



Wood ducks...
See /4B

Inside:
Ely referendum update... See /3
Nursing home visits... See /10
Marathon still on... See /1B

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Lawsuit seeks new rules on sulfide mining

NMW attempting to pressure DNR to prohibit copper-nickel mine in Rainy River watershed

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

ELY— A northern Minnesota environmental group has filed a lawsuit that seeks to force the state's Department of Natural Resources to prohibit sulfide-based copper-nickel mining within the headwaters

of the Rainy River watershed.

The group, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, is the lead organization in the national Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. It contends in its filings with the Ramsey County District Court that the DNR should be required to amend state rules in order to

protect the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area, located just downstream from the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine.

"Both state and federal law recognize that the Boundary Waters is among the most precious of all of America's many natural wonders," said Tom

Landwehr, executive director of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "Yet state rules allow for one of America's most toxic industries to set up shop right on its very doorstep, where we know toxic pollution will flow directly into its pristine waters and air. That simply makes no sense."

The lawsuit will test the legal protections granted in the 1971 Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, which grants the public the ability to file suit to protect water, air, and other natural resources from impairment.

See... **SUIT** pg. 8

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

City secures funding to rebuild Orr bog walk



Popular attraction to get new lease on life in 2021

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

ORR- If a visitor takes a stroll on the Mickey Elverum Bog Walk in Orr this week, two things will become readily apparent within the first 50 yards.

One is that bug spray is a must – the mosquito

season is in full bloom in the bog.

The other is that the 28-year-old structure has seen better days and is in serious need of repair.

While city officials can't do anything about bug spray, the news last week that the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board

The 28-year-old Mickey Elverum Bog Walk in Orr is set to undergo a makeover next year, thanks to a matching grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. photos by D. Colburn

approved a \$196,350 matching grant gives them the means to give the popular attraction a much-needed extreme makeover that will serve

for years to come.

The city had already ponied up \$10,000 to cover preliminary design,

See...**BOG** pg. 11

GUNDERSEN TRUST

Board differs over mission, membership

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOWER— On Monday, a trust board that oversees nearly a million dollars in funds here expressed considerable uncertainty about the makeup of its board and what, if any, funds it can disburse to benefit the community.

Members of the Gundersen Trust Board differed sharply over whether they can, or must, spend \$224,139 in funds that are above and beyond a base funding amount that must be retained as the trust's corpus.

The trust board has disbursed almost nothing from the trust over the past decade as most of its investments are yielding less than one-percent interest annually. The trust is required by a court order to reinvest an amount each year into the trust's corpus that's equal to the consumer price index, which has limited the amount the trust can distribute.

Board member Steve Wilson, a recent appointee to the board, noted that the trust's legal documents state that the trust "shall" disburse funds that are not otherwise encumbered by the reinvestment requirement and it appears that over the years, the amount of unspent funds has increased, although no one on the trust board seemed clear about how the extra funds had been generated. Wilson's argument to use the trust for community projects or the city budget has found little traction with

See...**TRUST** pg. 10

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Ely suffers another major house fire



by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY - The second major house fire here this month required the dispatching of firefighters from three different departments Tuesday afternoon.

A house at 131 E. Conan St. went up in flames at about 4:30 p.m. According to Dawn Kilic, of Burnsville, her great-grand-

A house at 131 East Conan Street in Ely went up in flames late Tuesday afternoon. photos by K. Vandervort

father, August Tuomala, built the house in 1900.

Crews from the Ely Fire Department, along with the city of Babbitt and Morse-Fall Lake Township fire

See...**FIRE** pg. 9



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Community notices

Vermilion Dream Quilters July meeting canceled

TOWER- With regret, the Vermilion Dream Quilter's July meeting will be canceled. Gathering indoors while maintaining safe social distancing would be difficult, while making the meeting unsatisfactory. And we could not have our coffee and treats! Looking ahead, our outdoor gathering in August may be possible. The updated situation will be evaluated and a notice sent out to all.

Living Well with Chronic Pain classes begin July 1

REGIONAL- According to the National Institute of Health, chronic pain affects more Americans than diabetes, heart disease and cancer. If you or a loved one lives with chronic pain, this online workshop is for you. Offered in partnership with local community organizations, Living Well with Chronic Pain is a six-week workshop that helps people deal with the ongoing issues associated with chronic pain. Participants learn strategies to overcome frustration, fatigue, isolation, and poor sleep, exercises for maintaining and improving strength, appropriate use of medications, evaluating new treatment, and the importance of good nutrition.

While Juniper courses help people improve their health, they are also a way for participants to connect with and support others as a community, which is increasingly important during this time of social distancing.

July Virtual Living Well with Chronic Pain offerings:

- ▶ Wednesdays, July 1 – Aug. 5, from 1 - 3:30 p.m. Sponsored by ElderCircle and Fairview Range
 - ▶ Tuesdays, July 7 – Aug. 11, from 1 - 3:30 p.m. Sponsored by Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
 - ▶ Wednesdays, July 15 – Aug. 26, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by Whitney Senior Center
 - ▶ Mondays, July 20 – Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by Community Partners
- Register by calling 1-855-215-2174 or visit www.yourjuniper.org and search for online workshops. Classes are offered virtually via HIPAA Secure Zoom. No Zoom experience is necessary; we'll teach you. This class is donation based and no one is turned away based on ability to donate.

MRCTC scholarships available

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Range College Foundation awards approximately \$100,000 in scholarships to MRC students thanks to generous donors. Both current and future students can apply for these scholarships that will be awarded this academic year. Students can apply for the MRC Foundation Scholarships beginning Monday, June 8 and the application is due on Friday, July 3. Mesabi Range College will also be awarding \$37,500 in St. Louis County Mineral Royalties Scholarships. The mineral royalties awards are open to St. Louis County residents who have graduated or soon will graduate from any St. Louis County high school. The awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. These scholarships are intended to help train and retain skilled employees in high-demand industries in St. Louis County. The Alumni Association awards eight different scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,000. Workforce Development Scholarships, totaling \$57,000, will be divided and awarded to students pursuing a career in Practical Nursing, Electrical Controls and Maintenance, Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education, Welding, and Paramedic. All of these scholarship applications are located on Mesabi Range College's website at www.mesabirange.edu under College Costs/Financial Aid. For questions, email admissions@mesabirange.edu.

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Puccini's Tosca to highlight NLMF

A Festive Fourth concert and The Medium will also be performed



Leah Crocetto will star in the July 17 and 19 performances of Tosca. submitted photo

REGIONAL- The Northern Lights Music Festival will continue with its seventeenth season of bringing classical music to the Iron Range, much of it outdoors, from Saturday, July 4 to Monday, July 27.

Topping the roster of events is the NLMF's production of Puccini's "Tosca," one of the most popular operas in the repertoire. Originally set in Italy's Bonaparte wars of the 19th century, Ecuadorian director Chia Patino will bring the setting forward to modern day Latin America, with revolutionaries and conservative forces battling as the opera's detestable villain, Scarpia, sets his sights on the beautiful singer, Floria Tosca. A brilliant cast has been engaged, starring young American soprano Leah Crocetto as Tosca, Metropolitan Opera's Daniel Sutin as the repellent Scarpia, and Metropolitan Opera's Rafael Davila as the hero Cavaradossi. The opera will be conducted by the Mariinsky Theatre's Gavriel Heine. The health concerns of the public and the artists required a re-thinking of how to deliver this year's program, and the opera venue has become the Chisholm's Discovery Center Amphitheater. To keep the orchestra safe, patrons will see a distanced orchestra placed to the sides of the orchestra pit, with Plexiglas dividers between wind players and the rest of the orchestra. Singers have been staged to avoid close contact, and the NLMF Opera Chorus will rehearse in the open air, and record in the Miner's Memorial in Virginia, distanced and separated by Plexiglas. This recorded track will be projected together with the live performance to avoid compromising the health of the singers. NLMF will present two

performances of this masterpiece, Friday, July 17 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 19 at 7 p.m. Audiences will be limited to 250 patrons per show, and seated in assigned, distanced seats. Patrons must be masked to enter the Discovery Center.

Opening the Festival will be two exciting outdoor performances to celebrate the Fourth of July. Festive Fourth will be produced at Virginia's Olcott Park Bob Baldrice Bandstand on Saturday, July 4 at 4 p.m. with the NLMF Orchestra, conducted by Gavriel Heine, presenting Gershwin's "American in Paris," Bernstein's "Overture to Candide," a set of Sousa Marches as a tip of the hat to the day, and Opera Arias by the cast of NLMF Opera's production of "Tosca." The concert will be repeated on Sunday, July 5 at Chisholm's Discovery Park Amphitheater, also at 4 p.m. The concerts are free to the public and a limit of 250 patrons are will be admitted to the venues, socially distanced and masked. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

Expanding the NLMF opera season has been a goal of the festival for some years and what might be the most famous American opera, Gian Carlo Menotti's "The Medium" will be presented in Aurora on Sunday and Monday, July 26 and 27, starring Metropolitan Opera star Barbara Dever in the role of the fortune-teller Baba. This thriller was one of the first televised operas, and has been performed more often than any other American opera except for Menotti's holiday classic, Amahl and the Night Visitors. Admittance to Mesabi East's Veda Zuponcic Auditorium will be limited to 150 patrons, socially distanced in assigned seating and masked.

NLMF was recently the recipient of a wonderful gift from the Friends of B'nai Abraham Cultural Center in Virginia, having been given the ownership of this landmark historical site. NLMF will continue to welcome community artists and historians to make presentations throughout the year and will present an extensive series of chamber music concerts at the old synagogue in July, including multiple performances of Beethoven's chamber music in honor of the great composer's 250th birthday. Check the NLMF website, www.northernlightsmusic.org, for updated information about the chamber music program. B'nai Abraham is air-conditioned; because of its small size, a maximum of 30 patrons will be allowed to be seated. In cooperation with the St. Louis County Historical Society, an art exhibit by Ely's Albin Zaverl will be positioned in the lower level of the building.

Funding to this date has been made available by the Minnesota State Arts Board Arts Touring Program, Explore Minnesota Tourism and many other corporate and private donors, including Minnesota Power Foundation, 3-M, Johnson & Johnson, IBM and Genentech. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Check the NLMF website for updated information and to purchase tickets, www.northernlightsmusic.org.

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<p>Wed. July 1st 10 am—1 pm Balkan Canister Site 11489 Vlasich Rd, Chisholm</p>	<p>Thurs. July 9th 10 am—1 pm County 77 Canister Site 2038 Co. Rd. 77, Tower</p>	<p>Thurs. July 23rd 10 am—11:30 am Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Buyck</p>	<p>Thurs. July 23rd 1:30 pm—3 pm Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Orr</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>	

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Minnesota Discovery Center Amphitheater, Chisholm

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Veda Zuponcic Auditorium, Mesabi East, Aurora

Tickets: \$30. 125 max number of tickets.

For full schedule, tickets & more information, visit **NORTHERNLIGHTSMUSIC.ORG**

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Lewis looking to improve EMS on the Range

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Winner of Bush Fellowship to pursue consolidation of services

REGIONAL — For the past several years, Allen Lewis has been a man with a mission. In his five years as fire chief and emergency manager for the city of Virginia, he has been frustrated by the inefficiencies he sees in the delivery of emergency medical and fire services in the region and has focused considerable energy on seeking solutions.

Now, he'll have the resources provided by a Bush Fellowship to further that objective. Lewis was one of 24 leaders from Minnesota and North and South Dakota to receive the fellowship, which was announced earlier this month. A total of 746 people had applied for the coveted award, which provides recipients up to \$100,000 to pursue leadership training to advance a particular objective.

For Lewis, the objective was never in doubt. As the Bush Foundation noted in its award announcement, "Allen Lewis envisions a future where emergency services in rural communities are more effective, timely, and equitable."

For Lewis, it's all about the numbers. As he likes to say, "Without data, you're just another person with an opinion." Lewis has crunched the numbers and believes there are more efficient and effective ways to deliver emergency services in northern St. Louis County through consolidation of services. Now, thanks to his Bush Fellowship, he hopes to bolster his leadership skills to better navigate the complicated process of achieving that goal. Like many Bush fellows, he'll

take coursework in leadership at Harvard later this year. He's also planning to visit places like Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom to see firsthand how people in those countries are delivering emergency services in rural areas. Along the way, he hopes to develop a network of advisors and mentors he can call on as he pursues his objectives.

Lewis will maintain his position in Virginia, relying mostly on accrued vacation time for the foreign travel and to attend classes at Harvard. He'll have 24 months to complete his project, although he recognizes that achieving his ultimate goal for emergency services in the region is likely to take much longer than that.

Lewis, who moved to the

area for his current job, has brought an outsider's perspective to emergency services on the Iron Range and points north. He notes that the places he hopes to visit have highly centralized systems in place for emergency services, which is a model he thinks could serve northern St. Louis County well. Still, Lewis acknowledges he has no preconceived notions about how the current system can best be reformed. "But first we have to admit that there's an issue," he said.

In his view, parochialism from the past helped to create the fragmented system in place today and he believes both operational and administrative efficiencies can be achieved by more coordination and consolidation of services. He believes it will take a new attitude to



create a system that best serves residents of the region. "Right now, we're not looking at how working together can help everyone," he said. "In a larger system you have efficiencies that can be gained that can't happen in a

See LEWIS...pg. 5

ELY SCHOOLS

Ely-area voters can early vote on school referendum

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — ISD 696 officials continue to make their case to district voters who will be asked this summer to give their approval on a \$10 million bonding referendum for a school facility renovation project.

Election day will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 11, but early voting is underway as of Friday, June 26. School board members were updated on the referendum communication effort at a study session Monday night.

Taxpayers are being asked to approve an increase in their property taxes for the next 20 years to help pay for the \$20-million project that will improve the school buildings by connecting the campus into one safer facility, adding more space for learning and improving the overall condition of the 100-year-old buildings.

Superintendent Erik Erie is conducting presentations to area community groups, a direct mailing brochure was recently distributed to all households, columns are being published in local newspapers, and social

media is being used to get the word out about the project.

Erie has recently visited with the Ely Rotary Club, Morse Township officials and residents, Tuesday Group participants, and Ely Community Resource. He will address the Ely City Council on Tuesday, June 30.

In addition, the school district will conduct as many as three public forums this summer, in a virtual format, to provide more opportunities for voters to have their questions answered about the project and the cost. Those forums are planned for Monday, June 29, Tuesday, July

14 and Wednesday, Aug. 5. All forums will begin at 6 p.m. More information will be announced on how to access the virtual presentations.

With the approval of the \$10 million referendum, the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation will award a \$7 million grant for the project. State aid, including a \$500,000 Safe and Secure Schools grant and a \$500,000 ISD 696 general fund transfer, is also part of the project funding.

Property tax increases on a residential homestead property with an estimated market value

of \$100,000 would be about \$50 per year for 20 years. Property tax increases on a commercial property with an estimated market value of \$250,000 would be just over \$300 per year for 20 years.

For more information on the referendum and school facility project, call Erie at 218-365-6166. Details are also available on the ISD 696 website, www.ely.k12.mn.us.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Copper-nickel mining

Our local economy has already taken a hit from the proposed mine

Antofagasta, the massive international copper-mining giant behind the proposed Twin Metals project, needs to start playing straight with Minnesotans, particularly residents here in the North Country. Their proposal for an underground copper-nickel mine just upstream of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness has sparked division in our region that is, undoubtedly, creating a drag on the local economy.

Nearly a quarter of residents in the townships surrounding Ely told University of Minnesota pollsters back in 2014 that the new mining in the local area would likely prompt them to leave the area. That's concerning enough, considering that Ely's surrounding townships generate more than half of the community's income, thereby fueling the Ely economy.

That's a reality that can be quantified. What's tougher to recognize is the degree to which uncertainty over Ely's future direction has been harming the local economy in recent years.

If nearly a quarter of existing residents would consider leaving the area in the event that a mine is opened, how many prospective new residents have simply chosen to look and invest elsewhere rather than consider Ely? If the amenities that attract new residents to the community are threatened, it's only rational for people to be cautious.

If there were the potential for a huge economic payoff from a mine, one might at least be able to accept the sort of limbo in which Antofagasta has placed the community. Every year that the Twin Metals project casts a giant question mark over Ely's future, is another year during which the community is likely underperforming its potential.

We've previously reported on the study conducted by two Harvard economists, who found that the area would be better off, in terms of community income, without a mine. Yet, Ely currently is experiencing the worst of both worlds: fear of a mine is almost certainly limiting new investment and in-migration from those attracted by the region's natural amenities. At the same time, the prospects for the Twin Metals mine remain far more remote than many mine boosters in the community care to admit.

