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# The **TIMBERJAY**



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ISD 696

## Voters support Ely school project

\$10 million referendum approved by more than 60 percent

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

ELY – ISD 696 officials made their case to district tax payers for a \$10 million bonding referendum for a school facility renovation project and voters answered on Tuesday with their approval.

Strong support in the cities of Ely and Winton, and a narrower margin in the Town of Morse,

**Mike Banovetz enters the Ely Senior Center Tuesday morning to vote on a bonding referendum to help fund a school building project.** photo by K. Vandervort

resulted in a preliminary raw vote margin of 927 “yes” votes and 512 “no” votes. Absentee votes in Morse and two small unorganized townships were not available by press time.

Taxpayers were asked to approve an increase in their

property taxes for the next 20 years to help pay for a \$20 million project that will improve the Ely school buildings by connecting the campus into one safer facility, adding more space for learning

See...**SCHOOL** pg. 10



A GREEN THUMB

## Turning heads

### Masterpiece of a garden in Tower

by **JODI SUMMIT**  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Heads are turning in Tower— especially by anyone walking or driving on North Second Street.

The double corner lot at Pine and North Second is a kaleidoscope of colors: purples, oranges, yellows, reds, and whites. Flower beds line three sides of the lot, including along the gravel alley, as well as the pathways into the house and along the driveway. Flower beds and flowering bushes line the outside edges of the house, as

See...**GARDEN** pg. 9

**Cosmos, top, are in full bloom in Pong Robinson's garden at the corner of Pine and Second in Tower.**  
photos by J. Summit



STATE CORRECTIONS

## Togo closure would be 'devastating'

### Advocates say negative impact will be far-reaching

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- When the Minnesota Department of Corrections announced last week that it intends to close the Togo Correctional Facility to help solve its \$14 million budget crisis, it created a greater crisis among the people who work there and the communities they call home.

That's according to people who know the facility, its employees, and the region, and who warn that the true costs of closing "Thistledeew Camp" reach far beyond the camp's borders, affecting the stability, vitality, health and safety of the surrounding region.

The heart of Morcom Township lies just ten miles east of MCF-Togo, and it's been home to Dirk Davis for about 25 years. He's a township supervisor, a former deputy sheriff in St. Louis County for three decades, and a friend and acquaintance of many who work at the Togo facility.

"The damage that the closure of these camps would cause to our local community  
See...**TOGO** pg. 7

ELECTION 2020

## Tribal chair candidates face off in Bois Forte election

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL – When considering the candidates for Bois Forte Band of Chippewa tribal chairperson, voters will likely discover that incumbent Cathy Chavers and challenger Miranda Villebrun Lilya have much in common.

Both women are open and frank about the challenges they see facing the tribe and its members, and identify similar major issues, although through the benefit of four years in the position, Chavers's list is longer. Both share the desire to strengthen tribal identity through promoting traditional tribal practices and language. Each has a strong

desire to serve in the years ahead, whether they win the election or not. And both are passionate and articulate in describing their visions for the tribe's future and in making their cases in asking for voters' support.

The similarities are striking enough that the choice for voters may come down to a couple of

important questions. Are they satisfied with the pace of change and progress under Chavers, or will impatience cause them to gravitate toward Villebrun Lilya? And have those changes made during Chavers's tenure adequately created a level playing field for all, or will

See...**ELECTION** pg. 8



Cathy Chavers



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## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Board seeks more funds for Ely ambulance

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL—A non-profit joint powers board that manages the operations of the Ely Area Ambulance Service recently agreed to seek additional funding for the remainder of this year and next year.

Officials from the cities of Ely and Winton, and Morse and Fall Lake townships, met last month with St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald and Brandon Larson from the county auditor's office, to discuss ways to stabilize and increase the ambulance service's finances.

The current funding formula, based on population, charges the governmental bodies \$5.15 per capita for their annual contribution to fund the ambulance service's operations. As an alternative, the board has been discussing an assessment fee for each parcel of land in the service area.

Before the funding formula can be changed, the immediate

shortfall needs to be addressed.

"We had a pretty robust discussion," Ely Mayor Chuck Novak said last week in recapping the meeting for city council members. "In order to have a sufficient staff, the ambulance service increased its wages, and right when the increase (took effect) we were hit with COVID-19, and hospitals basically shut down, along with (ambulance-provided) transfers. We increased expenses and lost the revenue."

Ely Ambulance Service Director Geoff Galaski predicted a shortfall of \$170,000 in 2020.

Novak said the loss could start evaporating if the number of transports increase. He predicted that for the rest of the summer ambulance transfers should increase and expenses should remain stable.

The state demographer's population count is due later in August, so the per capita contribution (\$5.15 per person) from each governmental unit is not yet determined for this year.

The ambulance service

proposed nearly doubling the per capita contribution to \$10.10 per capita for the remainder of 2020 and increasing that to \$20.20 per capita for 2021.

Winton Mayor Kathy Brandau suggested each entity go back and ask their boards for an additional contribution of \$5.05 per person for the remainder of 2020 to help make up the shortfall. That motion was approved.

Galaski presented the joint powers board with information on financial contributions at a rate of \$20.20 per person. Under that scenario, Ely would pay \$68,882, Morse would pay \$24,240, Winton would pay \$3,313, Fall Lake would pay \$10,443, and the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital would contribute \$21,376, for a total of \$128,254 in 2021.

