	54	0.14	06/02	81	55	0.13	06/02	75	50	0.42
06/03	81	49	0.01	06/03	80	46	0.00	06/03	80	56	0.00	06/03	73	54	0.00	06/03	80	47	0.00
06/04	74	46	0.05	06/04	73	45	0.03	06/04	73	53	0.05	06/04	79	52	0.17	06/04	73	45	0.03
06/05	79	53	0.09	06/05	78	52	0.10	06/05	77	53	0.03	06/05	70	52	0.04	06/05	78	52	0.10
06/06	71	41	0.00	06/06	71	36	0.00	06/06	70	44	0.00	06/06	66	44	0.00	06/06	70	43	0.00
06/07	64	45	0.15	06/07	65	45	1.05	06/07	64	44	0.13	06/07	66	46	0.00	06/07	65	44	0.00
Total 5.22				YTD Total 5.72				YTD Total 4.75				YTD Total NA				YTD Total 3.84			

CLIMATE

Despite recent rains, area remains dry

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Despite recent rains, waters levels across the region remain below normal for this time of year, and that's a reminder of how dry it was through the first five months of the year.

Most reporting stations in the area remain well below their average precipitation as of this week.

Through the first week of June, the Ely area should have experienced approximately 9.2 inches of total liquid precipitation. That includes rainfall and melted snow. But as of June 7, the Ely area had recorded just 5.22 inches of precipitation, or about 56 percent of its average, since the first of

the year. While significant rainfall this week helped the region make up some ground, it remains well below normal and that's reflected in low water levels in area lakes and streams.

Indeed, the Rainy River was running close to its Q90, which signifies that flows are at the bottom ten percent typically experienced in a river or stream. Flows in all of the streams in the Rainy River watershed were continuing to trend downward as of Monday's weekly report from the Department of Natural Resources.

The North Country can make quick headway against moisture deficits in June, which is typically the wettest month of the year. On average, the region should expect to see an inch of rainfall per week

during the month, yet even average rainfall in June won't help make up ground against the deficit built up since the first of the year.

That longer-term dry spell is one of the reasons that the U.S. Drought Monitor shifted much of western and northern St. Louis County, including the Orr, Cook, and Tower areas into the moderate drought category, the first time the region has been classified in a moderate drought in several years. Much of that area benefitted from rains this week, but it was unclear as of presstime whether this week's drought report will change the area's status.

The U.S. Drought Monitor report is issued each Thursday at 7 a.m. central time.

TRAIL...Continued from page 4B



Left: The new boardwalk makes its way through a wetland as the first leg of the new Ancient Cedar Forest Trail now under construction in Tower.

photos by M. Kishel

custom for the project at East Dhu Sawmill in Iron, will also provide better footing when the wood is wet. Smooth, treated lumber is notorious for becoming slimy and slippery in wet conditions.

Once out of the wetlands, the cost of construction will be minimal, since it will mostly be limited to

clearing of deadfall along the route. The trail tread will be kept natural, in keeping with the wilderness-like character of the trail route, although a small amount of aggregate may be added in rough or rocky portions of the trail to improve footing.

The volunteers hope to have the boardwalk completed by the end of July. Signage will be added after that and should be up before fall. The trailhead will be located 300 feet south of the Mesabi Trail, just off the Iron Ore snowmobile trail.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

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

DRAIN

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

DRY

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

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES! LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG

Obituaries and Death Notices

Robert E. King
 Robert "Bob" Edward King, 88, formerly of Buyck, died on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. A public visitation was held on Monday, June 8 at the Ziemer-Moeglein-

Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert with social distancing. Interment was in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Saginaw. Survivors include his children, Teresa Hadash of Virginia, Mary (Bennie) DiMatteo of Missouri, Janet

(Leonard) Kokal of Mt. Iron, Diane Grahek of Bigfork and John (Tara) King of Colorado; 11 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and several stepchildren.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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-Orr Healthcare District on June 23 at 6:30 PM.

Teresa Debevec, CEO

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

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 17 at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall. Social distancing will be observed.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay: June 12, 2020

Read us online at timberjay.com

EMPLOYMENT

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Full-time, M-F, benefits. Contact Lee Phillips. Waschke Family Chevrolet in Cook, 126 N Hwy 53, PO Box 549, Cook, MN 55723; 218-666-5901 or 800-238-4545. tfr

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.