The widespread opposition to the Twin Metals proposal in Minnesota certainly doesn't bode well. While the Trump administration appears intent on ignoring the law in its mad dash to complete an environmental review, it is the state of Minnesota that will issue any permits for the mine. And a broad majority

of Minnesotans do not support a dangerous sulfide-based mine on the edge of the Boundary Waters.

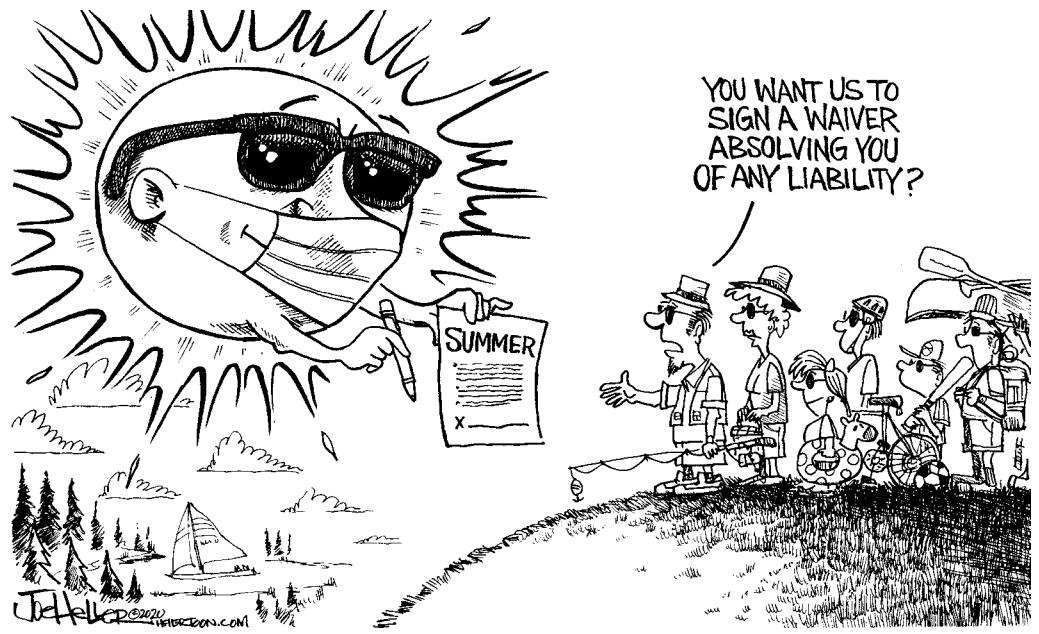
But that's mere politics. In the end, mines are about money, and on that score, the prospects for the Twin Metals project look even bleaker. It's noteworthy that Twin Metals issued a mine plan late last year that failed to include any financial projections. The trouble is, any independent financial projection would expose the truth about Twin Metals, and that is, that it cannot operate profitably under anything close to current or even historical prices for copper or nickel.

Let's be blunt— at current metal prices, even PolyMet, a proposed open pit mining operation that obtained its processing facility for pennies on the dollar— can't make a buck. PolyMet's 2018 financials showed a marginal ten-percent return on investment with copper at \$3.29 per pound (it's currently at \$2.68 per pound) and nickel at \$7.95 (currently at \$5.68). If an open pit mine can't make it, the prospects for an underground operation, with a substantially higher upfront investment requirement than is the case with PolyMet, is nothing more than pie-in-the-sky.

The Twin Metals project is banking solely on the theory that copper prices are going to increase sharply over the next two decades, eventually making extremely low-grade deposits like those found in Minnesota economical. Anything is possible, of course, but the odds are against it. A recent World Bank estimate projected that copper demand will increase by just seven percent between 2017 and 2050. That's not seven percent annually. That's seven percent, period. Besides, metal recycling is largely built into all green technologies, which means the economy will make more efficient use of metals in the future.

All of which makes the current talk of a Twin Metals mine so self-defeating for Ely's economy. Supporters of the mine spin a tale of economic woe in the absence of a mine, which discourages new investment, while the future risk posed by talk of the mine keeps the alternative economy, based on outdoor amenities, stuck in first gear. It's a lose-lose.

That's why Twin Metals needs to put up or shut up. If they can't produce an independent financial projection that shows the mine will be able to operate profitably at anything close to current metal prices, they should pack up and go back to Chile. As it stands today, they're only hurting Ely's economy.



Letters from Readers

Taking politics out of the Supreme Court

Of the three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial, the Supreme Court has arguably the greatest enduring impact on America's well-being. The court usually has the last word on major issues. Yet, the continuum of the court is a procedure subject to the unpredictability of death, resignations, and the small number of justices, so that one new member can change the dynamics of the court literally overnight. Nevertheless, the goal of the founders was to sustain judicial independence and an ideological balance among the justices.

Over the years the court has become politicized and polarized. The justices are referred to as the liberal and conservative factions. And egregious example of politicizing is Republican majority leader Senator McConnell's preventing a hearing for the nominee of a Democrat president.

Under the appointment procedures, the president can nominate a justice after the death or resignation of a justice subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Justices are appointed for life while maintaining "good behavior" (or face impeachment) and their compensation cannot be lowered during their term.

Some Presidents do not have an opportunity to appoint a justice while in office whereas others have several opportunities. President Nixon appointed four candidates or 44-percent of the Court justices.

The number of justices for the court has fluctuated over its 232-year history, but since the 1869 the size of the Court has remained at nine. (The size of the Court can be changed by Congress.) The recent median longevity term of justices is 26 years.

Many recommendations have been put forward to change various aspects of the Supreme Court. One of the leading proposals is establishing term limits of 18 years, staggering

the appointments to produce a vacancy every two years.

Congress can change the size of the Court, but it takes a Constitutional Amendment to change from life terms to fixed term limits.

Vacancies and resignations would be replaced as they occur, but the number of these ad hoc replacements would be reduced due to the implementation of term limits. Furthermore, if the President submits a nominee for justice of the Court, and the Senate fails to vote on the nominee within two months, the appointment becomes automatic.

One more thought on the present selection of justices. The voting for appointment of justices does not necessarily result in the Senators exercising their independent judgment, but rather succumbing to the dictates of their party leaders for fear of political reprisals in various forms.

Perhaps a secret ballot might be a means to get a Senator's honest appraisal of the qualifications of the nominee, which would reduce political influence. A secret ballot may be anathema to a representative democracy, but in this particular situation, it is for a lifetime appointment which could extend to 30 or 40 years. Most public offices are determined by secret ballot, including the President of the United States.

In addition, 60 percent of the Senate should be required for confirmation due to the importance and magnitude of the difference one vote in the Supreme Court can make in determining long-lasting, major issues for our country.

**Gerry Snyder
Ely**

How can you steal love?

A few years back, Dean Panian had a vision and a dream, to give back to the community he loved in the best way he could, with the short time he had left on this planet. With his hard work, extreme talent, bulldog tenacity and quite a few

volunteers, he accomplished his wonderful dream for everyone to enjoy.

But somewhere in someone's lost paradigm of morality and virtues, they decided to try and steal part of that dream. But how do you steal love? You may steal items and equipment but you can't steal the essence or the meaning of heart.

By your actions, you are trying to take away other families' recreational opportunities from them. Hopefully you will read this, reflect on the error of your ways, come to an understanding and return what you took or borrowed.

The Greenwood Township facilities and equipment provide a rich and much-needed recreational opportunity for all ages. You didn't have to steal the equipment; we would have let you use it whenever you wanted. We still will. We forgive you. So please, bring back the three bocce ball sets, the green garden wagon used to haul the equipment around, the four sets of bean bags, and the Mesabi College duffel bag they were in, the bagged bean bag set and the propane bug sprayer. Please leave it at the town hall or back at the skating shack where you got it.

Many hours of volunteer work by many outstanding individuals were put in to the numerous charity events at the Town Hall, Panian Pavilion, and the Vermilion Club to help pay for it all. Plus, all the surrounding community residents, businesses, and visitors who contributed to the dream and all those who participated in and attended the charity events. We thank you all. Dino is giving you his thanks, too.

Let's be kind to one another and remember, life is and should be good, especially with a little recreation.

So the answer to the question is, you can't steal love, specifically when it is given to you freely.

The Greenwood Community Recreation Board: Jarri Ankrum, Renee Aro, Byron Beihoffer, Noreen and Roger Butalla, and Jet Galonski

Navigating through the Virgin Islands

The ocean wind was 25 to 30 knots steady with gusts 5 or 10 knots higher. The waves were probably only three feet but seemed like unscalable mountains and treacherous crevasses. I was accidentally sailing in the open ocean outside the protected inner waters of



BETTY FIRTH

seasick except for one guy. I was in charge, terrified that I wouldn't be able to navigate through the narrow passageway between islands to get back to calmer waters. As you know if you've ever sailed, you can't turn a sailboat like a motorboat, you can't sail straight

into the wind, and you can't sail parallel to steep waves if you want to stay upright. If you

keep a boat square to the waves in a following sea, meaning the waves are coming toward the boat from behind, and the waves are moving faster than the boat, they will break over the stern, pouring into the boat. If you do that often enough with big enough waves, the cockpit will fill with water. If you have any unsealed openings to the cabin below, the water will pour in, which isn't the best strategy for keeping afloat.

I had been eager to sign on as skipper of one of the five 44-foot boats on this Caribbean

adventure organized through a singles group in the Twin Cities. I had learned to sail on Lake Superior years earlier with one of the other skippers, who was an engineer and an experienced, responsible, level-headed, and patient sailor. He was the only skipper I've ever met who brought 60 pounds of his own tools, which combined with his creative problem-solving, enabled him to fix balky engines or non-functioning stoves. On one sail, when the engine quit, he discovered a belt had broken, and made a replacement out of

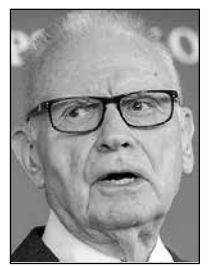
panty hose from his kit bag, and we were on our way. But I was on my own when it came to figuring out how to get through the passageway that would lead us back into safety. I was also loath to get on the radio and broadcast my dilemma, losing all skipper credibility on the second day of the sail.

We were under full sail, which had been set for the milder conditions inside the passageway, and this meant there was a lot of cloth up there catching

See **SAILING...** pg. 5

Why representative democracy matters

Over the last few years, the health of American democracy has come under great scrutiny. Polling routinely shows that Americans are concerned that democratic institutions



LEE HAMILTON

aren't working as well as they ought to. Inevitably, this brings up the question of whether we can mend our problems or if the system of representative democracy itself is fundamentally broken.

I'm biased. I served as a representative for a good bit of my life, watched the system from the inside with all its faults and all its glories, and believe firmly in it. Our strengths as a nation—our wealth and culture, our opportunities and human resources—developed in an environment that was built from our founding documents,

giving an ever-greater swath of Americans the opportunity to reach their potential, solve the problems that face their communities, and work together to move their neighborhoods and their country as a whole forward. It's allowed us to experiment, to approach issues pragmatically, and to shift approaches if the first or second or third doesn't work.

In fact, I would argue that some of our key characteristics as a people spring from the demands of self-governance and electing representatives. Wherever I've gone around the country, I've noticed an impressive and restless desire to make things better—to improve our communities and states for everyone who lives

in them. A representative democracy, in which every few years we choose the people who will be making the decisions that shape how we spend our money and regulate our activities, encourages this.

As concerns about our institutions have grown, however, so has interest in alternatives. A 2018 poll by Vox, for instance, found that young people were "less likely to say that democracy is 'always preferable' to any other type of government, and less likely to agree that 'democracy serves the people'" than people 40 and older. By the same token, they were more likely to say that "non-democracies can be preferable" in some circumstances and to believe that "democracy serves the elite." Many of these people are pushing for more direct democracy.

At the same time, militia groups, political entrepreneurs, and big-money interests are

also pushing for changes to how the system operates. They often want to move away from representative democracy, limit the power of the legislature, dismiss the professional civil service, rearrange the federal structure, and in some cases see an advantage in a strong-man leader.

I have to confess; I have trouble seeing us moving in either direction. A lot of Americans like the idea of direct democracy—indeed, in a poll a few years ago, the Pew Research Center found that 55 percent of those surveyed thought that ordinary Americans would do a better job solving the country's problems than elected officials. Yet while I see the value of direct democracy at the town level, as is practiced in parts of New England, I have trouble seeing how 325 million people could make decisions on even major policy questions at the federal level. It would

make it impossible to have the kind of deliberation or common-ground-seeking that Congress, when it's working, can practice.

Those attracted to strong-man leadership see value in a president who can make policy with little or no consultation with the Congress or other elected bodies. This, of course, is a system of authoritarianism you can find in various spots around the world; Russia, Turkey, the Philippines, and Venezuela come to mind. This is not, however, an idea many Americans find attractive for governing the country.

My point is this: We can't look at representative democracy in isolation but have to compare it to the alternatives. And the alternatives, I'd argue, don't stack up. Even 230 years on, our system remains an experiment in self-government. It is still aiming to achieve equal political rights and economic opportunity,

equal access to the protection of the laws, and equal access to political representation. It seems to me that the question is not, "Is it perfect?" Rather, it is; "Can it improve itself?" The answer lies with ordinary citizens to step up and take advantage of the opportunities the system affords us to do just that.

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

SAILING...Continued from page 4

wind. One crew member had done a lot of fishing, so he was comfortable with boats and motors, knew his knots, and was a good navigator. Unfortunately, he was also a chauvinist and hated having a female skipper, but he was stuck with me. He bragged about the divorce party he threw, serving his guests roadkill. He quickly understood how to use the winches to haul in or let out the fullness of the sails, as needed, but there was no way I was going to try to talk him through reefing the mainsail to reduce the size while standing on a heaving deck. Two people who knew what they were doing could have accomplished it, but I was stuck with neophytes.

That wasn't supposed to happen. We had been told that the organizers would try to have

a gender balance when they assigned people to boats, but that would not supersede having experienced crew on every boat. Best laid plans, right? We had a pre-trip gathering with slides and videos so everyone could learn a little bit about the Virgin Islands, sailing, and each other. It was explained to everyone that they would not be passengers, but would get to learn to sail as part of a working crew. I met my crew for the first time. One couple had a lot of experience, but shortly after that meeting, the guy had a heart attack and both of them dropped out. Last minute recruiting unearthed a woman who seduced a total stranger into signing up with her, and neither had a clue about sailing.

You might be asking how we ended up out in

the ocean in the first place. Leaving our first night's anchorage in a bay on one of the islands, I turned left instead of right, and no one on board knew enough to question me. I realized my mistake immediately, but once in the passageway between islands, there was no turning back.

Fortunately, one of the men on board was passionate about learning to sail. He had actually already purchased a boat in Florida and taken a basic sailing classroom course. He signed up for this trip for on-the-water experience so he could sail his boat back to Minnesota. He was a natural born sailor, 100 percent nice guy and soaked up everything I could teach him. He wanted to get as much time at the wheel as he could, so was invaluable in freeing me up to do other

things, but he eventually succumbed to seasickness, too.

The week was filled with drama. The seductress fell for a skipper on another boat, her partner was miserable, the macho roadkill guy turned out to be whiny, and the sixth crew member was a timid woman afraid to do anything. Any group I had ever sailed with as skipper or crew had developed some level of "crewness" within one or two days, eager to help and learn, supporting each other, enjoying cooking and eating together, and having great conversations as we swapped life stories. Not so this crew, showing no interest in cooking or sharing meals until I reminded them we would be anchored on uninhabited islands some nights with no restaurants or grocery stores.

I have long said if you want to test the mettle of a relationship, go sailing together for a few days. Those who enjoy camping and canoeing trips would attest to the same thing, but I think you up the ante when you can't get off the boat, with an element of danger thrown in just to add some spice.

Our culture has an ingrained myth or meme of rugged individualism, do or die, pull yourself up by your own bootstraps. (Have you ever tried to visualize that move?) What gets shorter shrift is learning and understanding how to be an integral part of a larger tribe, community, or global population, to recognize that the common good must be considered, if only for reasons of survival. Environmental degradation and the COVID pandemic has made many

of us finally realize how interdependent we really are on the Good Ship Terra Firma, and that we'd better learn how to cooperate and sail. The murders of George Floyd and many others have ignited mutiny by those who have been shortchanged for so long and their allies, and they're not going to take it anymore. Will we pull together or capsizé or go down in flames?

And the Virgin Island trip? I sailed safely into calmer waters before night descended, more human drama played out, and to their loss, the crew never coalesced, but I had fun exploring the islands in spite of them and ended up dating one of the other skippers. And I swore I'd figure out how to vet future crews for self-absorption in the future.

LEWIS...Continued from page 4

more fragmented system."

He said the current system is leaving some areas behind, particularly lower-income communities, that don't have the resources or the training to provide the level of service that's now required. "Needs

are changing, and calls are changing. And people have not been invested in, in terms of leadership and training, and it hasn't served northern St. Louis County well."