Fall Lake supervisor Mary Tome, supported by Novak, made a motion to increase the ambulance service contributions to \$20.20 per person for 2021. The motion passed unanimously

and each representative will now seek approval from their councils and boards.

## Per-parcel option

The joint powers board discussed how many parcels there are in each entity and how much a \$10 per-parcel fee would generate.

Larson said the Ely Ambulance Joint Powers Board, by state statute, is not allowed to impose a tax levy, and recommended the board consult legal counsel on creating a Special Taxing District (an individual per-parcel fee per parcel is defined as a special assessment) as ambulance services are not specifically addressed in the statute, according to the meeting minutes.

There are 2,584 taxable parcels in Morse Township, according to Larson. Ely has 2,196 parcels, while Winton has 147. Fall Lake Township has 2,161 parcels while Stony River has 1,648, although the service doesn't cover all of Stony River. Larson said Stony River

is currently not paying anything into the ambulance service.

According to the meeting minutes, Morse Township officials stated that if a per-parcel contribution was implemented, they would drop out of the Joint Powers Board and decide on their own how to contribute to the ambulance service.

Novak predicted that if the joint powers board was to vote on a per-parcel contribution, the measure would fail.

"We don't know where this is going to go at this point. The city of Ely is dedicated to fund (the ambulance service)," he said. "This is a necessary service in Ely."

More than 65 percent of ambulance service calls are made to the city of Ely.

He asked council members to consider their position on funding for the ambulance service.

The joint powers board set the next meeting for noon on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at Winton Community Center.

## HEALTH CARE

# New mental health provider joins Scenic Rivers

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff writer

REGIONAL—Scenic Rivers has recently added a new mental health provider at their Cook, Tower, and Floodwood clinics. Charlene Colwell joins the staff with 12 years of experience.

Colwell is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker licensed through the Minnesota Board of Social Work.

She obtained a master's degree in clinical social work from the University of St. Thomas/St. Catherine University in 2012 and a bachelor's degree in psychology from North Central University in 2009. She grew up on the Iron Range and has enjoyed working as a therapist in the Iron Range area for the past eight years and in the mental health field for the past 12 years.

"I've always loved being a

counselor; it's a privilege to be a part of people's lives and helping them meet their goals," she said. "One of the most fulfilling things in my job is being able to come alongside someone and help them access their inner resources of courage, compassion, clarity, and calm and use these resources to attend to anything they may be struggling with in their life."

If you're not sure if you need help or are hesitant to make an appointment, Colwell said you

can always call a therapist to ask a few questions and see if it is something you would like to do.

## Pandemic help

Colwell said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, struggles with mental health have been on the rise. "The pandemic can bring stress, increase symptoms of existing conditions, or bring on new ones. In this time, isolation is needed but it backfires in terms of mental health," she said.

Colwell said the clinics have the capacity to help.

"There are four counselors now at Scenic Rivers. It's a growing department and we're all able to help and can be seen via telehealth," she said.

To make an appointment, call Scenic Rivers in Tower at 218-753-2405 or Cook at 218-666-5941. Colwell is at the Cook clinic Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the Tower clinic on Tuesdays.

## RAINY RIVER...Continued from page 1B

species, today the river supports a remarkably healthy and diverse fishery. The MPCA's recent study documented 42 species of fish in the river, including ten that are considered sensitive to pollution, such as longnose dace, smallmouth bass, and sturgeon, which had been all but extinct in the river as a result of the decades of pollution. In recent years, the river has become a world-class fishery for both sturgeon and walleye, attracting thousands of anglers every year to communities along its route.

While fish are one indicator of the river's health, the rivers many invertebrates, such as mayflies and dragonflies, are another sign of the exceptional water quality that has now returned. In fact, the Rainy River now supports some truly sensitive species, like finger-net



**Left: A state researcher in the 1960s stands in a hole he dug through several feet of wood pulp waste in order to reach the water in the Rainy River. Wood waste, raw sewage, and toxic chemicals, were dumped into the river for years by mills located in International Falls and Fort Frances, Ontario.**  
Courtesy MPCA

mining on the U.S. side, will need careful consideration on how to protect the river from any negative impacts," note the authors of the MPCA's recent report.

## Little Fork remains a concern

The one question mark in the Rainy River's future comes from continuing water quality concerns in the Little Fork River. The Little Fork, which begins in the Lost Lake Swamp near Lake Vermilion and connects to the Rainy

River downstream from Pelland, continues to carry a considerable amount of suspended sediment and algae-growing nutrients eroded from the river's clay-dominated banks.

High levels of sediment can limit the ability of fish and other aquatic life to breathe, find food, and perform other life functions, and the inflow of water from the Little Fork does have an impact along portions of the Rainy River located downstream.

The Little Fork flows through a region that is still home to some agriculture, which can also impact water quality. As the *Timberjay* recently documented, at least one farmer in the Little Fork Valley continues to use the river as an open sewer, by dumping large amounts of livestock bedding straw and manure into the river.

## Upstream protection a major factor

While clean water regulations helped to eliminate pollution discharges from industrial and municipal sources along the river, the Rainy has also benefitted from the quality of the water in upper reaches of the watershed. "A major reason

for the excellent water quality in the river is the expanse of undeveloped land draining to it," notes the MPCA's recent study. That includes the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Voyageurs National Park, and the 1.2 million-acre Quetico Provincial Park on the Canadian side of the border.