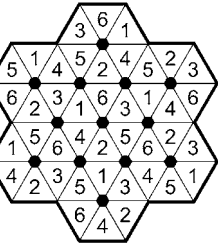
If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Varichak @ 218-757-3102. Equal Opportunity Employer

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

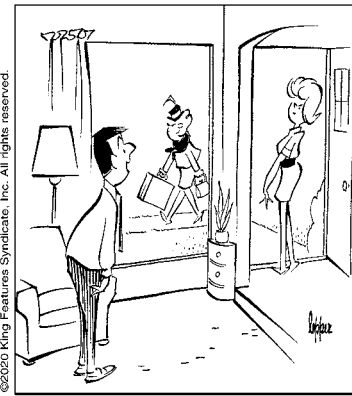
HELP WANTED

Motivated employees for established local business. Must be reliable and a team player. Must enjoy working outdoors and be able to lift 50 pounds for a majority of the day. Duties could be delivery and assembly of boat lifts and docks or welding, painting, and decking. Call in person to schedule an interview - 218-365-6210. This is an opportunity for a fun and enjoyable season at Docks on Wheels. Compensation based on qualifications. tfr

SNOWFLAKES solution



Subscribe to the **TIMBERJAY!**
 Call 218-753-2950



"Honest, honey, I don't know what I said to make your mother angry — but I'll try to _____!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Angst

AMELIAS

Guard

BORRED

Gift

WODEN

Gourd

TUGMEN

TODAY'S WORD

Super Crossword

Answers

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

King Crossword

Answers

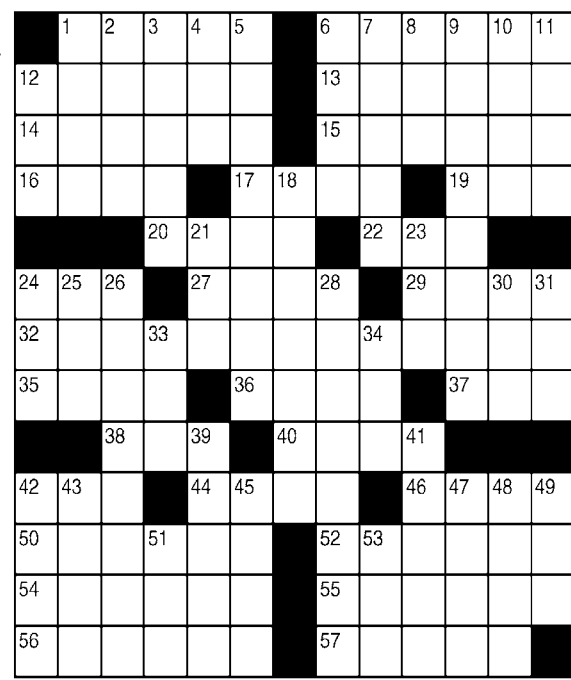
Solution time: 24 mins.

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Small plateaus
- 6 Bamboo eaters
- 12 Big commotion
- 13 Old Roman tax
- 14 Strengthen by heating and cooling
- 15 Move a painting, maybe
- 16 Medicinal amount
- 17 Computer brand
- 19 Chaps
- 20 Nickelodeon's explorer
- 22 Marley or Dylan
- 24 Underwear with underwire
- 27 Madams' mates
- 29 Moth variety
- 32 "The House That Ruth Built"
- 35 Advantage
- 36 Out of play
- 37 List-ending abbr.
- 38 Consume
- 40 Williams or Warhol
- 42 - -de-sac
- 44 On pension: Abbr.



- 46 Killer whale
- 50 "I, Robot" author
- 52 Passionate states
- 54 Cookbook entry
- 55 Lab monkey
- 56 Merchant
- 57 Apportioned
- 5 Not freelance
- 6 Skin opening
- 7 Bitter
- 8 To the — degree
- 9 Scotch-based liqueur
- 10 Top-rated
- 11 Autograph
- 12 Possessed
- 18 Parents' traveling accessory
- 21 Sugar suffix
- 23 Antiquated
- 24 "See ya"
- 25 "Awesome!"
- 26 Sweet fortified wine
- 28 Norm
- 30 Eccentric
- 31 HBO alternative
- 33 Mauna —
- 34 Toss in
- 39 Figure of speech
- 41 Mountain air?
- 42 Shopper's aid
- 43 Addict
- 45 Always
- 47 "Golden Girls" role
- 48 Gunk
- 49 Donkey
- 51 Central
- 53 Pi follower

DOWN

- 1 Stereo fore-runner
- 2 Billions of years
- 3 Haste
- 4 Miss. neighbor

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Dietary Casual Dietary Aide/Cook	
Housekeeping PT Housekeeper	
Adult Day Services Casual RN/LPN	

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

GARAGE SALE

GUY'S GARAGE SALE- Hunting, fishing, tools. Saturday, June 13 (note new day!), 8am-4pm. Northside Soudan, follow the signs. 6/12p

GARAGE SALE- June 12 & 13, 8-3 both days. Tools, camping, baby & kids clothes, toys/gear, household, furniture, much more. 39 Jasper St., Soudan. 6/12p

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.