Lewis also believes that St. Louis County has a

much larger role to play in the delivery of emergency services. He notes that the county currently contributes just over \$100,000 a year to fire and EMS, out of a \$300 million annual budget, which is much less than other counties spend

on such critical services.

"There is a fundamental shift that has to occur," he said. Part of that shift, he said, may be to do away with the notion that emergency services, both fire and medical, can continue to be delivered

by volunteers.

While he thinks consolidation models are the region's best bet, he acknowledges that any decisions have to come willingly from area communities, and are likely to require considerable

discussion and negotiation. "Political buy-in is going to be key to this. It has to be their idea," Lewis said. "You can't force it. You can only provide opportunities."

Minnesota 'One Book' Program will convene conversations on racism

REGIONAL- The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, as the Minnesota Center for the Book,



a common title and come together to reflect and discuss. The summer title for the program is "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota," edited by Sun Yung Shin. Readers will have free, unlimited access to the e-book until Aug. 23.

"A Good Time for the Truth," published in 2016 by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, is a series of essays in which sixteen of Minnesota's best writers provide a

range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a Native person or a person of color in Minnesota. With unflinching generosity, these authors take readers into their lives, sharing experiences that we all must understand if we are to come together in real relationships.

Contributors to

the book are: Taiyon J. Coleman, Heid E. Erdrich, Venessa Fuentes, Shannon Gibney, David Lawrence Grant, Carolyn Holbrook, IBé, Andrea Jenkins, Robert Farid Karimi, JaeRan Kim, Sherry Quan Lee, David Mura, Bao Phi, Rodrigo Sanchez-Chavarria, Diane Wilson, and Kao Kalia Yang.

Friends President Beth Burns explains why this book was chosen as the next featured selection in this statewide program.

"When we started this program two months ago with "Because of Winn-Dixie" by Kate DiCamillo, it was in response to the isolation and resource gaps created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our desire was to bring Minnesotans together to share in the collective joy of reading and come together as a virtual community.

"Since then, the Minneapolis police murdered George Floyd, and, led by Black community members and activists, the world erupted in grief,

protest, and perhaps finally a reckoning that we must confront institutional and systemic racism—and that means all of us. Reading this book in community offers some Minnesotans the opportunity to see their experiences broadly shared and others a chance to educate themselves—and to discover ways to act on their convictions."

Minnesota communities struggle with some of the nation's worst racial disparities. As the authors of "A Good Time for the Truth" confront and consider the realities that lie beneath the numbers, this book provides an important tool to those who want to be part of closing those gaps.

Editor Sun Yung Shin writes in the introduction: "These essays... are intended to enlarge our understanding of, and deepen our connections to, one another. These writers are here to feed our spirits, if we let them. We can read their stories and leave each one with a deeper, more

complex understanding of how race and culture are lived in Minnesota—and better prepared for the conversations and changes ahead."

During the summer months, through their local libraries, Minnesotans will be invited to read the featured book selection and will have access to reading guides, conversation facilitators, and virtual book club discussions. All Minnesotans will be invited to participate in a statewide virtual discussion with the editor, Sun Yung Shin, in August.

"A Good Time for the Truth" is available on multiple platforms. Readers can access the digital book for free on Ebooks Minnesota for ten weeks, until Aug. 23. Hard copies of the book will be available through the Minnesota Historical Society Press and independent bookstores across the state, as well as public libraries as social distancing allows. The public will be encouraged to visit their

local library's website for information on the book and virtual discussions. Links to resources for libraries and schools can be found at www.the-friends.org/onebook.

One Book | One Minnesota is presented by The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, as the Minnesota Center for the Book, in partnership with State Library Services. Program partners also include Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators, Minitex (a joint program of the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education), the Minnesota Department of Education, and Minnesota Historical Society Press. This program is made possible in part by the State of Minnesota through a grant to the Minnesota Center for the Book through the Minnesota Department of Education.

Week of June 29

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 Junly 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 vermilioncountry.org.

Tower Food Shelf

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

St. James and Immanuel Lutheran Vacation Bible School canceled

TOWER- Among a long list of canceled summer activities, St. James and Immanuel Churches are sad to announce they have canceled Vacation Bible School for this summer. They plan to be back for a fun week of learning, playing and growing together next summer and hope you will plan to join them. If you would like a resource packet sent to your house with some ideas and activities that would help your child(ren) continue to grow in their faith, please call Pastor Doug Workman at 753-6005 or Pastor Liz Cheney at 753-2378. Have a great summer. See you in July 2021.

Tower Food Shelf open on Friday, June 26

TOWER- The Tower Area Food Shelf will be open an extra day, on Friday, June 26 from 12 - 4 p.m. Anyone who needs food is welcome to come. The food shelf is located in the basement of the Timberjay building at 414 Main St. Call Marge at 753-3503 with any questions.

Ecumenical Men's Breakfast Group resumes

TOWER- The Ecumenical Men's Breakfast Group sponsored by St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower will start meeting on Thursdays at 8 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. All men are invited.

Drive-In Worship Sunday, June 28

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower will be holding a Drive-In Worship Service on Sunday, June 28, beginning at 10 a.m. Attendees will be asked to stay in their vehicles and tune in to the service via their radio. Holy Communion will be included in the worship liturgy as well. All are welcome to attend and worship with us. Service will be held at the Vermilion Country School parking lot, 1 Enterprise Drive in Tower (behind the new harbor). Please arrive five to ten minutes early to get parked and situated for worship. See you on Sunday!

SUMMERTIME



Kayla Dougherty, of Tower, set up shop on Main Street last Friday, selling cold drinks on a hot afternoon. photo by J. Summit

White Sees Black

By Art Dale, June 9, 2020

I believe in God who loves everyone,
 Detesting white supremacy.
 I wish I were not white,
 I try to be Native American.
 I try to be African.
 I try to be Mexican.
 I fail.
 I take "my whiteness" for granted.

There is no fear of any kind in love
 I believe that when I love
 I forget myself; fear vanishes.
 The horrible breathing of hypocrisy
 Beneath my sternum
 Speaks: "Seeing a Black,
 Any Color:
 My ribs speak truth, 'You are afraid.'"

Deep within that voice speaks clear and
 loud,
 "Many who love God are hypocrites

Believing God loves everyone
 Not perceive their fear is
 False Evidence Appearing Real.
 Every race,
 Every creed
 Makes me initially afraid.

I try to love everyone and fail.
 I fear "difference."
 I can't trust someone I don't know
 I shudder when anyone's mad at me?
 I fear a black policeman?
 I fear a black man on a path?
 Or a brown man
 In an elevator, I'm afraid.

The base of white supremacy is fear;
 The fear I feel when I don't know.
 I begin the fight against white superiority
 I must fight my core belief.
 The one that makes me fear
 When anyone different
 Meets me.
 Then feel "God loves everyone."



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College News

Kendra Lundstrom graduates from UW-Stout

MENOMONIE, WIS. – Kendra Lundstrom, of Tower, graduated in May 2020 from University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, Wis., with a BFA in Industrial Design.

UW-Stout, Wisconsin's Polytechnic University with a focus on applied learning, collaboration with business and industry and career outcomes, has 49 undergraduate majors and 21 graduate programs, including one doctoral degree.

Zachary Hrvol named to Northern State University spring 2020 Dean's List

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Zachary Hrvol, of Tower, has been named to the spring 2020 Dean's List at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. Students who have

earned at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester are eligible for the Dean's List. Northern State University is a regional university that offers outstanding academics and exceptional extracurricular activities at an affordable price on a safe, welcoming campus

Brooklynn Mae Berg named to Iowa State University spring 2020 Dean's List

AMES, IOWA- Brooklynn Mae Berg, of Tower, has been named to the Iowa State University 2020 Spring Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale while carrying a minimum of 9 credit hours of graded course work. Berg is majoring in Kinesiology and Health.

Gunnar Olson graduates from Central Lakes College

REGIONAL- Gunnar Olson, of Tower, has graduated from Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, with an Associate of Applied Science degree, Videography Production, and earned High Honors. Central Lakes College is a comprehensive community and technical college in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.

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 218-753-2950



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

Transfer station

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



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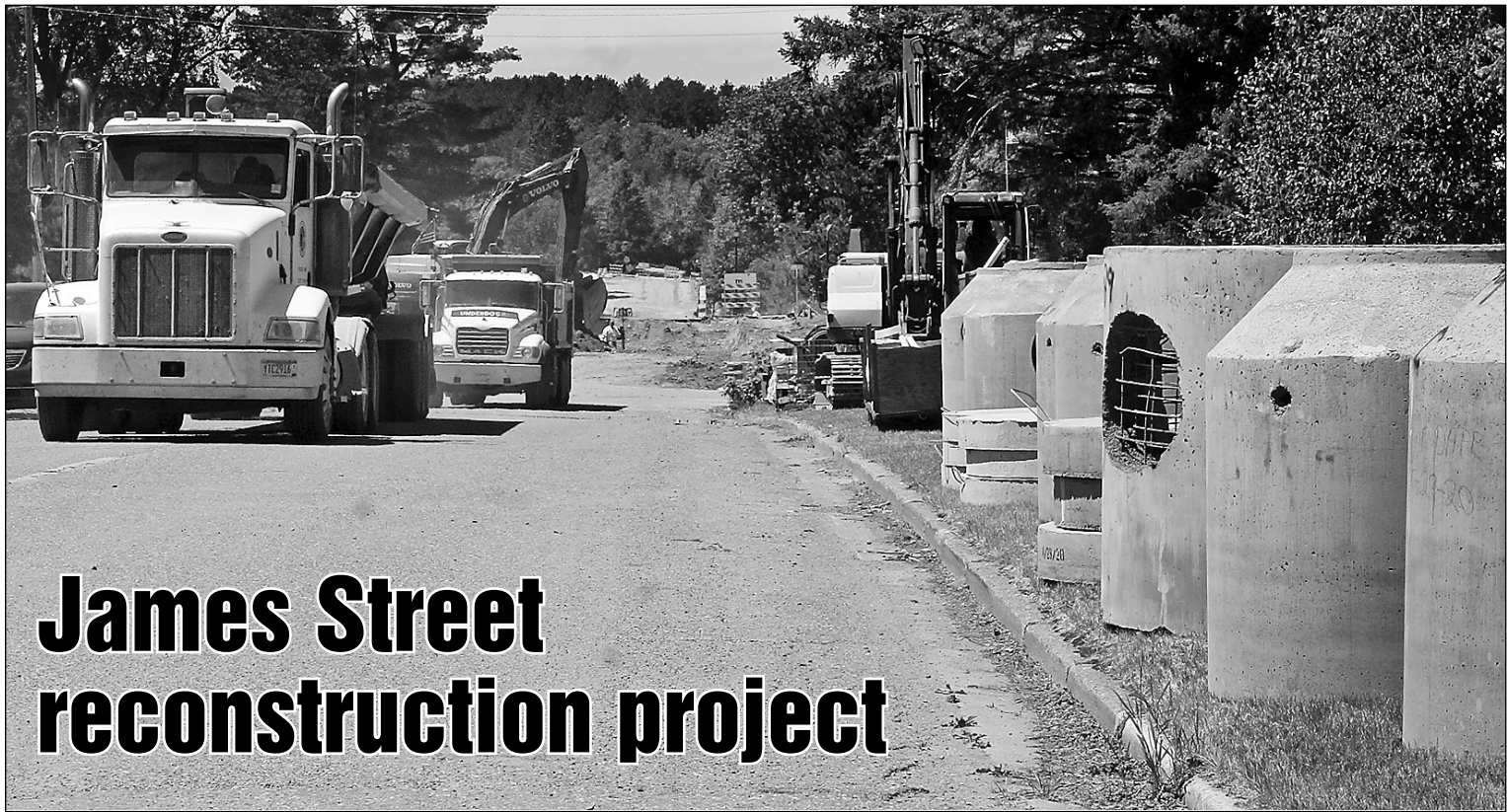
Libraries

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

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
 AA - 7 p.m. Mondays,
 and 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesdays, First
 Lutheran Church,
 915 E. Camp St., Ely
WOMEN'S AA - Noon
 Mondays, St. Anthony
 Church basement, Ely
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.
 Tuesdays, Woodland
 Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays
 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's
 Catholic Church in Ely.
 For persons who
 encounter alcoholism
 in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON
 Thursdays, 7 p.m. at
 Woodland Presbyterian
 Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS'
 12-step support group,
 noon Fridays,
 St. Anthony's Catholic
 Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF -
 Third Wednesday each
 month, 15 W. Conan St.
**ADULT BASIC
 EDUCATION GED**
 - Study materials and
 pre-test available. Tower
 by appointment.
 Call 365-3359, 827-3232,
 or 1-800-662-5711.



James Street reconstruction project

Work on the James Street renovation project this week resulted in the complete closure of the road from Central Avenue to 8th Avenue. Pavement removal occurred from 4th Avenue to 8th Avenue. Water main work was scheduled for Thursday and Friday between James and Pattison on 7th Avenue. Temporary water tested and put into service on James Street and 7th Avenue resulted in a short outage for homes on the west side of 7th Ave. East. This outage was required to install a new gate valve at the James/Pattison alley intersection on 7th Ave. Homes impacted by water outages will be notified one day prior to the work. All other affected properties will be provided temporary water this week. photo by K. Vandervort

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



watering in heat garden abundance showered a joyful presence

AROUND TOWN



The Ely Winter Festival recently donated \$699 to the Ely School District choral program. For the past several years, EWF has donated \$1 from the sale of each festival pin to an art program at ISD 696. In 2018, the gift went to the visual arts program, and in 2019 the instrumental music program was helped. Shown from left, Linda Ganister, EWF treasurer, Ciera Vega, EWF's newest board member and the first high school student to serve in this capacity, and Chris Kloppenberg, EWF chair. submitted photo

Hospital hosts blood drive

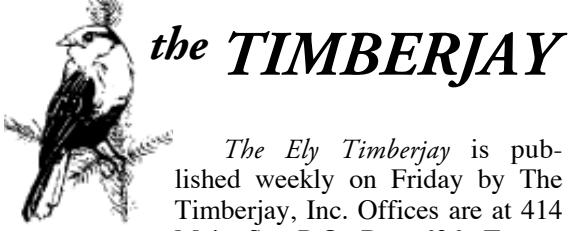
ELY – The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is partnering with Memorial Blood Center for a summer blood drive on Wednesday, July 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To allow for social distancing and taking into consideration all COVID-19 standards for safety, there will be two buses available with registration taking place outside of the hospital in a covered tent. For more information and to register, call Shari Saw at 218-365-8751.

Senior Center plans re-opening

ELY – The Ely Senior Center, 26 S First Ave., is planning a grand re-opening celebration for Saturday, July 18. Visitors will have an opportunity to view the center's recent renovations. A lunch for \$6, including a chicken or tuna salad croissant sandwich, chips, fruit and a beverage will be available.

Ely AA groups meet by phone

ELY – Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Ely Wednesday and Saturday AA Groups will not meet in person. A conference call meeting has been set up. At 7:30 p.m. 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 218-290-2681 for assistance.



the TIMBERJAY

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SUPPORTING THE ARTS



ELY – The Northern Lakes Arts Association put on a road show earlier this month for Ely artists to display their works of art in their own front yards. Several artists, including Tracy Thibodeaux, above right, participated in NLAA's first Art Road Show held as a community-building event during continuing shelter-in-place recommendations due to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information, contact NLAA at contact@northernlakes.org. photos by K. Vandervort



Higher Education

Larson makes Dean's List

SAINT PETER- The Spring Semester Dean's List at Gustavus Adolphus College has been released and includes Ely student Emma Larson. The list comprises students who have earned a 3.7 grade point average (based on a scale in which 4.0 = A) or higher for the semester ending in May 2020.

Fireworks to light up the skies on July 3 in Orr

City plans bean bag tourney and live music at Orr Muni

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- When there's Independence Day to celebrate, you can't keep a good community down, and that's the case in Orr, where some festivities will indeed take place despite the official cancellation of Orr's July 3rd Fun Day due to health concerns related to COVID-19.

All of the usual festive activities and vendors that have marked the event in years past can't be duplicated, but the annual dazzling display of fireworks launched from Orr Bay, sponsored by the Pelican Lake Resort Association, will take place as planned.

Shangri-La Resort's Tom Richardson, speaking on behalf of the as-

sociation, said that they were happy they could continue the tradition of shooting fireworks from a barge anchored offshore from downtown Orr, and predicted a good turnout for the show.

Richardson said the event is particularly popular among resort guests, who typically hop into boats and motor to the fireworks display. It's common, Richardson said, for there to be upwards of 200 boats taking in the show. He speculated that without all of the shore-based activities that normally precede the event there might be even more, as more locals who might have watched from shore in the past might opt for a change of pace and hit the water, too.