About 40 percent of the river's watershed is

within Minnesota, with the rest located across the border in northwestern Ontario. And continued protection of the watershed from development is critical to maintaining the Rainy's exceptional water quality, according to the MPCA. "Any major changes in the land draining to the river, such as incentives to expand cropland on the Canadian side and proposals for

## SPORTS...Continued from page 1B

based in Babbitt out of Northeast Range High School, will be restricted to conducting meets with no more than two teams. Practices will begin next Monday for the team that consists mostly of Ely-based swimmers. Cheri Debeltz takes over as head coach.

This year ISD 696 officials approved the addition of a girls soccer cooper-

ative with Mesabi East. Practice starts Monday. At this point a lone Ely girl has signed up to participate.

The Ely Memorial High School dance team welcomes a new coach, Desirae Cram, but their season has been pushed back until winter.

Traditional fall sports of volleyball and football had their seasons put on hold until March. MSHSL

discussions centered on safety considerations for both sports, and indoor restrictions could likely prevent fans from attending volleyball games, he said.

Minnesota is the only nearby state to move football to the spring. Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota are proceeding with plans for fall seasons. Football

practice will begin indoors in March and the start of the season will likely be delayed by snow-covered fields.

Coombe told school board members, "Spring is going to be tremendously challenging."

"Football and volleyball seasons will be held in a mid-March to early May time frame. You all know what the weather is like

here in March. We have a grass field. To be perfectly honest, we are going to be hard-pressed to be playing high school football in Ely even in early April. We might get one (here) at the end of the season. Many other schools in the region are in the same boat."

Traditional spring sports will look very different with much later start times, sometime in May,

and will continue past the end of the school year, he said. "I don't particularly think that decision was all that well thought out. We are going to have some struggles in terms of participation. I don't know if our coaches are going to want to coach in that time frame."

## TESTING...Continued from page 1B

The free tests were provided in cooperation between St. Louis County Public Health and the State Emergency Operations Center. The St. Louis County Fairgrounds in Chisholm donated use of its facilities, with only a minimal cost to cover electricity.

St. Louis County has

seen a significant increase in recent weeks in the number of confirmed cases in the county. Community transmission has become the dominant form of exposure.

In early July, it was more rural parts of the county that saw a larger percentage of cases, but more recently the Duluth

area has seen the largest growth.

The fastest growing age group for COVID-19 cases in St. Louis County now is 6-19-year-olds. In June, this age group represented only 2 percent of cases and now it is almost 14 percent.

As more and more young people become

infected, the median age of people with confirmed cases continues to decrease. In April, the median age was 68 years old. By June, the median age had dropped to 54. It dropped again in July, and currently is 36 years of age.

The 20-29-year-old age group continues to have the highest number

of cases, with 29 percent of the total cases in the county.

Everyone is urged to remain vigilant and continue practicing the prevention habits that have been emphasized for months: stay home when sick, wear a mask, maintain six feet of physical distancing, and wash hands with soap

and water for at least 20 seconds.

To learn more about the COVID-19 situation in St. Louis County and to view the county's COVID-19 online interactive dashboard, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/covid19](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/covid19).

CITY OF TOWER

# Six members of Tower fire department complete training

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— Six new Tower firefighters received their certificates of completion of their Firefighter I and II training on Monday, helping to put the department back on track following a rash of resignations earlier this year.

The group of young firefighters, including Shawn Gawboy, Jordan Purkat, Steve Olson, Jesse Hinkel, Mandy Northrup, and Victoria Ranua, signed up in March and have undergone extensive training over the past several months, culminating in

final testing completed last week. The Firefighter I and II training covers a broad range of skills that the firefighters need to be effective on the job. The training includes both classroom learning and hands-on experience.

Eric Makowski, of Central Lakes College, who led the group's training, presented their certificates during Monday's meeting of the Tower City Council. He said the group had demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and dedication. "They definitely met the standard," he said. "They're doing really,

really well."

Makowski credited new fire chief Paige Olson with pushing to get the new members qualified as soon as possible. The six new members of the department have been highly responsive over the last few months to emergency calls. In several incidents, the Tower firefighters have provided the majority of the responders and have been actively involved in assisting with firefighting activities.

"Kudos to all of you for the work you've done to accomplish this," said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad.



Left to right, top: Trainer Eric Makowski, Jordan Purkat, Shawn Gawboy, Mandy Northrup, Jesse Hinkel. Bottom: Chief Paige Olson, Steve Olson, Victoria Ranua. submitted photo

# Future of ambulance service dominates council agenda

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— Discussion over the future of the city's ambulance service was on the city council agenda Monday night as councilors heard from a consultant who is assisting the city in drafting a business plan for the service. Betsy Olivanti, with the Northeast Minnesota Small Business Development Center, presented the progress to date and suggested that the council consider a working session to delve into the details and answer key questions in the coming weeks.

Olivanti noted that the service has undergone significant changes since 2017, which have impacted the department's profitability. The shift to paid on-call staffing, at significantly higher rates of pay than other small departments in the area, was the biggest factor behind the diminished profitability.

Financial numbers cited by

## Council approves hiring planning and zoning help for Rose RV project

Olivanti helped to illuminate the impact of the new staffing model. In 2017, the year prior to implementation of paid on-call, the service earned a net margin of \$102,688. In 2018, after implementation of paid on-call staffing, net profitability fell to just \$4,460. That decline in profits was prompted in large part by an 87 percent increase in the department's expenditures, which jumped from \$240,827 in 2017 to \$449,389 the following year, according to Olivanti's figures. While the new staffing enabled the department to earn additional revenue— which increased by 32 percent— it was not enough to offset the near-doubling of expenses.