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

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

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• Industrial Lumber
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LICENSE BUREAU

COOK LICENSE BUREAU- TEMPORARY HOURS DUE TO COVID-19
Open: M-W-F 9am - 3pm. Mail in or drop off only at this time. Call with any questions, 218-666-6199 Email: cookdep159@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

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

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution
1. Malaise; 2. Border;
3. Endow; 4. Nutmeg

Today's Word REMEMBER

Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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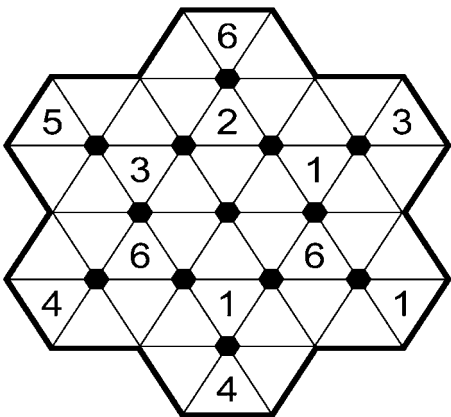
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moccasinpointmarine.com
YAMAHA

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SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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



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

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Answer

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

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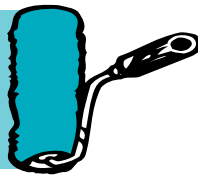
Super Crossword

"HOW ABOUT HAT!"

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ACROSS | 48 Try to get appliance brand | 49 Online party summuses | 53 Madonna musical | 55 The Once- ("The Lorax" character) | 56 Gradually slowing, in music: Abbr. | 58 Legislate | 59 Cozy room | 60 Florida school near Daytona Beach | 66 Dimple locale | 67 Like Capp's Abner | 68 Parable, e.g. 1977 pact | 69 signed by Carter and Torrijos | 76 Son of George Bush | 79 Painstaking, for short | 80 Academic e-mail suffix | 81 Tirana's nation: Abbr. | 82 Brain holder | 84 Hedy of film | 86 Just — on the map | 89 Diminutive suffix for "part" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Big | 6 Bursting, as a balloon | 13 Houdini feat | 19 Only | 21 New York senator | 22 Sudden floods | 23 Device used in saltwater aquariums | 25 Spanish conquistador | 26 Filter slowly | 27 Cagney or Lacey: Abbr. | 28 Seed case | 29 Tennis' Navratilova | 30 Took a 46-Across, e.g. | 32 "For Me and My Gal" director | 35 Marine ink squirters | 38 Welsh dog | 39 Tic-tac-toe row | 40 Some Web site banners | 41 Person paid for getting strikes | 46 Airport idler | 47 Apian abode | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 1990-2000 | 3 Like Capp's | 4 Some snakes | 5 Further | 6 Bottom line | 7 Further | 8 Further | 9 Further | 10 Further | 11 Further | 12 Further | 13 Further | 14 Further | 15 Further | 16 Further | 17 Further | 18 Further | 19 Further | 20 Further | 21 Further | 22 Further | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 Rob of "90210" | 25 Made a pick | 26 Want badly | 27 Venom, e.g. | 28 Spotted, musky cat | 29 Hush | 30 Swiss capital | 31 Brothers Phil and Don of pop/rock | 32 Wash cycle | 33 See 109-Across | 34 Outer: Prefix | 35 Hogs' place | 36 Actor Shawn of "X-Men" films | 37 Stand for an idiot box | 38 Fido's threat | 39 Endive type | 40 Hybrid utensil | 41 À la — | 42 Hun name | 43 Flattened by hammering | 44 Thoreau writings | 45 Like "kvetch" or "schmear" | 46 Once called | 47 Fluffy's cry | 48 Not closed, in verse | 49 Many miffed fans, vocally | 50 Catering hall vessel | 51 "Oh, God! —" (1980 film sequel) | 52 Made a pick | 53 Want badly | 54 Venom, e.g. | 55 Spotted, musky cat | 56 Hush | 57 Swiss capital | 58 Brothers Phil and Don of pop/rock | 59 Wash cycle | 60 See 109-Across | 61 Outer: Prefix | 62 Hogs' place | 63 Actor Shawn of "X-Men" films | 64 Stand for an idiot box | 65 Fido's threat | 66 Endive type | 67 Hybrid utensil | 68 À la — | 69 Hun name | 70 Flattened by hammering | 71 Thoreau writings | 72 Like "kvetch" or "schmear" | 73 Once called | 74 Fluffy's cry | 75 Not closed, in verse | 76 Many miffed fans, vocally | 77 Catering hall vessel | 78 "Oh, God! 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