The show will start shortly after dusk, Rich-

ardson said, and he suggested the best place for landlubbers to view would be between the public access boat ramp behind Pelican Bay Foods and the highway pullout south of Oveson's Pelican Lake Resort and Inn.

Those who would like a little music with their fireworks may want to be at the Orr Muni, where the band Nightshift will be playing outside from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The Orr Muni is also advertising a bean bag tournament on July 3, with registration beginning at 5:30 p.m. Competition begins at 6 p.m. The first 32 teams will be accepted. The registration fee is \$20 per team, with 100 percent paybacks.

Sullie's Corn Dogs will also be setting up shop for sales.



A gleeful ride on a human-powered kiddie train won't be an option in Orr on July 3, as the annual July 3rd Fun Day was canceled earlier this spring due to concerns over the COVID-19 epidemic. However, the fireworks show will take place that night, and the Orr Muni will have live music and a bean bag tournament. file photo

Music in the Park features The Divas on July 1

COOK- The free Wednesday evening concert series "Music in the Park" is in full swing, with the concert on Wednesday, July 1 featuring The Divas from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Divas are a performing trio with keyboard, guitar and percussion to enhance their three-part killer harmonies. Their musical stylings start with the 1940's and go on up through the years.

Members are Shannon Lee Gunderson, Sharon Rowbottom and Rosie Gams. They hail from Virginia.

Bring your appetite, a lawn chair, a blanket, or sit in your car to hear

the sound of music and enjoy St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church's burger and bratwurst stand during the concert.

Music In The Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1157, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and freewill community donations.

Farmers Market has successful Saturday launch

COOK- The Cook Area Farmers Market enjoyed a successful opening in the Cook City Park last weekend. People who placed pre-orders lined up six feet apart as their bags were filled with all kinds of goodies. Folks left with their orders of honey, sauer-

kraut, heads of lettuce, cut lettuce, swiss chard, asparagus, green onions, eggs, salsa, jam, rhubarb, radishes and more. There was plenty of conversation as people practiced social distancing. Everyone was wearing a mask for their own protection and their neighbors' health. Those who ordered said it was nice to know that they could find what they wanted reserved for them, fresh out of a cooler, even if they showed up at the market a little later than others.

The market will be taking pre-orders only by Thursdays, which will be distributed Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Gazebo in the Cook City Park on River Street. through September. Vendors are using many avenues to advertise

what they have and taking pre-orders. Vendors will list available goods on a website called Local Line, at <https://www.localline.ca/aspen-falls-farm-1>. The site is accessible via smart phone, tablet, laptop or home computer. To order, you can just peruse the catalog, and register by establishing an account with an email address and contact information. You will receive a weekly catalog by email, and must order no later than Thursday.

Many vendors will have their products or contact information posted on the Cook Area Farmers Market Facebook page or their personal Facebook pages for those who would rather not use the Local Line website. You can call, email or message ven-

dors to order. Some buyers may wish to use Local Line to see what's available, but contact a vendor directly to place orders.

Vendors also have their contact information posted around town and fliers are available Saturdays at the gazebo if you want to order directly from them.

Starting on Saturday, June 27, participating vendors will be accepting Supplemental Nutrition (SNAP) benefits for eligible products. SNAP recipients will receive up to \$10 in Market Bucks -- spend \$10 in SNAP benefits and you will get \$10 in Market Bucks to buy more produce. This is an important feature of the market given high levels of unemployment and the economic pain we are all feeling due to the

COVID-19 pandemic.

"Feed My Sheep" lunches available

Free brown bag lunches are available every Wednesday this summer from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the lunches will be distributed from Trinity Lutheran's parking lot for the time being. Delivery is available for families with children in the city of Cook. Call the church office at 666-5965 by 9 a.m. Wednesday mornings to arrange delivery, or leave your name, address, and number of lunches needed on voicemail.

AREA COLLEGE NEWS

Iowa State announces spring Dean's List

AMES, IOWA- Two area students have been named to the Iowa State University Dean's List for Spring Semester 2020. Students must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.5.

Claire P. Beaudry is a junior from Cook pursuing an open option course of studies in liberal arts and sciences. Brooklynn Mae Berg, a fresman from Tower, is studying kinesiology and health.

Two honored at UW-Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT, WIS.- The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,660 undergraduate students

for attaining high grade point averages during the 2020 spring semester, including two area students. Both received highest honors, bestowed on students with a grade point average of 3.9 and higher. They include Senior Isabella Stellmach, of Ely, and Junior Kristen Cook, of Orr.

Credit union awards scholarships in Cook

COOK- North Star Credit Union Chief Operating Officer Jennifer Stedt recently announced scholarship awards to local students.

Bethany Cotton, of Cook, a North Woods School graduate, received a \$500 scholarship.

Olivia Niska, a student intern in the Cook

NSCU branch, also received a scholarship in the amount of \$750.

Olson makes dean's list at Jamestown

JAMESTOWN, N.D.- Tate Olson, of Cook, has been named to the University of Jamestown's Spring 2020 Dean's List for maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or better.

Cook student earns degree at MSU-Mankato

COOK- Michael Bodri, of Cook, received a bachelor's degree in integrated engineering from Minnesota State University-Mankato when the university launched celebratory website for graduates on May 9.

Bodri received academic honors as well, earning the coveted magna cum laude designation for maintaining a grade point average above 3.6.

UW-Superior tabs locals for honors

SUPERIOR, WIS.- Two area students have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Superior Dean's List for the recently completed 2020 spring semester.

Students must have completed 12 credit hours and achieved at least a 3.50 grade point average.

Emily Koch, of Orr, and Heather Anderson, of Soudan, were recognized by the university.



the **TIMBERJAY**

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Catholic Mass times revised

COOK/ORR - Mass and Adoration times for Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook have been updated.

Mass will be celebrated at Holy Cross on Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., with Adoration preceding the Thursday service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass at St. Mary's will be at 8 a.m. on Sundays, 9 a.m. on Tuesdays, and 8 a.m. on Thursdays.

Adoration will precede the Tuesday and Thursday services at 8 a.m. and 7 a.m. respectively.

A traditional Latin Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's the first Saturday of each month, beginning at 9 a.m.

Confession will be heard by Father Nick Nelson 30 minutes before Mass or by appointment. Attendance at weekend Mass is limited to 25-percent capacity.

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FOURTH OF JULY

Tower fireworks at 10 p.m.

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Tower-Soudan will not have a parade this year, but they will have a professionally-run fireworks show by Pyrotechnics Display of Minneapolis.

The Fourth of July show will start at 10 p.m. sharp, with fireworks shot off the hill north of Tower.

"They've already been up to check out the site," said Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board member Tim Tomsich. The company brings their own crew and will not need an on-site fire truck or ambulance, but they may request that the fire department wet down the site the day before, if it gets any drier, Tomsich said.

The show will start with a big bang and continue for approximately 20 minutes, ending with a grand finale.

The fireworks are visible from many spots in Tower and Soudan, and even out on the lake.

Good Ol' Days on Tower's Main Street will have fire dancers, a Fourth of July tradition, performing as soon as it starts to get dark. They are also hoping to have live



There is no official 10K/5K run this year, but the course will be marked for any runners wishing to complete the race on their own.

music outdoors and trying to arrange karaoke. Food and drinks will be available outdoors, under a tent, at Good Ol' Days on July 4.

The Events Board will be setting up their red, white, and blue booth at Zup's in Tower on Friday, June 26, and will be handing out free flags. Any extra flags will be given to Main Street businesses to hand out the following week.

Vermilion 10K Run

There will be no formal race this year but the 10K loop route will be marked July 3 through July 5. The starting line will be marked in

front of the Tower Fire Department with a map of the route. Directional markers and mile markers will be on the route. Runners should be aware that there will be no one at road crossings and there will be no water stations. Anyone wishing to run a 5K can start at the finish line (on the bike trail at end of Main St., behind Vermilion Land Office), run 2.5K on the route, then turn around to finish. The finish line will be marked with a spot to take a photo, which can be emailed to vc.scharter@gmail.com along with your race time.

Ely patriotic march to be followed by fireworks

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Organizers of the Fourth of July patriotic march finalized more details of the event last week. The procession through town, supported by the city of Ely, will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 4.

Using the traditional Independence Day parade route, those marching will assemble near the school football and baseball fields on Stuckel Avenue and begin the march at Harvey Street, head west to 2nd Avenue, turn right at the Ely Post Office and proceed to Sheridan Street. Marchers will turn east onto Sheridan Street and proceed past Whiteside Park to 8th Avenue and turn right, ending at Harvey Street.

According to event organizers on the 4th in Ely Facebook page, the patriotic march will be led by the Ely Honor Guard and will feature the Ely Klown Band, rescue vehicles, private and community floats, kids on bikes and the traditional distribution of goodies and groceries by Zup's Food Market. Other participants will be announced.

Ely city council members, having canceled their sanctioned celebration because of public health concerns over the coronavirus, have agreed that the city would provide traffic control. The march was planned by a group of citizens. Because of First Amendment rights, according to the city attorney, neither city nor state approval is required because it is not called a parade.

The 4th in Ely organization needs volunteers to assist at the 90-degree turns the route takes



through town. These volunteers will wear high-visibility safety vests to help guide the larger vehicles around the corners while watching for children, organizers said. "Safety is paramount. We will be held to the highest standard and under a microscope."

A fundraiser for the event, initiated by Karen Hamilton, the Ely Patriotic Club creator, raised nearly \$2,000 in the first week, surpassing a goal of \$1,000. More than 40 people donated.

"Insurance quote is \$600, we need safety gear for the organizers, and would love to do cash prizes for the kids' floats, bikes and costumes," Hamilton said. To donate, message Hamilton through Facebook.

"If anyone would prefer to donate the old fashioned way, stop by (Ely) Ace Hardware and leave dollars with Misty Anderson Merhar," she added. Additional funds raised will be donated to the Ely Fire Department Fireworks

Fund. Because of public health guidelines due to COVID-19, adjustments to Ely's usual parade festivities are in place.

► People will not be allowed to set out chairs overnight to reserve viewing spots. Any chairs set out in advance may be confiscated, according to organizers.

► Family groups are encouraged to practice social distancing and to separate from other spectators.

► Use of protective face masks is encouraged, but not required.

Other July 4th events, including the traditional festivities at Whiteside Park prior to and after the previous parades, and the Four on the Fourth running race, are canceled this year. Whiteside Park is open to the public.

The city of Ely is still sponsoring the annual fireworks show at dusk, with fireworks being set off over Miners Lake.

Briefs

Residents urged to apply for Frontier refunds by July 20

REGIONAL — Past or current Frontier Communications customers have less than a month remaining to apply for rebates or bill credits stemming from a settlement reached with the Minnesota Department of Commerce earlier this year. Those customers have until July 20 to seek compensation for past service quality and reliability problems.

"More than two thousand Minnesotans across the state have already filed a claim for rebates or bill credits from this settlement," said Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley. "Many more current and former Frontier customers may be eligible and should review the settlement categories to see if they qualify."

Applications for refund or bill credit are available online at <https://frontier.com/forms/minnesota-bill-credit>.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ordered the rebates and bill credits, consistent with negotiated terms reached between the Minnesota Department of Commerce and Frontier. Customers of Frontier should have received notice of the agreement from bill inserts and direct mail in April.

The settlement resulted in the following categories for which a former or current Frontier customer may claim a refund or bill credit.

► Telephone was out-of-service and not restored within 24 hours.

► Incorrect billing for service related to vacation rate.

► Late fees charged for phone service despite bill being paid on or before due date.

► Frontier did not cancel telephone service upon request, resulting in additional charges.

► Charged to receive a paper bill for telephone service.

► Charged for three-way calling without subscribing to the service.

► Wrongly charged for directory assistance or 411 calls.

► Charged an early termination fee on or after Jan. 1, 2016, without having signed an agreement.

► Inappropriately charged fees to reconnect telephone service.

► Telephone disconnected without proper notice.

► Refusal to install local telephone service.

► Inability to use the telephone due to static, cross talk, or other noise.

► Installation delay of more than 3 business days for primary local service line.

► Same trouble on the same line within 30 days.

► Frontier missed a repair appointment for telephone service.

► Customer service representation claimed no trouble report exists from an earlier call regarding the same phone issue.

► The above categories of complaint addressed a significant portion of the issues raised by Frontier customers in Minnesota. The Commerce Department is continuing to investigate a number of issues that were not settled.

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Board approves budget while waiting on state direction

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The ISD 2142 school board took a major step toward charting a path through murky COVID-19 waters on Tuesday by approving a budget for 2020-21, although schools throughout the state don't yet know what school will look like when instruction resumes in September.

District Business Manager Kim Johnson reviewed her projections for the board, and a comment specifically about the food service line illustrated as well as any the conundrum she and her counterparts across the state face.

"We're assuming school is going to happen, everybody's going to be back, and everything's going to be normal," Johnson said.

With the state Department of Education telling districts to develop plans for three different scenarios while waiting until the week of July 27 to tell schools which one to implement for 2020-21, assumptions are an even more important facet of budgeting than usual. One scenario reflects the assumption Johnson mentioned, all students returning to school buildings.

A second scenario is a continuation of distance learning. The third planning scenario is a hybrid model combining in-class instruction and distance learning, with limits on the number of students attending classes at any given time.

It was clear Johnson chose conservatively in her budgeting work.

"There are a lot of uncertainties because we just don't know what's going to happen," Johnson said. "A good way to look at it is that it's fully loaded. That might be the best way to talk about that right now."

One area providing evidence of that was in calculating salaries and benefits, where there's an automatic contingency built in.

"When I put together the adopted budget it assumes we've got 100-percent employment in every position district-wide," Johnson said. "That never happens."

The adopted budget also was difficult to compare to the revised final budget for 2019-20 in several respects, as that revision reflected numerous items that had been significantly affected by COVID-19 and the switch to distance learning. Apparent big increases in transporta-

tion and food service for 2020-21 appeared larger than expected when compared to the revised final budget, as in both categories less money was spent when the district switched to distance learning for the final two months of the school year.

Johnson said she projected an increase of nearly \$400,000 in general fund revenue. While she expects enrollment numbers to be stable, an increase in the funding formula, increase in special education state aid, increase in taconite aid, and revenue from forfeited land sales that the district didn't receive in 2019-20 all contributed to the projected increase.

"From the revenue side I think it's looking very, very good," Johnson said.

However, when analyzing projected expenditures, a number of items will end up taking a bite out of the district's fund balances.

Johnson projected a \$670,000 increase in teacher salaries, based on full employment, and the cost of health insurance for all employees continues to go up.

"Just the increase in health insurance alone is \$330,000 next year," she said.

Other expenses are projected to go down,

such as some utility costs and construction bond payments.

After looking at the general fund, the largest source of revenue and expenses, and five special funds for food service, community services, building, debt service, and scholarships, Johnson wrapped up her presentation with a grand total that keeps the district comfortably in the black, although some reserves will be depleted.

"In total, at the end of next year I'm projecting the 2142 fund balance is going to be \$6.3 million," she said.

The totals in the overall revised final budget for 2019-20 showed expenditures of \$52.1 million and revenue of \$55.6 million, leaving the overall fund balance as of June 30 at \$11.6 million. With expenses projected to exceed revenues in 2020-21, that balance is projected to drop by \$5.3 million, should all the assumptions Johnson factored in hold true. In the general fund portion, for example, salaries and benefits are entirely likely to cost less than projected, since that number is based on 100-percent employment.

Coach stipends

After lengthy discussion at several prior meet-

ings, the board came to a relatively quick decision on how to handle stipends for coaches and activity sponsors next year if their seasons are cut short or canceled.

The board approved a system in which stipends would be paid pro rata, computing a daily rate based on the stipend amount and the official length of a season as established by the Minnesota State High School League. If a season gets underway and then is canceled, head coaches would receive the daily rate for each day worked, plus three additional days for preparation work necessary before practices began. Assistant coaches would be paid just for days worked during the season. If a season is canceled before it begins, a head coach will receive three days compensation for prep work, but no additional pay. Assistant coaches will not be paid if a season never starts.

In other business, the board:

- ▶ Restored a full stipend payment for pep band directors that was included in a partial-payment motion for spring sports coaches and activity sponsors passed at the May meeting. Pep bands perform only for fall and winter sports seasons, and were not affected by school

closures that restricted spring activities.

▶ Approved a 2020-21 pay-for-performance allocation for at-will employee wage increases, capped at a maximum of \$20,000 for all positions combined.

▶ Assigned Sara Twedten as a .4 FTE language arts teacher at North Woods as part of a full-time position.