Profitability improved somewhat in 2019, when the department experienced record emergency call volume. Even so, the 2019 margin of \$30,877 was well below prior levels and

likely won't be sustained in 2020. Call volume fell sharply in March and April of this year as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, although volume has returned to more normal (but not record) levels in June and July, according to the city's ambulance director Dena Suihkonen.

Even so, emergency calls are down 13 percent this year over 2019 levels, while total call volume, including non-emergency transfers, is off 25 percent.

"Based on the first six months, we expect revenues to be substantially less in 2020 than last year," said Olivanti.

Olivanti said the city needs to determine its objectives for the ambulance service as part of finalizing the business plan, noting that even with a margin of nearly \$31,000 annually, the department could face financial challenges to replace ambulanc-

es on a timely basis.

"If you're looking to replace a rig every so many years, \$31,000 is going to take a little bit to get to that level which is why you have service agreements for the rig replacement," said Olivanti.

She said the business modeling will examine various staffing models to determine the financial implications of each, in order to determine how to move forward. "Then we'll run various scenarios around that," she said. "Then you can make some really good decisions and have some really good transparency out there for all of the communities you serve."

Council members agreed that they'll need to make key decisions soon as the city begins to plan for its 2021 budget. They indicated they would confer to set a date for a working session devoted to the ambulance

service.

In related action, the council gave its blessing to a new ambulance replacement subsidy agreement between the city and several area townships. The new agreement obligates the city to provide substantially more financial information to participating townships than it did in the past. It also keeps the per-capita payment the same, at \$15 annually, which will generate an estimated \$39,870 per year for the dedicated ambulance replacement account.

Under the agreement, the city also agrees to contribute \$1.66 per mile traveled for non-emergency hospital transfers to the ambulance replacement account.

See TOWER...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Mail-in voting

Don't be fooled by those who wish to mislead on voting security

Minnesotans shouldn't let themselves be fooled by a White House and an Attorney General who are intent on misleading the country about the security and safety of voting by mail. President Trump has repeatedly stated in tweets that mail-in voting will guarantee massive fraud. Attorney General William Barr has suggested that foreign countries would almost certainly attempt to submit large numbers of fraudulent ballots in hopes of swaying the election. Mr. Barr said such concerns are simply “common sense.”

In fact, the claims of both the president and the attorney general are simply nonsense.

As we reported last week, St. Louis County has used mail-in balloting for years for many of its unorganized townships without incident. The checks and balances that are in place for mail-in balloting make it virtually impossible for widespread fraud, or foreign interference. President Trump, who regularly reveals himself as one of the most uninformed Americans on a whole host of subjects, may not know this. Attorney General Barr certainly does, which makes his statements all the more egregious.

President Trump and his enablers make it sound as if ballots are simply being mailed out to millions of people at random. This, of course, is false. In St. Louis County, as is the case elsewhere in the U.S. where there is automatic vote by-mail, ballots are sent to registered voters in each county, addressed based on the addresses listed on their voter registration forms.

Those addresses each have a unique bar code included with them, which county election officials use to match that ballot with the address to which it was sent. If someone attempts to forge ballots, there is no way they could determine the correct bar code so any such ballots would be rejected. Further, the county election officials who administer elections everywhere in the country, know the exact number of ballots that they send out and the number that come back in. As they arrive, the names of the individuals who are submitting ballots are checked off the voting list to make sure they can only vote once.

Absentee ballots are treated similarly, which makes them just as difficult to forge.

Anyone or any group or country attempting to engage in a successful and statistically significant voter fraud effort would have to know how many ballots to return in each county to prevent more ballots coming in than went out (which would

be an obvious tip-off of fraud). They would also need to know the addresses and the randomly-generated bar codes for each voter who failed to return a ballot—information that would be impossible to obtain.

And what President Trump and his enablers seem to forget is that the presidential race isn't the only race on the ballot. Each county, and even different portions of counties, have their own individual races for everything from city council to school board, county commissions to races for Congress. That means the ballots are different in every jurisdiction. As we found out in Tower in 2018, when election officials handed out the wrong ballots in one of the city's two precincts, it's difficult enough for local officials to keep track of which ballots go where. To suggest that some group or country is going to perfectly forge unique ballots for hundreds of different jurisdictions (which they would have to do to have any statistically meaningful impact on a race) and correctly match them with the right voters, their addresses, their bar codes, and a signature that's a close approximation of that voter's prior signatures in each of these jurisdictions is ludicrous.

It's also dangerous. President Trump is reading the same polls as everyone else right now and is obviously worried about the prospects for his re-election. Rather than trying to reach out in a positive way to voters as most politicians do in such circumstances, he and his attorney general appear intent on undermining faith in U.S. elections, as part of a political strategy to suppress the vote in November. At the same time that Trump is discouraging his supporters from voting by mail (except in Florida where he needs mail-in votes from seniors), his hand-selected pick for Postmaster General has reportedly taken a number of steps to slow delivery of the mail, most likely in hopes that they can clog the system over the next three months and prevent large numbers of mail-in ballots from reaching election offices in time to be counted. If more of those ballots originate from Democratic voters, as is reasonable to assume, it could give Trump the edge he needs to eke out a narrow electoral college victory. At least, that appears to be Trump's best hope. Unfortunately, for Trump, everything is about winning. The means to that end don't matter at all.