▶ Awarded a competitive propane gas bid at North Woods School to Lakes Gas for 76 cents a gallon, delivered. Ferrellgas was awarded a contract to supply propane gas to Tower-Soudan for \$1.15 a gallon, delivered. Ferrellgas owns the propane tank at T-S and other suppliers declined to bid since the district does not own the tank.

▶ Designated Supt. Reggie Engebritson, with administrative assistant Jeanne Sopp as proxy, as the official authorities to access secured state Department of Education web-based databases.

▶ Authorized Engebritson to engage in discussion with area school districts regarding possible avenues for collaboration.

▶ Received a progress report on the construction project in Cherry.

SUIT...Continued from page 1

While the state has mining laws and rules designed to address pollution from mining operations, NMW contends those rules are insufficient to protect a resource as pristine and vulnerable as the water quality in the Boundary Waters. According to an NMW statement, the suit asks the court to require the DNR to begin a public process to amend the state's non-ferrous mining rules in a manner that would fully ensure the protection of "the water and air quality, wilderness character, and other irreplaceable natural resources of the Boundary Waters."

Much of the lower reaches of the Rainy River watershed are already protected, either through the wilderness protections afforded by federal

wilderness legislation or the creation of Voyageurs National Park. But much of the headwaters of the watershed lie to the south of the wilderness boundary and outside those wilderness protections. NMW contends that if sulfide-based mining is allowed to move ahead in the watershed's headwaters, it would be nearly impossible to prevent contamination in downstream waters. Sulfide-based mining is known to produce acid drainage that mobilizes heavy metals, resulting in toxic pollution which has proven difficult to contain.

Further, impacts on the land, including forest fragmentation, noise, light and invasive species, would clearly degrade the intact ecosystem of the

wilderness, according to NMW.

"Current Minnesota non-ferrous mining rules were not intended to protect a world-class water-intensive wilderness area such as the Boundary Waters from the major damage that sulfide ore copper mining always causes," wrote Becky Rom, chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, in a blog post on the lawsuit. "The rules establish standards for mining districts, places where significant changes to ecosystems and landscapes and degradation of air and water are acceptable. The rules purport to limit, but not prohibit, pollution of the environment, which is unacceptable in the Boundary Waters and its headwaters," concluded Rom in the post.

NMW also contends that state regulators need to take a tougher stand on the threats posed to

the Boundary Waters in the wake of the Trump administration's recent decision to weaken federal environmental protections and the president's executive order waiving environmental reviews for new mines, pipelines, and other major projects given the current economic "emergency" stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's unclear what impact Trump's executive order will have on individual projects, and it's unlikely to have any impact on the proposed Twin Metals project. That's because the DNR announced last December that it will conduct its own, independent environmental review of the project before Twin Metals could apply for any permits.

The *Timberjay* reached out to Twin Metals for its perspective on this latest development, but the company declined comment.

Missing Ely area man found deceased

ELY - A 24-year-old man from the Ely/Winton area, missing since last Thursday, has been found dead, according to confirmation from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department on Sunday.

On Thursday, June 18, law enforcement asked for the public's assistance in locating Maxwell Willis, who was last seen driving a black 1995 Chevy Tahoe with large tires. Willis had not been heard from for close to 48 hours and loved ones were concerned for his welfare, according to the incident report.

No foul play is suspected. The Sheriff's Office thanked citizen tipsters who contacted law enforcement, which led to the whereabouts of Willis.

No other information was available.

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ISD 696

Ely school district faces three learning options this fall

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Evolving coronavirus pandemic will dictate levels of safety required

ELY - State health and education officials last week released guidance to help Minnesota's public schools plan for the coming school year, but the future track of the coronavirus outbreak will dictate what happens this fall.

School board members here met in a teleconference study session Monday night to discuss their options.

"A formal decision on whether schools will open is likely to come in the last week of July," said Ray Marsnik, Ely school board chair. "Because of the evolving nature of the (coronavirus) pandemic, it makes it difficult to give schools specific direction at this time."

The state Education Department said it strongly recommends all school districts and charter schools create three distinct contingency plans for each of three possible scenarios for the start of the school year this fall.

"It's possible state school leaders will start the year with one scenario and then ask all schools, only select schools, or even different facilities in the same district, to switch to a different scenario part way through the academic year, depending on how widespread the coronavirus becomes in the fall," said ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie.

Those scenarios are:
1) All children return to school buildings and in-person classes on

What do parents think?

Just more than half of American parents with children ranging from Kindergarten to 12th grade favor a return to in-person school attendance this fall, according to a Gallup poll released last Thursday.

➤56 percent of 1,200 parents surveyed supported a return to full-time, in-person schooling, compared to part-time instruction (37 percent) or remote learning (7 percent) options.

➤37 percent said they would prefer a hybrid program, where students attend in-person classes on a part-time basis and make up the rest with distance learning.

➤7 percent of respondents supported continuing the full-time remote learning many schools turned to during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The overwhelming support for at least some in-person instruction may indicate the strain placed on American households during the pandemic, as many parents worked from home and were left without childcare as children needed help to complete schoolwork.

Concern over the COVID-19 virus appears to be a major indicator of how parents feel about sending their children back to school, with respondents who say they are less bothered by the virus more likely to support schools reopening than parents who are worried about their children becoming infected.

Source: Minnesota Public Radio

Tuesday, Sept. 8.

2) No children return to school buildings for in-person classes. Instead, all students will engage in distance learning.

3) Employ a hybrid of these two options with both in-person classes and distance learning.

State officials have said they will release details about what form the upcoming academic year will take by July 27.

Minnesota schools have been closed since mid-March and switched to distance learning for the rest of the school year. Gov. Tim Walz issued an executive order in May allowing K-12 schools to open their doors to students for a hybrid model of in-person and distance learning this summer.

"We all know that our families are anxious to know which scenario we will use in the fall, so

we will be working on this," Marsnik said.

"We are planning for all three scenarios," Erie said. "We may need to move between those scenarios at any time. You could have schools within the same district where one is in distance learning and the other is in-person."

Erie said state school and health officials "expect viral transmission to continue" and are calling for all three learning scenarios to be developed. Additional guidance for special education and student transportation is forthcoming.

He said that Ely school administrators agree that getting students back into the classroom "is the ideal situation" for students.

"The hybrid learning model could involve social distance and capacity limits within buildings, similar to what

restaurants are doing right now," Erie noted. "That could mean that we have half of our students in the building at any one time."

Distance learning could look different from what students and families experienced this past spring, according to Erie.

"We will look at how we can improve on what we did last spring, and what we learned from that experience," he said. "We will be surveying parents, students and staff on how we can improve on the distance learning model."

The ISD 696 administration team met with teachers and staff on Monday to begin discussions on how the various scenarios will affect students and staff.

"We have a lot of work to do," Erie said. "We need to get our buildings ready again for students and staff. We

are looking at how we arrange the classrooms to make sure they are ready for the students in any of the scenarios."

Food service is also a big consideration for the upcoming school year.

"We may end up delivering food to classrooms, rather than having students go down to the cafeteria because it is not practical to disinfect for every single grade level (in the cafeteria)," he said.

He also noted that student transportation could see some changes this fall.

"On a 77-passenger bus, how many people can we have (under social distance guidelines)?" he asked. He noted that bus routes and times could see changes.

"We are anxious to see what guidelines we get at the end of July," Erie said. "The biggest precautions are for people, and making sure that we are using face masks, disinfecting our facility, and making sure we have social distance guidelines in place."

Marsnik stressed that student grading protocols should evolve with the learning scenarios that could be in place this fall.

"MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) recommends that districts involve teachers, parents and students in the review and revision of a grading system this fall," he said. "We have to be as transparent as possible."

Erie said surveys

will be conducted to gain more information as grading systems are revised going into the 2020-21 school year.

Marsnik said the cost to the Ely school district for implementing new or unprecedented learning systems will undoubtedly impact the budget.

"According to the Association of School Business Officials, this could cost around \$500 per pupil to carry out everything that is required," he said. "We are looking at adhering to health monitoring and cleaning protocols, hiring staff to implement safety protocols, providing personal protection equipment, and providing transportation and child care. For us, we are looking at about \$300,000 over and above our expenses."

Marsnik also noted his concern with the ventilation systems in the Ely school buildings. "Our system is not the best in this school. As far as our air exchange, it is not good at all," he said. "My hope is that we get this addressed if we do pass our bonding referendum. It is very critical, during a pandemic, to limit airborne transmission."

I don't know if our ventilation system has the capability to do that or if it can be modified in any way to make it more safe. This is something that is on my mind."

FIRE...Continued from page 1

departments, battled the blaze and managed to mostly save the two houses on either side of the structure.

Ely police, ambulance and public works employees all assisted the firemen. St. Louis County Sheriff's Department deputies assisted with traffic control. No injuries were reported.

Area firefighters have been busy this month. Gusty winds fueled a June 4 blaze on Central Avenue in Ely. That house was a total loss. The cause of both fires remain under investigation.

Two houses next to the burned out residence at 131 E. Conan St. were largely saved by Ely firefighters late Tuesday. A pet is believed to have perished. photo by K. Vandervort



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TOWER CITY COUNCIL

Three years late, council clears way for harbor plat

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — In a short special meeting on Monday, the city council here passed two resolutions designed to eliminate a number of deed restrictions that city officials had erroneously placed on city lands around the harbor between 2006 and 2014. The restrictions, related to infrastructure funding from two state agencies, were among a number of issues preventing comple-

tion of a new plat for the harbor area for the past three years. That plat still remains unfinished, and city officials had no time-line available this week for when it might be done.

Attorney Joel Lewicki, who has been handling the process of finalizing the plat, told members of the council that state officials had determined that the city had "over-restricted" some of the lands within the plat by allowing multiple deed restrictions to be put in place. To clear

that up, Lewicki said the restrictions had to be lifted, then new, more limited, restrictions had to be put back in place. "What this really is doing is cleaning up a lot of things that were done in the past," said Lewicki.

The council approved a lengthy resolution intended to complete that task, although it's unclear whether the latest action will ultimately lead to new development that the city has hoped to see around the harbor.

City officials had signed a development agreement for a town home project at the harbor back in early 2016, but the numerous deed restrictions and other issues surrounding the property have prevented the city from providing clear title to the developers. The delay has left the town home project on life support, raising doubts about how, or in what form, the project might go forward.

Clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua noted

that entire process was handled in a backward order. "Typically, before land is sold, you clear up the title," she said. "This should probably have been done before this."

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad agreed. "This has been a long time in coming," he said.

It appears that neither party to the development agreement understood that the city lacked clear title to the property that was slated for the town homes. The lack of clear title has

prevented the developers from offering purchase agreements to prospective town home purchasers for the past four years, putting the project at serious risk.

In other action, the council approved a letter of support for a grant request that the Tower Economic Development Authority is making to the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to support area businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

SENIOR LIVING

New rules in place for nursing home, assisted living visits

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- "Most of our residents are pretty excited," said Miguel Campa, Director of Operations for Minnesota Signature Care, the company that owns Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. "They are pretty excited to see their loved ones."

New rules released June 19 by the Minnesota Department of Health allow outdoor and window visits for residents at long-term care facilities. This is the first time any visits, except for end-of-life care, have been allowed since the novel coronavirus arrived in Minnesota in March, forcing statewide stay-at-home orders and the closing off of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to visitors.

Residents of long-term care facilities in Minnesota account for less than one percent of Minnesota's population, but total 15 percent of Minnesota's COVID-19 cases, and an astounding 80 percent of the state's COVID-19 deaths. As of this month, one in five nursing homes in Minnesota have at least



New rules released by the Minnesota Department of Health allow for outdoor and window visits for residents at long-term care facilities, such as the Cook Care Center. submitted photo

one resident with COVID-19, though less than one in ten assisted living facilities have cases.

While nursing homes and assisted living facilities in northern St. Louis County have so far stayed free from COVID-19 infections, administrators are all doing everything possible to keep the dangerous virus away from their residents.

"This is life or death stuff," said Adam Masloski, Executive Director of the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely.

Masloski said that families started calling on

Friday, right after the new rules were released.

"People wanted to be able to visit for Father's Day," he said.

"We need to do this as safely as we can," Masloski said. "We are working on our plan right now, planning the logistics, and will be starting visits soon."

Masloski said they will need to be vigilant and not relax the rules after a few weeks.

"We need to keep the six-foot social distancing rule," he said. "We worry about people visiting a few times and then deciding it

is okay to hug."

Each facility needs to develop their own plan, following state recommendations. The state is asking that visiting hours are established, visitors must go through a health screening and wear masks, residents must wear masks, alcohol-based hand sanitizers must be used prior and after the visit, the outdoor visiting area must be large enough to provide for six-foot social distancing, and staff must be able to observe the visit and then sanitize the area between visits.

The Cook Care Center

was set to start outdoor visits on June 24.

Assistant Administrator Julie Lesemann said they have set up an area in an outdoor courtyard, set visiting hours to make sure the additional staff needed are available, and have notified all the residents and their representatives of the new policy. Visitors and residents will also have to sign a risk acknowledgement that they understand the possible risks of a visit to the resident.

Most of these smaller facilities do not have the staff or available outdoor space for more than one family visit at a time.

At Vermilion Senior Living, visits will be scheduled every half hour in the outdoor patio to the rear of the dining area. Campa said families can schedule multiple visits in one day if the schedule allows. The area is being rearranged to create visual cues for maintaining the six-foot distance between family members and the resident.

"We want family members to be able to see their loved ones," said Campa. "It is really hard for the elderly to be quarantined."

All of those involved in implementing the new rules understand the dangers that COVID-19 presents in a group living setting.

"The spread of this can go very quickly," said Campa. "We all shared those fears and concerns. At the end of the day, this is all about taking care of people."

Maskoski noted that outdoor visits would have to stop immediately if anyone in the facility tests positive for COVID-19.

All facilities are continuously monitoring both residents and staff for signs of COVID-19. The entire staff and all the 36 residents at Boundary Waters Care Center were tested on June 11, and all tests came back negative, said Masloski, who is hoping that by following the new guidance they can continue to keep all their residents safe.

The state has also issued new guidance for setting up "window visits," where residents stay inside and can talk to a visitor through an open, screened window.

TRUST...Continued from page 1

some others on the board in the recent past, who have argued that the \$224,139 is restricted. Wilson recently brought the issue to the city's auditor. In response to Wilson's questions, auditor Devin Ceglar confirmed that the funds in question are "restricted," but only in that they would need to be spent for the

purposes outlined in the trust's founding documents. Under the trust's original court-approved mission, 75 percent of the available funds are to be disbursed to the city of Tower, while ten percent is earmarked for community education and 15 percent for recreation.

Board member

and trust treasurer Eric Norberg questioned why Wilson had talked to the city's auditor without talking to him. Wilson said he thought his questions were policy-related, not a matter of finances.

Ceglar did encourage the trust board to consult with the city's attorney on the question, and Wilson

proposed a motion to bring three related questions to the city's attorney. But that motion failed on a 3-2 vote, with Norberg, board chair Sheldon Majerle, and board member Victoria Ranua voting no. Ranua said she wanted to see a more comprehensive list of questions for the attorney to be approved at the trust board's next meeting, set for July 9.

Norberg said that would be too soon for him to develop any questions.

Wilson said that he has tried before to get answers to his questions about uses of the trust's resources as well as the trust's investment strategy, which has been mostly limited to certificates of deposit paying less than one percent interest. "I hope that people follow through this time; the history of this commission has been to not follow through," he said.

Norberg said he resented the comment.

Members of the board clearly differed on the purposes of the trust. Wilson said he'd like to see the trust utilize its available funds to support community projects and the city's budget, as it did in the past. Majerle disagreed, noting how the assets of

the trust have grown over the years. "I've been on the trust board since the beginning and I'm proud of the fact that we started out with [approximately \$350,000] and now have over a million dollars," he said. "I don't want anything spent."

Wilson said he's trying to understand the trust's legal obligations and options. "We don't want to manage the trust based on our personal opinions," he said.

Ranua noted that the recently-completed audit on the trust recommended that the trust board establish a budget and she suggested it might help to resolve some of the current disagreement. "Maybe we wouldn't have so much uncertainty about what resources are available," she said.

The uncertainty extended even to the membership of the trust board, which has been unclear for years. A document purportedly from the city's 2020 reorganization shows both Wilson and his wife and city council member Mary Shedd on the trust board, but Shedd denied this week that she's a member and was not present at Monday's board meeting.

Jesse Gornick questioned whether Mike Larson was a member of the board, but no one seemed to know for sure. The issue seemed to resolve itself when Gornick contacted Larson, who told him he didn't want to serve on the board.

Based on the latest reorganization, Ranua appears to have been added to the board with an unknown term, but a couple board members suggested that her position was a non-voting seat. Ranua said she had reviewed the trust's founding documents and found no authorization for non-voting members and no one objected later when she voted on motions made.

The posting of the meeting was also irregular. While a hand-written notice of the special meeting was posted on the doorway to city hall three days ahead of the meeting by Majerle, the notice did not list the location of the meeting nor the agenda, as is required by the state's Open Meeting Law. In addition, documents distributed to some trust board members during the meeting were not made available to the media, as is also required by the Open Meeting Law.



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BOG...Continued from page 1

engineering and permitting costs but didn't have the means locally to come up with the total price tag of \$392,700 needed to rebuild the aging structure.

A Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation grant of \$186,350 got the city halfway there, but it required a 1-to-1 match from other sources. IRRR stepped up with the other half to turn the dream into reality.

"This is really great news!" city clerk Cheri Carter said. "The Bog Walk is very popular, and it's been such a shame up until the last couple weeks that we didn't have the funds to repair it. Everyone is very excited to see this finally be a reality, and not just the people in the Orr area."

The walk was the vision of Michael "Mickey" Elverum, a popular and highly-regarded science teacher in Orr. He died in January 1993, never getting to see the walk that bears his name grow to attract an estimated 24,000 visitors annually.

"That's wonderful - it's so exciting," said Mickey's wife, Darlene Elverum, when she learned of the news.

Mickey was known for using the outdoors as a classroom, and the bog was rich with possibilities.

"He loved bogs because he knew how important those areas are, and people didn't really understand that," she said. "It was his plan to build it. I think it was the first actual bog walk in Minnesota."

Part of Mickey's vision was to bring underpriv-



The city of Orr's wetlands interpretive boardwalk was the vision of Michael "Mickey" Elverum. Irises, right, are in full bloom right now. photos by D. Colburn

ileged kids up from the cities during the summer, Darlene said, so they, too, could benefit from learning about bogs and experiencing the outdoors.

But others had to pick up the ball when Mickey was diagnosed with cancer in 1992.

"He just loved working with kids," Darlene said. "He was really sad because he thought the whole idea would die with him."

But it didn't. Current Timberjay publisher and avid naturalist Marshall Helmberger designed the route for the walk and created the interpretive signage. Tony Vukelich spearheaded the actual construction.

"The bog walk has long been a distinctive feature of a visit to Orr," Helmberger said. "I'm glad that people continue to visit it and will be able to do that for many years to come."

While some peg the opening of the Bog Walk to 1993, an article in the June 8, 1992 Orr Timberjay

proclaimed, "Orr's 'bog walk' open for visitors," and showed a picture of senior citizens enjoying a stroll on the section along the Pelican River near the inlet to Orr Bay. It was noted that a few minor items remained to be completed, but the walk itself was operational.

Today, the "smooth and level surface" touted in the article is no more. Large sections of the boardwalk sag in spots, and slope and curve in others. The waterfront section is in the poorest condition, listing to the point that water and flora slip onto the path at several points. In several places sections have started to separate, creating minor but still passable obstacles for those using wheelchairs or other forms of walking assistance.

Time and nature have taken their toll on the interpretive signs and kiosks as well. Some portions of signage are completely obscured by green and brown growth under what

were intended to be protective covers.

"I went on it last fall and I noticed a lot of things that need fixing, even the signs," Darlene said.

Visitors have noticed, too, and in the digital age, their posted critiques are in plain view of other potential visitors. While the reactions to the bog walk overall are very positive, beginning in 2016 comments on Trip Advisor started noting the deteriorating conditions:

► It is a bit "springy" in spots, but keeps your feet dry. It looks like it could use a bit of care.

► Be careful when the boardwalk is wet. It's very slippery and the boardwalk itself could use some shoring up in places.

► The dock was a little rocky in some places.

Proposed work

The project isn't merely a facelift, it's a total rebuild, as its nearly \$400,000 price suggests. It will follow the same 2,500-foot route as the existing structure. The



city's engineering firm, Benchmark Engineering, is involved in both design and permitting.

Now that funding has been secured, obtaining the necessary environmental permits is the next step, which could take until September. It is anticipated that using the same footprint for the new walk will ease the process. Simultaneously, final

designs will be developed, with a tentative deadline of October for completion. If all goes according to plan, construction bids would be let in October or November, with the project scheduled for completion in June 2021, just in time for an influx of new visitors from afar and summer enjoyment by local bog walk lovers.



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Many Thanks from the Ott Family

With the opening of Ely's Historic State Theater last week, we are thinking back to the beginning of the project. It was early November 2014 and the State Theater needed a new roof badly. The work started and then a couple of days later the roofers stopped showing up to work. We weren't sure why they didn't come, but we soon learned that



it was deer season in Ely. My dad and I waited, I suppose, enough time for each roofer to get a deer. Suffice it to say, we now plan accordingly each November. We managed to stay busy in the meantime with the masonry work that began in the alley and the initial clean up in the auditorium. Kovall Construction began the interior demolition. Little did I know then that it would be the start of a cherished friendship with Mark and Dean Hanninen and that they would also go on to partner with us on future projects throughout downtown Ely.

Over the following winter, the process began to list Ely's 1936 State Theater on the National Register of Historic Places. A phased restoration plan was drafted with the help of Charlene Roise. She is a legend in the historic preservation industry and she consulted with us along the way on many of the finer restoration points. We're thankful that Ron Forsman had been a steward of the State Theater in its later years and ensured that the historic integrity of the building remained intact. Ely's Historic State Theater is now one of several buildings in the area listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

One of our most memorable moments over the last few years is the July 30, 2016, Marquee Relighting Event. The organizers included Brett Ross, Cindy Beans, Wendy Lindsay, and Cade Thibodeaux. Their support early on and the success of that event was inspiring as the project continued. The seconds between when the Ely High School Timberwolf flipped on the big switch and when the marquee lit up were some of the longest of my life. We must have drained at least a couple of inches off the Dr. McGilliguddy's tank later that night at the Kwazy Wabbit while a standing room only crowd enjoyed each other's company.

The men and women who worked to restore Ely's Historic State Theater deserve a huge thank you. The thousands of feet of electrical conduit and wire installed by Jon Prijatel and Ryan Mackie and the new plumbing infrastructure installed by Phil Meier and Jon Mathews are significant to the project but will be unseen by most. On the other hand, I hope everyone in town has a chance to experience the beautiful tile job completed by DJ Debeltz, the high-gloss burgundy paint job on the wall sconces in the auditorium by Chris Terrell, and the noteworthy art deco details made new again by John Bowe and Peter Blodgett. Of course, this project could not have been done without the team of guys at Kovall Construction and the vast amount of work they did throughout the building. The list of all the contractors is included below. It was an honor to work with and learn from you all.

Last year, as the project end came in sight, a seed was planted by a small group of enthusiastic Elyites who wanted to operate the theater for the community as a not-for-profit. The board members who began this endeavor are: David Wigdahl, Nancy Jo Tubbs, Denis Miller, Alanna Dore, Patsy Mogush, Brett Ross, Chuck Zeugner, Carol Orban, Steve Voiles, and Karen McManus. They plan to screen movies and host special events such as plays, concerts, comedians, and other presentations. The first public event at the restored State Theater, The Quiltmaker's Gift, was held in January. It exemplified that with a bit of creativity a historic movie palace like the State Theater can be used for live productions too! Special thanks to the Friends of Gail, especially Muffin Nelson for being a fabulous partner and organizer of that event.

It has been more than twelve years since the last movie was screened in Ely. This weekend, the film Ferris Bueller's Day Off will kickoff the soft opening of the theater! This is made possible by the generous financial support of many individuals and organizations and the fabulous work of the Ely's Historic State Theater board of directors. A 7.1 surround sound system and a 4K projector will be used to present the films in the State Theater.

The board has invested in a staff of five people, led by manager, Peter Schamber. Peter and the various committees have developed plans for film programming that will include new films and classics. More recently, they have been working to implement precautions to protect movie-goers during the pandemic. With social distancing in full force, the first film screening in the renovated theater will not have the same number of people as we imagined back in November 2014, but we know it will still have high energy.

This has been a grand effort on the part of the whole community, and we hope the result will be enjoyed for many years to come. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved with the project. Now let's go to the movies!

What's Next?

The next phases are already underway: a large concessions space and a second movie theater with about sixty seats in the adjacent building. We're searching for a business to lease the east section of the corner building where Family Video was. We have heard many stories of Barbara Ann's Bakery that used to be next to the theater. One idea for the corner space is a bakery to uphold the spirit of Barbara Ann's and pick up where the Plum Bun left off as they are now pursuing other endeavors. Some of you may have different ideas too. Please let us know! This future business would have the opportunity to collaborate with the theater to create food items that could be consumed during movies.



Thank you to all the folks involved in working on the State Theater

Burntside Electric
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Chuck Brummond
Custom Theaters, Inc.
David Gruba Cabinets & Construction
David Levander
Debeltz Flooring, Inc.
Denis Miller Engineer
Duane Broeker, Inc.
E - Z Excavating, Inc.
Ely Design Works
EOMAC, LTD
Eric Gruba
Farber Sound
Ferrelgas
G Men, Inc.

Generations Painting and Drywall
Gibbons Stone Construction
Go-Klean
Granite Works
Grivette Environmental Mgmt
H&B Limited, LLC
Hebl Floor Sanding
Hess Roise, Inc.
Irwin Seating Company
J&L Hardware, Inc.
James Dewey
Joe Kainz
Kekekabic Studios, LLC
Kovall Construction
League of Historic American Theaters

LHB, Inc.
LJS Woodworking
Mason Wiekert
Merhar's Ace Hardware
Mesabi Bituminous, Inc.
Mesabi Glass, Window & Door, Inc.
Mesabi Masonry
Northern Routes Roll-off
Northwoods Collision Center
Omega Point Multi-Media
OZFAB, LLC
Paul Knutti
Phil's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Plating Specialties, Inc.
Putnams Studio 1012
R&R Transfer

Rajala Companies
Range Cooperatives
Range Cornice & Roofing Company, Inc.
Ryan Shaffer
Scott Vogel
Shane Belear
Shanna Scholz
Shannon's, Inc.
Sherwin Williams, Inc.
Sorlie Acoustics, Inc.
St. Germain's Glass Co.
Stretar Masonry, Inc.
Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.
Superior Diamond Concrete Cutting, Inc.
Trembath's Machine Shop & Welding
Voyageur Lumber, Inc.
WN Plumbing, Inc.



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RESTORATION

Back in business

After stunning renovation, State Theater brings movie experience back to Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Movies are back on the big screen here with the reopening last weekend of the historic State Theater. A sellout crowd of about 70 people, with social distancing protocols in

place because of the coronavirus pandemic, enjoyed the 1986 comedy classic “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” on Friday night. The first date sold out quickly as residents and visitors returned to Ely’s only movie house after a decades-long closure and a COVID-19-related

grand-reopening delay. David Wigdahl, chairman of the non-profit organization that operates the facility, along with theater manager Pete Schamber, provided a virtual update to Tuesday Group par-

Right: Movie-goers in Ely took advantage of the recent reopening of the State Theater.

photo by K. Vandervort



See MOVIES...pg. 2B

YOUTH SPORTS



Ely assistant cross country coach Megan Devine checks the temperature of a cross country runner ahead of a recent training activity.
photo by K. Vandervort

Ely’s student athletes begin training, playing

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Youth sports games and scrimmages can resume this week for outdoor sports, and July 1 or later for indoor sports, under new guidance issued last week by the Minnesota Department of Health. “It is important that we look for opportunities to allow children to engage in activities that promote health and well-being,” Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said in a statement announcing the plans.

“While several key metrics show COVID-19 transmission is slowing, we are still in the middle of a pandemic,” she added. “Learning to live with COVID-19 means finding ways to balance risks and benefits, and that’s what we are seeking to do with this guidance.”

With the Ely school board’s approval, practices started earlier this month for youth baseball players.

Prior to opening Veterans Memorial field for the summer, the school district’s attorney drafted a lease agreement with the local baseball association that is in effect for June, July and August.

The American Legion baseball season is canceled for 2020. Ely American Legion Coach and School Athletic Director Tom 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

See ATHLETES...pg. 2B

FILM PRODUCTION

Hockey movie gets IRRR boost

Grant will help woo additional investors for Iron Range project

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Some dreams come true in an instant, as if by magic. Most require time, hard work, and perseverance to achieve.

Screenwriter John Montague, a native Minnesotan, had no notion that launching his film “Way of the Warriors,” a family-friendly drama about small-town hockey set in Eveleth and the surrounding Iron Range, would be easy. He knows the independent film industry, and to realize his vision he knows he needs to attract investors who have choices on where they’ll place their money.

“Making an independent feature film is an incredibly difficult endeavor,” Montague said. “It often does get lonely because you feel like you’re pushing this huge boulder up a hill.”

He and his supporters tried tackling one hill in 2018, attempting to raise \$700,000

through a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo, a well-known website that’s hosted hundreds of thousands of fundraising efforts. They came up well short of that, garnering just over \$40,000 in commitments before the campaign ended.

Montague remained undaunted. He knew there was a place for a film that not only celebrated the world of Iron Range hockey but spoke to greater truths about how a coach, a team, and a community can overcome life’s deepest challenges with hard work and belief in something greater. As a player, coach, and hockey dad, he’s lived it, and he believes “Way of the Warriors” will resonate with audiences in the same way hits like “Hoosiers” and “Friday Night Lights” connected with people beyond the sports of basketball and



John Montague



football.

There were other ways to engage people in fundraising, but Montague also knew that to pull off a film with an estimated \$7 million budget he would have to find major film investors to buy into his vision. He’s had some success, but his commitment to making an authentic movie filmed in Minnesota presented a challenge greater than filming elsewhere. Minnesota, he said, doesn’t offer the kinds of tax incentives and other forms of public support that have drawn filmmakers to Georgia, Texas, and especially Canada.

“It became an issue that if we made the movie in Minnesota, it was going to cost us too much money,” Montague said. “Without the tax incentives and the things that make the project more attractive to

Above: The world’s largest hockey stick in Eveleth, the site of a planned new movie centered on Minnesota hockey.

investors, we were stuck.”

Moving production to Canada was an option, and Montague said he had nothing but praise for the Canadian film industry and the support independent filmmakers can get there, but for now he’s trying to stay true to his vision.

“To me it was more about the heart of this movie,” he said. “It’s your quintessential Minnesota story. It’s about Minnesota hockey. We want to make this a community experience. If we tried to make this in Canada, the authenticity of this would fail, and the spirit would fail.”

That means recruiting local hockey players in each of the towns the Warriors would compete against, he said. It also means lining up local fans of those teams to fill the

See HOCKEY...pg. 2B

COMPETITION

Race still in the running

Ely Marathon remains on the calendar despite COVID-19 concerns

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – As summer wears on and most everything around here is canceled because of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic, the Ely Marathon and its associated events are still on the calendar for the end of

September. The 26.2-mile race attracts hundreds of runners and gathers huge crowds at the finish line in Ely’s Whiteside Park.

Wendy Lindsay, who has organized the event since its inception, conceded last week that COVID-19 will determine whether or not the event will take place on

Saturday, Sept. 26.

She has overseen the growth of the Ely Marathon and said she is holding out on making any final decision to postpone the sixth annual Boston Marathon qualifying running event.

“We have pushed forward with our plans, and pretty soon our big bills, like

T-shirt printing, participation medals production and tent and sign rentals will be coming in,” Lindsay said. “July is when we begin to accumulate a lot of our costs for the race, and with such small margins for funding we hope to make a go/no-go

See MARATHON...pg. 2B



The Ely Marathon is still slated to be run on Saturday, Sept. 26. A final decision will be based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MARATHON...Continued from page 1B

decision at that point.”

“As far as registrations goes, we started out like gangbusters, and it is looking good. The question this year is how many runners will be willing to travel. We have a lot of runners who travel from a far distance to get here and need to make plans,” she said.

Last year’s Ely Marathon had about a thousand total runners, including the 5K run.

“Right now, there about 600 full and half-marathon runners registered,” she said.

“The Chicago and Twin Cities Marathons that take place after the Ely event are still scheduled to take place,” Lindsay added.

The Father’s Day weekend running of

Grandma’s Marathon in Duluth was canceled this year because of the coronavirus, and many other area sports and community events have also been scrapped this summer.

According to the Ely Chamber of Commerce, the Harvest Moon Festival scheduled for Sept. 11-13 is still a go. An inaugural ATV trail supporter gathering is also planned in Ely for September.

“Right now we are at the point where we will go (with the event),” Lindsay reiterated. “The only thing that would shut it down is if there are huge increases in COVID cases in September, and the state shuts down again.”

In the event that the 2020 Ely Marathon is canceled, registrations will transfer to next year,

she added. “Other events are switching to virtual races this year, but I think it will work better for us to transfer the event to next year, because people like to come to Ely to experience our area.”