## Letters from Readers

### The people aren't being served in Washington

A health care revolution is needed. Single-payer would be the good way to reduce the economic disparity between those who have and those who don't. Washington won't do this because they don't represent the PEOPLE but represent the rich corporate interests.

Because they represent the rich, they have continued to increase military spending, and so, 60 percent of our tax money goes for that! The U.S. is always at war; none of that is a “service” to America but an actual disservice to what America should stand for.

America has invaded/occupied or economically destroyed many nations that tried to make life better for their people. Just recently, the U.S. has succeeded in helping right-wing fascists destroy progressive governments in Honduras, Bolivia, and Brazil.

Armed invasions, economic embargoes, occupations (all international crimes) are creating misery for those people—our brothers and sisters. Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, and others are all suffering from these U.S. crimes.

It should be obvious to us that Washington doesn't represent us but represents countries like Israel and Saudi Arabia and the rich corporations in the U.S. The U.S. wants to control the world so it can steal their resources and dominate the markets. It isn't rocket science, but the media keeps us thinking that America is God's gift to the world. It isn't.

They put whistleblowers in prison, like Julian Assange who exposed U.S. war crimes. The U.S. fights against a free press.

The U.S. is far from being a decent democracy. Washington is incapable of doing the right things. Their hands are tied due to the power that big money has over them or their own mis-

placed priorities. I believe they weren't corrupted after becoming senators, representatives, or presidents but were already corrupt before their elections. There are very few good people in Washington.

Steve Johnson  
Ely

### Truth is the enemy of Trump

A drunk searches beneath a lamppost for keys that he lost on the other side of the street. Asked “Why look for them here?” “Because the light is better here,” he replied. This metaphor reminds us that ignorance cannot solve real problems through make-believe and inebriate delusion. Easy answers will not bring one nearer to truth.

The American system of government is based on ideas from the Age of Enlightenment (1600-1700s). Locke, Montesquieu and Rousseau offered key provisions to avoid arbitrary and absolute rule by tyrants. Separation of church and state, reason and science, spread of knowledge, and humanism illuminated our nation's ideals during the “time of light.”

Thugocracy, a criminal enterprise, demands total loyalty of subjects without reciprocal favor. Loyalists are described with hyperbole and superlatives while “others” are excoriated in vicious terms. Greed, power, narcissism and hedonism combine into a highly corruptive force. Destruction of the administrative state, deadly deregulation, gross incompetence and negligence by every government agency serves personal political purposes.

The Bamboozler-in-Chief denies wrongdoing, ignores requests for documents, deflects with conspiracy theories, distracts by manufacturing crises, deceives with lies, and defrauds to enrich himself, family and friends. Stoking anti-science, trashing public norms and institutional rules, blaming others when things go wrong,

and operating above the law is the Trump calling card. Only during a “time of darkness,” can the proudly ignorant claim strength and virtue.

Trump's “streetlight effect” offers bogus solutions to real life problems. Like the deluded drunk, followers are intoxicated with crony capitalism's empty promise as quality jobs disappear into darkness, never to return. The oligarchy, enemy to Trump voters, discovered an ally in Trump for extracting and exploiting the wealth of labor. Trump is enemy to truth as truth is enemy to Trump.

Harold Honkola  
Roseville

### Town board should take public input

Beginning with the April meeting, the Greenwood Town Board eliminated public comment and the reading of correspondence. Chair Deluca had said at the time that, on advice of the township attorney, they would eliminate such input to simplify their teleconference meetings during the pandemic. During the last four months, I have participated in dozens of teleconference and Zoom meetings, none of which restrict public comment, except those conducted by Greenwood. Their excuse is simply a “red herring” covering their disdain for open transparent government and fear of criticism. Supreme Court Justice Brandeis said it best over 100 years ago, when he said in defense of open government, “Sunlight is said to be the best disinfectant.” So, boys, just put on your big boy pants and allow public comment again.

Dr. John Bassing  
Greenwood Twp.

Where the  
North Country  
Sounds Off!

## Boards and the game of trivial pursuit

I remember well the Christmas in the early 1980s when one of my sisters gave a gift to the entire family—a brand new board game called Trivial Pursuit.

A typical Colburn Christmas wasn't complete without hours of playing



DAVID COLBURN

games. Bridge and Monopoly were family favorites, and chess, checkers, and cribbage were often in the mix, too, as we played together for hours on end.

This particular year, all that was abandoned as we dove headlong into matching wits against each other in a game where obscure bits of knowledge suddenly became little golden nuggets of fortune.

With all of us possessing compet-

itive streaks, the game was on, barely stopping for dinner. So intent were we that we exhausted two entire boxes of clues that day and night. The Colburn clan was hopelessly trivia obsessed.

Across the following decades, I've noticed, having to work too hard at it, that obsession with trivial pursuits infuses nearly all aspects of life.

But trivial, while easily defined as something of little importance, is more difficult to define in people's lives, as something I consider trivial

may be considered important by someone else. Fortunately, in the world of an individual, we get to make those choices for ourselves, for better or for worse. “Game of Thrones” was entirely trivial to me, but terribly important, apparently, to millions. For the life of me, I'll never understand why. But to each his or her own.