Participation has continued to grow. The 2019 marathon and 5K had more than 900 participants and almost 800 finishers in 2019.

Lindsay predicted a successful Ely event this year because other running events have been canceled and the local race remains a qualifying event for the prestigious Boston Marathon.

Ely Marathon participants can register up to Sept. 1. Registrations will again be accepted on the day before the marathon.

The full 26.2-mile

marathon that starts on the Echo Trail and winds through the north woods into the middle of town, finishing at Whiteside Park, is just part of a weekend of festivities. Race day also includes a 13.1-mile half-marathon. And Ely’s own canoe portage division will again be featured this year where runners race while carrying canoes. The popular 5K race is held Friday evening.

A uniquely-Ely prize package awaits the canoe portage racers this year, according to Lindsay.

“The male and female winners of both the full and half marathons will win fully-outfitted canoe trips into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters for six days and three days,

respectively,” she said. “And Northstar Canoes is offering a canoe to the fastest finisher in the portage division if they beat last year’s top time of five hours and one minute.”

Boundary Waters Bank remains the main sponsor for the half-marathon. Other major sponsors are still in the works, Lindsay said.

Race day could look somewhat different this year with public health protocols put in place due to concerns over the coronavirus.

“We will likely start the races in waves or chutes to help spread out the runners,” she said. Water stations located along the course could also see some changes, including passing out individual

water bottles rather than cups.

“We are planning for fewer volunteers as well,” she said. “At the finish line, celebration events in Whiteside Park, like the entertainment, beer tent and children’s activities, could look different with social distancing guidelines in place. The park is big enough where we can spread out. We will have more information as we get closer to race day.”

A support group of race directors around the state continues to work with health officials to make sure races can take place in a safe manner, Lindsay said.

More information about the event can be found online at www.elymarathon.com.

MOVIES...Continued from page 1B

participants this week.

It took nearly a decade for movies on the big screen to return to town. The theater was built in 1936 and is one of several places around town on the National Register of Historic Places. After closing in 2008, the theater stood vacant and began to deteriorate. Alley A Realty purchased the dilapidated landmark in 2015 with their first task to fix the leaky roof before winter set in. Several years of renovation were needed to get the movie projector (now all digital) turned on.

The non-profit group formed in 2016 to open and operate the theater became active late last year as

renovations were nearing completion.

“At first I thought it would take about three years to raise the money to open,” Wigdahl said. “I am pleasantly surprised that we are here and open just seven months later.”

The EHST set a goal of raising \$370,000 to open. With many large donations, including a \$100,000 gift, two \$20,000 gifts, several \$10,000 donations, a seat nameplate fundraising program, a matching grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, “and multitudes of individual donations,” the board had the funds needed to open. “Right now, all the bills are

paid,” he said.

The state lockdown of public places this spring delayed the theater’s opening and altered the way EHST will provide movies. The venue is limited to 25-percent capacity or about 70 people. Advance tickets and popcorn and soda are sold online. Customers enter the facility through the renovated front doors and exit to the back alley. Staff members are required to wear protective face masks, but customers are not. Restrooms are available. Extra isolation areas are available upon request.

EHST’s opening movie screening will be followed this weekend

by “Chinatown” and “Footloose.” Schamber explained they will rotate through various movie distributors. They are using Paramount right now and will expand to include distributors such as Universal, Sony, and others. New movie releases may be in the works for later this summer.

The return of big screen movies is just part of an ambitious plan for the theater and adjacent building. A concession stand could be ready to go next month. A smaller screening room, to be built next door, is under construction. A separately managed multi-windowed café or eating and drinking

venue on the east side of the building, being developed by Alley A Realty and the Ott family, is also in the works.

A second phase of fundraising will launch soon to help complete the second theater that will seat around 60 people. A projector, screen, and seating will cost about \$150,000, Wigdahl said. Another matching grant from IRRR is available. Seat nameplates, at \$400 each, will also be available.

“We hope to have a naming rights program available for our smaller theater at \$40,000 to \$50,000,” Wigdahl added.

Concerts, plays and other events have been

touted for the facility, but COVID-19 and public health concerns will dictate when that happens. A return of “The Quiltmaker’s Gift” that drew hundreds of visitors to town last year is tentatively scheduled for 2021.

A grand opening event for Ely’s Historic State Theater is planned for mid-August or perhaps around Labor Day, Schamber said. Plans will be finalized as COVID-19 public health protocols evolve.

For more information and to order movie tickets, go to www.elystatetheater.org.

ATHLETES...Continued from page 1B

move from Junior Legion to VFW baseball for this summer.

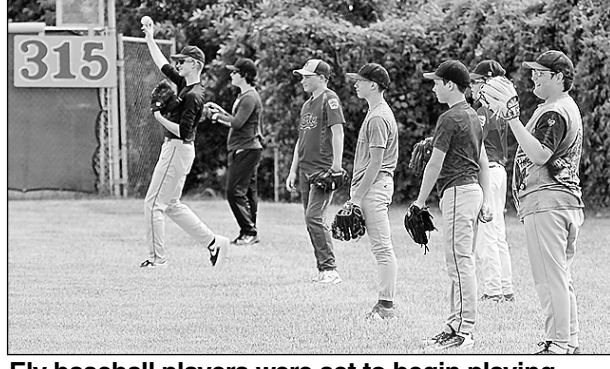
Coombe said the Iron Range Baseball League, for players age 13 and 14, will go forward with games this summer. “They started Wednesday night,” he said this week, “and our VFW team is set to host a game at 1 p.m. on Saturday.”

Among the recommendations, the department calls on players, coaches, and others to:

► Avoid sharing individual water bottles, community snacks or towels.

► Try to use “dedicated personal equipment” such as bats, mitts and rackets.

► Find new ways to show sportsmanship, including “tip your hats instead of handshakes.”



Ely baseball players were set to begin playing games this week. K. Vandervort

► Ensure policies are considerate of staff, volunteers, and participants at highest risk of complications from COVID-19.

► Adhere to social distancing recommendations when participants are not playing (on the bench, in the dugout, etc.).

► Practice social distancing of six feet from

other households during player drop off/pick up.

► Friends and family should not attend practices to avoid crowding.

► Maintain health checks and screening of participants and staff/volunteers.

► Organizations should require participants and family members to

stay home when sick.

While following the guidance can help reduce risk, “in the end everyone has to make their own decisions about what level of risk they are willing to accept,” Malcolm said.

“Some families, especially those with members who face an elevated risk of severe illness, may choose not to participate. That is perfectly OK, and everyone needs to respect that decision when a family or a player makes it.”

Fall sports season

Officials also said the Minnesota Department of Education is working with the Minnesota State High School League to develop activities and sports guidance for schools for the fall sports season.

ISD 696 students

interested in joining the Ely cross country team this fall are invited by Coach Jayne Dusich to participate in summer training activities that got underway last Friday. She was pleasantly surprised when close to 30 runners showed up for the first day of training activities.

“Even though it is 7 a.m. on a summer morning, I think they just wanted to get out to do something,” she said.

“All Ely student cross country athletes entering grades six to 12 in the upcoming school year are welcome to join in summer training that runs throughout the summer,” she said. Runners meet at the Trezona Trail Parking lot at 7 a.m. on Friday mornings. More experienced athletes

run four to six miles, and beginners run one to three miles.

“Our plan for addressing COVID-19 health safety concerns will be to follow the guidance given by the National Federation of State and High School Associations,” Dusich said. “This will include social distance measures and pre-workout screening.”

She asked athletes to do their part by self-monitoring prior to coming to practice.

“If you have any symptoms (fever above 100.3, sore throat, shortness of breath, cough) or have had close contact or cared for someone with COVID-19, please do not come to the Friday group runs,” she said.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

stands when game action is filmed. Montague has recruited “captains” in each of the featured towns to spearhead those recruiting efforts.

Meanwhile, Montague kept on with the financial side, pushing production from 2019 to 2020 as he continued pursuing supporters and investors, and he had some success. While not in a position to start filming in February, he’d secured over half the investment he needed, he said.

Then, the coronavirus pandemic arrived, and the economy took a nosedive. Not only was it impossible to recruit additional investors in the midst of all the mayhem, all the uncertainty about the future led Montague to do an honorable but difficult thing—he returned all the money he had in escrow to the investors he’d recruited. “This has been a crazy period we’ve all lived through,” he said. “We all

know this is temporary and we’re going to get through this. That said, what we’re dealing with right now as a nation and a globe is more than a health crisis. We’re fully prepared we may lose some of our investors.”

But chances are better that Montague will retain those investors after the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board agreed to reimburse up to \$375,000 of local production costs. While Montague is grateful for the monetary support, it also gives him something he lacked before, the support of a Minnesota government-based agency.

“It doesn’t fill the entire gap by any stretch, but it certainly helps,” he said. “It tells the people who are investing in our project that there is support from the state and the Mesabi, whereas last year it didn’t look like there was support. This puts us in a much stronger position to move forward.”

Montague also has experienced Hollywood directing and acting talent committed to the film and is pursuing numerous actors with film and television experience. If everything comes together, the film could begin shooting in February 2021.

“I’m incredibly blessed the story has inspired others to want to get involved,” he said. “The story has really connected with people on a deeper level to where they feel this is a story that needs to be told.”

“There are a lot of people who read the script who approached me and said ‘This has to get made.’”

And with the world of streaming movie services exploding and on the lookout for quality films to add to their offerings, Montague is confident that once the movie is made he’ll have viable opportunities to distribute it. While a limited release in movie

theaters is likely, “Way of the Warriors” will likely find its extended audience online.

“The introduction of the streamers has really changed the whole landscape of film distribution,” Montague said. “You used to have a very limited number of distributors that were focused on the theatrical market. There were only so many theater screens you could reach. All of a sudden you have Apple, Amazon, Netflix that come along. They’ve developed great expertise in delivering content. They’ve really changed the landscape.”

Montague’s dream remains bright, but it’s wisely tempered by pragmatism.

“Right now, there’s still a lot of uncertainty about where things are going to be in our country this fall and even going into the winter and 2021 with the pandemic,” he said. “We have to move

forward confidently but we have to be wise. We’re only going to move forward with production if it’s a prudent situation.”

About the movie

(from the FilmNorth website)

“They say there’s more to life than hockey, but not in Eveleth. This small mining town in Northern Minnesota obsesses over their high school hockey team even though it’s been many years since they once dominated the State of Hockey. The fortunes of their town and hockey team have paralleled the ups and downs of the mining industry which has been steadily declining. This season brings added significance and pressure as Head Coach Jake Murray prepares to lead a team that includes his two sons, Brooks and Tate Murray. Rising tensions in their home and community also challenge Jake’s marriage with his loving wife Kelly.

After the start of another disappointing season that is riddled with challenges both on and off the ice, Jake learns that more than just his team is failing. A battle with terminal cancer will make this his final season. As he struggles to accept his fate, Kelly helps him find a greater spirit of gratitude, purpose and peace. With a renewed faith and connectedness, Jake learns to fully appreciate life and embraces the “way of the warrior” as a father, husband, teacher and coach. His new spirit and approach serve to deeply inspire his family, friends, students and players. Ultimately, Coach Murray instills in his team – and, by proxy, the town itself – a renewed sense of passion and pride, bonded by their strong Iron Range heritage and values.”

FRESH FROM THE GARDEN

Tower Farmers Market now offering EBT shopping

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SNAP shoppers can pay \$10 for \$20 to spend on any food for sale at the market

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market had a busy opening day this past Friday and has exciting new things to boast, including new vendors, COVID-19 precautions, and SNAP/EBT acceptance.

Many familiar vendors were at the market, including Fat Chicken Farm, Mickey White, Karl's Bread, Grateful Hearts Family Kitchen, Bear Creek Acres, Lloyd's Woodworks, Sharon's Kitchen, Shelby's Pies, Vi Hildebrandt's needlework, Denise Lindquist's canned goods, and digital photography by Tom Andler. Many other favorite vendors like Greg and Matt's BBQ, Kudrle Farms, and Lost Lake Farm missed the first market but hopefully plan on returning, while a few aren't sure if they will be doing the market this year because of COVID-19.

Julia Rasmussen, "Recycled by Ras," is a new transplant to Tower from Alabama. Rasmussen will be selling fabric creations made primarily from vintage linen and recycled denim. At her table she had aprons, throw pillows, baby sun hats, purses and stuffed animals.

Linda Wagoner was selling pickles, houseplants, bread, a variety of baked goods, dish-towels, and rhubarb, and plans to sell produce as well, once her garden comes in.

Terry and Dianna Sundahl, with their new business Pike River Products, were selling Terry's handcrafted canvas and leather bags. Terry has been making them as gifts for the past five years and is now jumping

into the market.

"We're hoping for a safe and productive farmers market season," said TFM board member Janna Goerdt of Fat Chicken Farm. "We hope it will be mostly the same as last year, and we're thankful we have an outdoor market."

Fears of coronavirus may have warded off some buyers, but not most. Opening day at the market was busy and some vendors ended up selling out and packing up early. Guests aplenty stayed six feet apart and the majority wore masks while shopping.

EBT/SNAP accepted

Shoppers can now use their SNAP benefits/EBT cards at the farmers market thanks to help from AEOA. All it takes is a quick swipe at the Fat Chicken Farm table with Janna Goerdt, and you can take dollar benefits from your card in exchange for tokens to use at the market.

Minnesota Hunger Solutions will match the first \$10 taken off an EBT card for market tokens. The tokens and Hunger Solutions market bucks can be spent on any food for sale at the market. For more information, go to <https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/market-bucks/>.

COVID-19 precautions

The TFM is abiding by the Minnesota Farmers Market Association recommendations including keeping the tables six feet apart, a handwashing/sanitizing station, and all



Top: Shoppers are asked to keep a six-foot distance between each other and the sellers.

Above: Market bucks double SNAP shopper's buying power.

Right: Some of the early summer garden produce for sale. photos by S. Ukkola



also want to remind patrons to not touch products unless they intend to buy them. Some vendors have an extra empty table in front of their goods to ensure social distancing.

Long-time vendor Ann

Alaspa of Grateful Hearts Family Kitchen said, "It's hard for some people to come out now, but I think it's important for our community to continue."

Obituaries and Death Notices

Joseph J. Jammick

Joseph "Joe" J. Jammick, 76, of Duluth, and formerly of Soudan, died in his home on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, following a decade-long struggle with cancer. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, a Funeral Mass open to family members will be held on Saturday, June 27 at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 610 99th Ave. W in Duluth, with Father Richard Kunst as celebrant. Inurnment will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements are by the Cremation Society of Minnesota in Duluth.

The family wishes to extend their sincere thanks to the Essentia Department of Urology physicians, nurses and support staff; Dr. Daniel Nikcevic, Department of Oncology; and the Essentia Home Hospice Team for their amazing care and support during Joe's final days.

Joe was born in Soudan in August 1943, the son of Angela (Koprivnik) Jammick and Joseph Jammick Sr. Joe attended school in Soudan and Tower, graduating from Tower-Soudan High School in 1963. Joe worked for Reserve Mining, was self-employed, worked at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, and was the maintenance supervisor for Breitung Township.

Joe was united in marriage to Helen Seeberger in 1982 in St. Cloud, and they made their home in Soudan. The couple was blessed with two children, Stephen "Steve" and Katherine "Kate". The couple moved to Duluth in 2014, and the joy of Joe's later years was providing care to his grandsons, Will and Troy.

Joe is survived by

his wife, Helen; son, Steve Jammick (Kristi Cresap); daughter and son-in-law, Kate and Jesse Quick and their sons, Will and Troy Quick; sisters, Janet (William) Hill and Nancy (Fred) Kallio; brother, John Jammick (Jeanne Ceglar); and many extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Frank Jammick; and infant son, Patrick Jammick.

Leona E. O. Taapa

Leona Elizabeth Olga Korpela Taapa, 91, of Embarrass, died peacefully surrounded by family on Jan. 27, 2020. Due to the coronavirus, a celebration of her life will be scheduled and announced in the future, to be held at Leona's home.

She is survived by her daughters, Darcy (Dale) Reed and Candy (Steve) Anderson; grandchildren, Kristin (Philip) Parendo, Shawn (Julie) Reed and Kyle Anderson; and great-grandchildren, Charlie and Henry Parendo, and Tyler (Nicki) Anderson.

Douglas C. Thiel

Douglas Clark Thiel, 63, of Virginia, passed away on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Visitation for family and friends was held on Tuesday, June 23 at Ziemer-Moeglein Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert, followed by a graveside service in the Gilbert Cemetery.