When trivial branches out into society, that's where it becomes extremely tricky, because it's then that we enter the realm of collective public

opinion. People make good livings off capitalizing on trivial. Anyone remember Pet Rocks? Those trivial little creatures made their creator a millionaire in only a year.

That word, trivial, came up in a recent ISD 2142 school board meeting, when board member Christine Taylor took the board to task for spending more time discussing a software program for bus scheduling than it did discussing how the district would

See TRIVIAL...pg. 5

# Letters from Readers

## Iron Range mayors upset with McCollum

Once again Congresswoman Betty McCollum has placed a target on the backs of the residents of northeastern Minnesota by including the following provision in H.R. 7612: Sec. 435, Rainy River Watershed: “None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to review or approve a mine plan proposed within the Rainy River Watershed of the Superior National Forest.”

This language submitted by the Congresswoman not only impacts the Twin Metals project, but also prohibits expansion of taconite mining facilities including U.S. Steel Minntac, Arcelor Mittal Minorca and NorthShore Mining, a Cliffs operation. This \$37 billion-dollar appropriations bill would provide nothing to benefit those of us who reside in or near the Rainy River Watershed but would certainly impact our future as residents of the region.

As Iron Range mayors of communities stretching from the Canadian border to the Iron Range and beyond, we stand with our 8th District Congressman Pete Stauber in his outrage over this proposal by Congresswoman McCollum. McCollum, who represents the St. Paul area, has

decided that she knows what is best for members of this district and without any consultation inserted the provision, against this strong objection. Unfortunately, the measure was passed by the House appropriations committee and also by the full House.

As mayors we have been duly elected by the residents of our communities who have entrusted us to act on their behalf and in their best interests. We strive to provide the essential services our communities need while our citizens enjoy the bounty of northeastern Minnesota, the clean water, the phenomenal wilderness and forests, the solitude of rural living. We also prosper and benefit from the rich mineral deposits of iron ore that have provided us with over 135 years of mining careers, supplemental support industries, built our schools and allowed generations of Iron Rangers to stay home and prosper. Congresswoman McCollum should be ashamed to think she knows what we want and need for our communities. Now we have an opportunity to develop a precious mineral mining economy and diversify our economy all while supplying our country with the strategic minerals that are in demand by the clean energy economy, the technology, pharmaceutical and national defense industries rather

than relying on foreign nations for our needs.

A bill was introduced in the Minnesota Legislature to provide some tax incentives for an expansion of the Mall of America by (hold your breath) a foreign country! As mayors of northeastern Minnesota, we fully expect to see the Congresswoman demand an environmental impact assessment of this proposed project before one shovel of dirt is turned over and we hope it takes 14-plus years for completion like proposed projects on the Iron Range. We have a saying on the Range: “Watch Your Own Bobber”. We ask the Congresswoman to heed our words and let our duly elected Congressman represent us.

The Range mayors ask for residents and business leaders to join us as we call upon our U.S. Senators, Klobuchar and Smith to work on preventing this language from becoming law. The Senate can and must help the Range retain its proud mining history and future opportunities of environmentally safe mineral extraction. Rangers do it right.

**Iron Range Mayors Including: Douglas Gregor (Aurora), Andrea Zupancich (Babbitt), Jim Weikum (Biwabik), John Klarich (Buhl), John Tuorila (Calumet), John Champa (Chisholm), Chuck Novak**

**(Ely), Bob Vlasisavljevich (Eveleth), Karl Oberstar Jr. (Gilbert), Dale Adams (Grand Rapids), Rick Cannata (Hibbing), Chris Vreeland (Hoyt Lakes), Bill King (Keewatin), Gary Skalko (Mt. Iron), Calvin Saari (Nashwauk), Larry Cuffe (Virginia)**

## There’s a difference between “harbor” fantasies and reality

The *Timberjay’s* Aug. 7, 2020, headline editorial, “Tower’s harbor, City should resist calls to throw in the towel on economic development” is cleverly written, but it is nothing more than the continuation of a fantasy. Most people with an ounce of common sense realize that it’s time for a reality check at city hall. After having spent \$6.5 million in grants and other public funding to tidy up the area, all that has been accomplished is an attractive pond, a nice walkway around it and a few docks.

If anyone thinks that town homes are feasible, they’re dreaming. Two-story, narrow stairway, very high-density townhouses at \$400,000 to \$450,000 a pop, with property taxes astonishingly higher due

to the city levy than a similarly-valued property on the lake, in Greenwood Township? How do you sell that? You don’t. Granting agencies, trusted with public funds, need to pay attention to this. And when the four newly-elected city councilors are seated, they need to deal in reality and set the “harbor” fantasies aside.

**Lee Peterson  
Greenwood Twp.**

## Those who know him best have a different view

In response to Hans Olsen’s letter to the editor regarding Bill Barr, I would like to point out numerous knowledgeable peers including 65 faculty and professors from Barr’s law school, George Washington University, wrote to Barr that he “failed to fulfill his oath of office to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.” In addition, more than 2,000 former Justice Department officials signed a statement calling for the Attorney General to resign.

**Gerry Snyder  
Ely**

## TOWER...Continued from page 3

### Planning and zoning services

After considerable discussion, the council approved hiring Tony Jeffries to assist the city in working on the Rose RV Park zoning issues and possible changes to the city’s zoning ordinances. Volunteer zoning administrator Mary Shedd said she lacks the experience and knowledge to address many of the zoning complexities raised by the Rose project. Jeffries, who also works as a contract zoning administrator for the city of Eveleth, was the only individual to respond to the city’s recent solicitation for the service. He will charge \$98 an hour for his work.

Councilors raised concerns about the cost of the service, although Shedd noted that hiring Jeffries would likely reduce her need to consult with the city’s law firm and SEH, both of which charge more per hour.

Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua said the city has an obligation to address issues raised by the Rose project, many of which are due to a poorly-drafted zoning ordinance. “We’re, in a sense, having to pay for the errors of the past,” said Ranua. She noted that the city’s planning and zoning commission is currently working to revise the city’s zoning ordinances.

In hiring Jeffries, the council

put a cap of \$5,000 on spending for his services without further council action.

### Wastewater treatment capacity

The council also reviewed steps currently underway to address the lack of wastewater treatment capacity to accommodate new development. Council member Dave Setterberg, who is spearheading the issue, noted that the city has hired a service to clean and camera a portion of the city’s sewer system. The company has already discovered three major issues in a portion of the city with the newest infrastructure, including misaligned pipes, distorted pipes, and a pipe that was pierced by a fiber optic cable conduit.

He said the city will also be conducting smoke testing on Tuesday, Aug. 25, which they hope will reveal other places where fresh water is leaking into the sewer system and consuming a portion of the city’s wastewater treatment capacity.

Setterberg said the city is also planning to hire an inspector to assess the status of the septic mound system at the airport, which used to serve both the airport and the Hoodoo Point Campground. “Those mounds were never declared to be bad,” he noted and said they may still

have “plenty of life in them.” He said bringing those back online could be one means of adding treatment capacity or reducing city expenses, perhaps by reconnecting the airport to the mound system first, then possibly reconnecting the campground if the mound is still compliant. “The mound system was rated at 9,500 gallons daily, so they’re big,” said Setterberg.

### Other business

In other action, the council:

► Heard an update on the city’s coronavirus relief funding. Ranua noted that the city received \$36,992 in pandemic funding but questioned whether it will show documented expenses that high. If not, she said, any unused funds will need to go back to St. Louis County.

Ranua noted that some cities are using excess funds to provide relief programs for local businesses and she estimated that the city might have about \$12,000 from its allotment that could be used for that purpose. The council took no action, but will have to decide what, if anything, it wants to do with the funds by Dec. 31.

► Heard a proposal from Dan Broten for the Prospectors ATV trail group to re-established a former ATV trail on the north side of Tower. The trail used to connect Tower with the high ground north of town and

eventually to McKinley Park. The council gave its unanimous approval to the plan.

► Approved a motion to solicit bids for propane for the coming heating season. The bid request will clarify that the city will not be offering to extend the contracted propane price to city employees as it has done in the recent past. Ranua noted that the city had failed to account for the fuel discounts in the past as a taxable fringe benefit. While she is now tracking the value of that benefit for employees, she said it’s a significant administrative burden. She also noted that the benefit isn’t provided equally to employees, since not everyone heats with propane.

“If you want to do something for employees, the city should find a more equitable way to do it rather than tie it to employee discounts for propane,” she said.

► Approved a new land use permit application form, based on St. Louis County’s form.

► Gave council member Setterberg the green light to continue his investigation into the calculations of the ambulance service’s fund balance by the city’s auditor. Setterberg said his initial examination has found significant discrepancies which he would like to discuss with the auditor and other third parties to better understand.

► Approved extending dou-

ble-time pay for ambulance staff for the following holidays in the second half of the year: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Eve afternoon and evening.

► Agreed to post a new ambulance supervisor position, which will take the place of two assistant director positions that used to exist on the service.

► Approved a resolution to accept \$50,000 in grant funds on behalf of the Tower Economic Development Authority for a COVID-19 relief loan program for local businesses.

► Heard from Mayor Orlyn Kringstad on blight. Kringstad noted that the city had received several blight complaints in the past month and that those residences subject to complaint had received blight notices.

► Noted that Tower Ambulance emergency medical responder Steve Freshour had recently passed his testing to be certified as an emergency medical technician, or EMT.

► Approved the posting of a vacancy on the Tower Economic Development Authority board left by the resignation of Joan Broten.

## TRIVIAL...Continued from page 4

ensure the health and safety of its students, staff, and families while resuming full in-person classes in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. By comparison, the bus software was trivial, she said.

As a former education administrator in charge of a \$20 million Head Start program in Los Angeles, I found everything to be important. But indeed, some issues are minor, and some are major. Comparisons, particularly those made after the fact, often suggested minor issues to be trivial.

I’ve also been involved with many, many boards over the decades, and I can confidently say that giving undue attention to relatively minor issues is a challenge all of them faced at some time. There have been some real head-scratchers, to be sure. Why is it that boards can become so embroiled in relatively inconsequential things, while seeming at times almost detached from engaging with big issues confronting them?

My take on it is that most board members readily relate to issues with which they’re most familiar, and feel more competent in delving into those things, offering opinions and possible solutions at will. As organizations and issues get larger, typical board members have less expertise in dealing with those things, and that’s where they lean more heavily on the professionals they hire to run those operations.

But whether one calls it trivial or minor, Taylor was spot on in questioning the board’s action to go ahead with in-person learning without more thorough discussion.

Superintendent Reggie Engebretson came prepared with good information, including parent and teacher surveys, and the board should expect recommendations they receive to be well-supported.