He is survived by his sons, Douglas (Allison) Thiel of Cook and Joshua (Ashley) Thiel of Eveleth; grandchildren, Cole, Avery, Evalyn, Jonathon, Camielle and Brielle; siblings, Barbara (Eldon) Etter of Zim, Marilyn Dimberio of Virginia, Nancy Domiano of Gilbert, Pam (Steve) Biondich of Makinen, Roger Thiel of Hutter, Darlys (Jon) Jacobson of Cook and Shelly Thiel of Duluth.

Michael D. Novak

Michael "Mike" Donald Novak, 53, of Greaney, passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at his home. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Cook VFW on Saturday, June 27 from 2-6 p.m.

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NOTICE:

Effective Monday, June 22nd, all outpatients arriving to the Cook Hospital will need to use the Business Office entrance. COVID screening will be performed and everyone is required to wear a mask upon entry.

ER patients will continue to present to the Emergency Room entrance.



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

DNR shortens campground reservation window

Change designed to make camping and lodging opportunities more available to everyone

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is shortening its window for making reservations for camping and lodging in state parks and recreation areas to 120 days, in hopes of providing more opportunities for visitors. Previously, customers could reserve campsites, cabins, yurts, tipis, and lodging facilities up to one year in advance.

The change will take effect on Wednesday, July 1.

While the agency originally planned to make the change in the fall of 2020, operational uncertainties with the COVID-19 pandemic and associated changes to cleaning protocols prompted the agency to make the change sooner.

The policy change is based on customer survey results and a desire to improve fairness and equity in the reservation process.

“State parks and recreation areas belong to all Minnesotans,

so everyone should have equitable access to facilities and campgrounds,” said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. “As our lives have become busier, it’s more difficult for people to plan vacations a whole year in advance. Shortening the reservation window will better accommodate visitors’ busy schedules and allow more people to enjoy the most desirable campsites and

See **LODGING...**pg. 5B



Left: The DNR is changing its reservation policy at state parks and recreation areas effective on July 1.

file photo



LIFE ON THE POND

A woodie's world

For a momma wood duck, raising young is always a challenge

The soft, yet insistent cry told me that waiting in my camo just might be rewarded. I was standing not far from the shore of one of our local beaver ponds, where I had searched unsuccessfully for wood ducks a number of times before.

These ducks, particularly the males, are so spectacular that they're like a magnet for anyone interested in wildlife photography. They're also among the wariest of our native ducks, which makes them a more challenging subject than many other waterfowl. I'd had few opportunities over the years, and none in which I had gotten within range for a quality shot.

I had been photographing a female blue-winged teal, when she suddenly caught a slight movement of mine and began moving away, slowly enough to let her single surviving duckling catch up.

The teal's sudden departure seemed to attract the attention of a female wood duck that had given a soft call a few moments earlier. The full shrill cry of the wood duck is distinctive, unlike any other North American duck, so even though this duck offered a much softer version, there was

little doubt that a “woodie” was somewhere nearby on this sprawling pond.

Soon enough, I caught movement. I've noticed over the years that ducks are naturally curious when they feel secure in their habitat and it seemed this wood duck was coming by to check out what had caused the teal to leave. This time, I was sure to remain stock still, confident that my camouflage would do its job.

As she approached my position, she eyed me closely, as if she knew I was there, but didn't know what I was, and clearly didn't see me as a threat. Like the teal, this mother was leading one remaining duckling, a sad reminder of just how merciless nature can be on the young. Wood ducks typically lay 10-15 eggs, so I was sad to think that all of this lonely duckling's siblings had already perished, most likely in the clutches of a hawk.

Wood ducks are unusual ducks in more ways than one. While most North American ducks prefer more open terrain, like prairie potholes, the wood duck is a true forest denizen. They nest in tree cavities, although they'll also

See **WOODIES...**pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Top: A sole surviving young wood duck sticks close to its mother at a beaver pond in Vermilion Lake Township.

Above: The mother woodie fluffs her feathers during a brief break from her duckling.

Left: A male wood duck in flight.

photos/M. Helmberger

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
ROUND-LEAVED DOGWOOD



The **Round-leaf Dogwood**, *Cornus rugosa*, is unquestionably one of the most spectacular of the North Country's flowering shrubs.

It's large bright flower clusters, each comprised of hundreds of tiny white flowers, sit like bright white clouds atop a backdrop of deep green, opposite leaves. These shrubs typically stand 8-12 feet high and are common throughout the region, often growing in sizable clumps that make their flowering that much more dramatic each year in late June. The fragrant flowers attract large numbers of pollinators, like bees and butterflies, and the berries that the plant will produce later this summer attract a large number of birds, ranging from blue jays to red-eyed vireos.

If you're fortunate enough to have a copse of these shrubs near your house, count your blessings and leave the brush saw in the garage. The Round-leaved Dogwood is one native plant you'll appreciate throughout the summer.

DNR urges help for pollinators



REGIONAL — Pollinators play a critical role in keeping the environment healthy, help produce food, and are beautiful and fascinating to watch. That's why the Department of Natural Resources is encouraging Minnesotans to help and appreciate bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators found in the state.

Pollinators are essential to the environment. They help maintain the health of the many plants that stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. These plants also

See **POLLINATORS...**pg. 5B

Fishing reports



Cam Gillespie of Andover offers a big smile after catching a beautiful Lake Kabetogama walleye. submitted

Kab-Nam area

The weather has cooled a bit but the fishing is still hot!

Walleyes are being found in a variety of depths as they are in transition to mid-lake reefs and island shoals. Recently, the best bite has been in deeper water off these structures in 25-32 ft. The recent weather front has been tough on the bite so being mobile and adjusting your presentation is key to success. Lindy rigs tipped with a crawler or leech have been most productive. Water temps are consistently in the upper 60s to lower 70s. Sporadic mayfly hatches are occurring but

depending on where you are you may see a few or none at all as we have not yet seen a large widespread mayfly hatch. If you do find them, dragging spinners through these areas has been productive.

Northern pike are active as usual with a lot pike in the 20-inch range being caught. If you are looking for larger pike, try casting anything big such as Daredevils, Musky Killers or Suicks in and around weed beds and shallow rocky shorelines. On calm days, top water lures are a good bet to see some big fish.

Courtesy Gateway Store, Lake Kabetogama

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
77 55					79 56					84 59					84 61					84 62				
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.
06/15	71	49	0.00		06/15	71	53	0.00		06/15	72	44	0.00		06/15	70	55	0.00		06/15	72	48	0.00	
06/16	71	59	0.00		06/16	69	57	0.00		06/16	70	52	0.03		06/16	88	64	0.06		06/16	70	57	0.06	
06/17	88	63	0.00		06/17	89	63	0.00		06/17	89	65	0.00		06/17	88	64	0.00		06/17	89	65	0.00	
06/18	86	66	0.00		06/18	86	64	0.00		06/18	89	66	0.00		06/18	77	64	0.07		06/18	87	67	0.00	
06/19	79	56	0.00		06/19	79	53	0.02		06/19	79	53	0.07		06/19	66	52	0.00		06/19	80	54	0.04	
06/20	71	44	0.00		06/20	69	42	0.00		06/20	70	46	0.00		06/20	72	45	0.00		06/20	70	44	0.00	
06/21	70	45	0.06		06/21	70	45	0.14		06/21	70	46	0.04		06/21	75	52	0.00		06/21	71	47	0.12	
Total 6.27					YTD Total 6.33					YTD Total 6.49					YTD Total NA					YTD Total 5.10				

WOODIES...Continued from page 4B

use human-created nest boxes, and are able to perch on tree branches thanks to a clawed foot that gives them a better grasp. Those claws also help the newly hatched ducklings climb out of their nest cavity. The ducklings leave the nest within a day of hatching and they jump to the ground or water below as they do. Wood ducks can nest as high as 60 feet in the air, so that first step into the wider world can be a doozy.

Wood ducks also have a much longer tail than most other ducks, which provides them greater maneuverability as they fly through

the woods.

The wood duck was, for a time, extremely rare, mostly due to habitat loss and overhunting. But a hunting ban, and the regulated harvest that followed, has allowed the species to recover. Greater conservation efforts, such as the building of nest boxes, have also helped. Here in the North Country, the proliferation of the beaver has been another boon, since they can provide excellent habitat for wood ducks.

If you have a beaver pond near you, consider putting up a nest box. Plans for boxes can be found online.

It's best to erect the box on a tree or post that's standing in the water to discourage predators. If that's not possible, wrap some metal flashing around the tree trunk to keep predators at bay.

While I would have liked to have spotted a male wood duck during my recent visit, that was unlikely. Male ducks, including male woodies, have little or nothing to do with rearing offspring. They typically spend the summer hanging out with other males, while the females are the ones stuck with the young ones. Sound familiar?

POLLINATORS...Continued from page 4B

buffer waterways, store carbon, and provide habitat for other wildlife. Plus, flowering landscapes are beautiful. Without pollinators, the environment would look very different.

They pollinate plants that provide Minnesota food crops such as fruits, vegetables and herbs. Some of these foods can be important for wildlife, too. Black bears, for example, eat raspberries that are pollinated by bumble bees. Honeybees and native pollinators

contribute millions of dollars to Minnesota's agricultural economy.

"There are many simple things Minnesotans can do to help pollinators, which are so important not only to flowers or food but to our whole environment," said DNR invertebrate ecologist Jessica Petersen.

Here are some tips to help pollinators:

Plant a variety of flowers, especially those that are native.

Keep your garden blooming all season long by choosing plants

that provide pollen and nectar in the spring, summer and fall.

Provide nesting sites by allowing dead branches and logs to remain, leaving bare earth for ground-nesting insects, or installing bee nesting blocks.

Reduce the use of pesticides.

Become a community scientist and help researchers collect data about pollinators and their habitat.

Tell friends and family about pollinators and inspire them to take action.

LODGING...Continued from page 4B

lodging."

DNR surveys indicated that most visitors plan their overnight visits to parks and recreation areas a few months before they go and that many could not plan an entire year in advance.

The operational uncertainties of COVID-19 have created new challenges for the state parks and recreation area system, including

the recommendation to provide a 24-hour gap between lodging reservations. The pandemic also forced the agency to cancel more than 25,000 reservations due to necessary closures in April and May of this year.

All reservations made before July 1, will be honored, even if they are for a date beyond the new 120-day reservation window.

However, if a customer needs to change a reservation, a rebooking will only be possible within the new 120-day window.

For more information, please visit the DNR website at info.dnr.state.mn.us or contact the DNR Information Center at 888-646-6367.

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Municipal Liquor Store Lead Clerk Position Availability

Due to a retirement, the City of Cook is ready to hire its next lead clerk/stocker for Last Chance Liquors, the city-owned off-sale package store that is conveniently located just off Highway 53. The lead clerk directs part-time employees under manager's oversight, stocks shelves and coolers, receives deliveries, maintains store appearance, and does daily bookwork.

The position reports to the liquor store management which includes a manager and assistant manager. Qualifications include: high school diploma or equivalent; retail sales or customer service experience and some lead worker experience or knowledge of first level supervision. Able to be bonded under City's selected insurer and insurance coverages.

The position is full-time and is primarily afternoon/evening and weekend shifts. Hourly pay is based on qualifications and a benefit package is offered.

To apply: visit City's website cookmn.us or call Cook City Hall at (218) 666-2200 or stop by Last Chance Liquors at 304 S Hwy 53.

Deadline is Friday, July 10, 2020 for required application forms.

Published in the Timberjay, June 26 & July 3, 2020



Now Hiring!

If you are a people person who loves the outdoors, we want you on our team!

The North American Bear Center is searching for people to fill our sales associate position for our 2020 season. We are interested in applicants with a positive attitude, who have experience working with the public. Valid driver's license is a must, along with the ability to pass a background check. Scheduled hours will be Monday-Thursday.

If you are interested, stop by the North American Bear Center (located just west of Ely off Hwy 169) to pick up an application Mon-Fri between the hours of 9 am-2 pm or email your resume to hschiltz@bear.org. 7/3

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Position: Part Time Bus Driver
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Duties: Drive school bus for AM and/or PM routes; Other duties as assigned.
Rate of Pay: \$20.10 hr. AM or PM routes are a two-hour minimum

Terms of Contract: Hours to be determined. Expected start: AM start Mon.-Fri. 7:00; PM start: 3:00 Mon., Tues, & Thurs.; 1:45 Wed. and 2:45 Fri.

Anticipated Start Date: September 8, 2020
Due Date: Applications can be found at www.nettlakeschools.com. The district will begin reviewing applications on Friday, June 19 at 3:00 PM. Paper applications may be picked up at the Nett Lake School Office, M-F, 8:00-3:00. Please call before you come. 218-757-3102.

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

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

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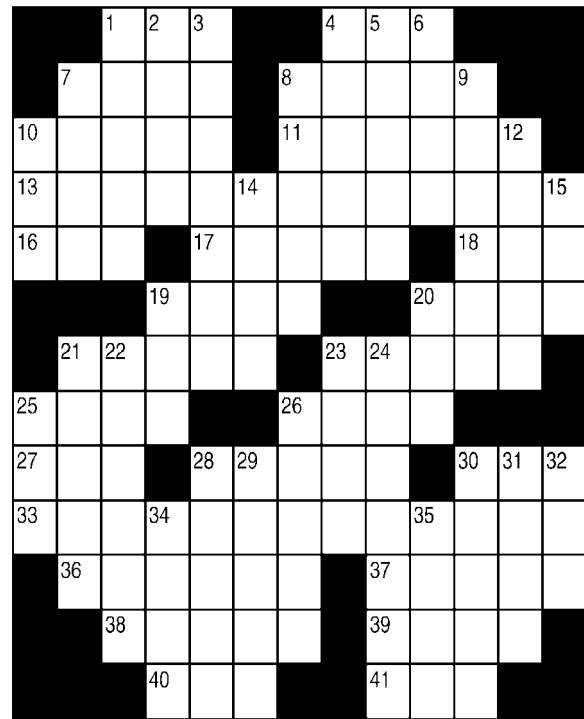
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 — Na Na
- 4 Swindle
- 7 Summery desserts
- 8 Fusses
- 10 Sixth president
- 11 Many
- 13 Proof of a crime
- 16 Sprite
- 17 Unclear
- 18 Still, in verse
- 19 Say it isn't so
- 20 Rhyming tributes
- 21 Groups of musicians
- 23 Slanted edge
- 25 Volcanic outflow
- 26 One of the Three Bears
- 27 Sailor's assent
- 28 Unwilling
- 30 Fine, to NASA
- 33 Texas city
- 36 Bill-payment period
- 37 Alan of "Little Miss Sunshine"
- 38 Mystery writer's award
- 39 Don of radio
- 40 Sun. speech



- 41 Rand McNally item
- 10 Expert
- 12 Man of — (Superman comparison)
- 14 Catches some rays
- 15 — and outs
- 19 "CSI" evidence
- 20 Eggs
- 21 Louisiana marsh
- 22 Unwilling
- 23 Dog owner's ordeal
- 24 Son of
- 25 Fond du —, Wis.
- 26 Harness horse
- 28 Thrust
- 29 "Argo" award
- 30 Invite to the penthouse
- 31 Elevator name
- 32 Family
- 34 Cushions
- 35 "Joy of Cooking" writer
- Rombauer

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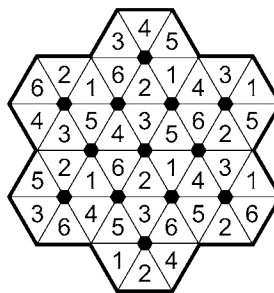


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Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!



- Shrill: BELTER
- Champion: THINGK
- Forest: TRIMBE
- Adorn: LISTEN

TODAY'S WORD

Answers

MARINAS REDCENT RISER
ASARULE AERATED ESTEE
CHRISTMASLIGHTS PAIRS
EYES MICH VIA BEANIE
DATE TENNIS RACKET
WEAKENED HUGED DEAL
RURAL CAP EIN SWIM
ARCHERSBOW GRANDPIANO
POOL AHOT PIE EXOTICS
ORTEGA ALLE ISSUE
PJS HELIUMBALLOON TRY
IAMSO EGOS EMMITT
SPINDOC HUT NEAL ESAI
MARIONETTE WORRYBEADS
ONKPELFAAS ANGEL
STEAMING SCORSESE
WINDOWBLINDS EARN
OVIEDO RNA ILSA ACRE
RAKED STRINGS ATTACHED
SNORE TRENTON RENTING
EASED PUNGENT ODYSSEY

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

SHA CON
ICES TODOS
ADAMS OODLES
CORPUS DELICTI
ELF MUDDY EEN
DENY ODES
BANDS BEVEL
LAVA PAPA
AYE LOATH AOK
CORPUS CHRISTI
USANCE ARKIN
EDGAR IMUS
SER MAP

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

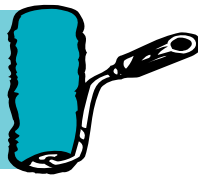
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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