How to best accomplish getting children back in school in the age of COVID-19 is a

matter of heated debate even among education and health professionals. It’s not all that surprising that numerous board members would have few comments or questions and lean on the expertise of others on a district-wide issue that’s almost completely foreign to them.

To be sure, the COVID-19 landscape in our area is about as good as one could hope for to have children back in a school-based setting. But still, the virus is present. Cases among children have spiked significantly in recent weeks. Last week in St. Louis County, children ages 6 to 19 were the single largest age group among newly diagnosed cases. And children can spread it among themselves and others.

Taylor and fellow board member Chris Koivisto both raised good questions and concerns, and both voted against resuming in-person classes. That’s enough to suggest that an issue so concerning merited additional discussion, if only to

ask more questions. Taylor suggested, and will get, a follow-up working session she hopes will help to convince herself and Koivisto that the board has made the right decision.

But there was nothing standing in the way of continuing the discussion that night to reach that consensus or tabling the decision and reconvening one or two nights later. While dissent on some issues is to be expected, on such an important issue as the health and safety of our children and communities, a unified front would have sent a stronger message of assurance. As it is, a split decision likely did little to help parents, who are undecided about what to do, reach a decision about their child’s schooling.

Schools in other parts of the country have already shown how difficult it is to create a safe and healthy in-person learning environment; then again, we’re not other parts of the country. The state left the ultimate decision

to local districts, which are free to be more restrictive than the baseline benchmarks suggest. Koivisto even commented that he wants to see where the district can exceed minimum guidelines.

While district staff are already hard at work presumably doing their best to make in-person learning happen, it would have better if the board had taken the time to more fully discuss this incredibly important issue and get everyone on board. This is the same board that devoted time across three separate meetings to what to do about pay for spring sports coaches. Surely the health and safety of the district’s children and staff deserved more than an hour’s consideration, enough to reach a consensus that this is the right path forward. Hopefully that affirmation will come at the next meeting. Consensus in this is absolutely not a trivial pursuit.

Week of Aug. 17

**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 August 18.

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](http://vermilioncountry.org).

# Katrina Broten Photography & Design opens a studio

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- With an AA in graphic design, a BA in design technology, and a lifelong love of photography, Katrina Broten has taken the next step and opened a portrait photography studio on Tower's Main Street.

Katrina Broten Photography & Design is located next to Vermilion Shear Image, in the space that formerly held the VSI fitness room. The space has been totally transformed, with new paint, flooring and the addition of four different interchangeable portrait stations. The studio is open by appointment, and its official grand opening date is Monday, Aug. 17.

"I specialize in portraits and special event photography," Broten said. "But I also do logo design, and graphic design of things like announcements, invitations, and holiday cards."

"I am able to use many different backgrounds and backdrops," she said, "and also have a lot of props to create different scenes. Everything is customized to meet the need of the session."

Broten has been doing photography professional for the last four years. She said she loves being able to shoot portraits outdoors.

"I love the natural light," she said, "it is so unique."

But working with the weather, and the unpredictability of lighting, is also a challenge.

"The studio gives me the opportunity to control the lighting," she said.

Broten does a lot of milestone photos.

"I do newborns up to graduation photos," she said. "I love getting repeat business and getting to watch children grow. It is really fun."

Broten is busy getting ready for graduation and the family photo holiday season.



Right: Katrina Broten shows off her new photography studio. She also shared some recent portraits, including a young mermaid, a newborn, and a family shot.



This summer, she has mostly done outdoor work, including a recent "mermaid" session, where a child dresses in a mermaid costume and photos are taken by the lake.

Broten offers dozens of different photography packages. They all include a specific amount of photography time, "perfected" photographs that



are fine-tuned using special software, small "show-off" cards, different options for outfit/prop changes, and digital copies of photographs. Special packages are available for many family milestones, such as newborns, special birthdays, and anniversaries. She also can do regular professional portraits for businesses. Sessions are for indi-

viduals or family groups, and she even offers sessions for pets (that also include one person). Wedding photography is offered by the half-day or full-day.

"Weddings are a lot of work, but they are very rewarding," she said. "I love working with the bride and groom to create a story they can treasure."

Broten's love of working with children is evident in her photography, and it is also part of her daily life. She works as an Early Intervention Specialist in area schools, including Tower-Soudan, working with children with special needs.

You can find more samples of her work online on her Facebook page, Katrina Broten Photography & Design.



**the TIMBERJAY**

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## City of Tower filings

Councilor- two open seats with a two-year term: Sheldon Majerle (incumbent), Josh Zika, Joe Morin (current member Tower Planning and Zoning).

Councilor- two open seats with a four-year term: Dave Setterberg (incumbent), Kevin Norby (incumbent, newly-appointed to open seat on the council), and Steve Altenburg.

The election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

The Timberjay will report on the rest of township office filings next week.

## Movie night at St. James on Sunday

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is hosting a free movie night on Sunday, Aug. 16 at 6 p.m. Seating is limited to 28 upstairs and 16 downstairs (if needed). Everyone must wear a mask. "Just Mercy" is based on the true story of the world-renowned civil rights defense attorney Bryan

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

Stevenson who worked to free a wrongly condemned death row prisoner.

A powerful and thought-provoking true-story, "Just Mercy" follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan might have had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley. One of his first, and most incendiary, cases is that of Walter McMillian, who, in 1987, was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence and the fact that the only testimony against him came from a criminal with a motive to lie. The movie is rated PG-13 and stars Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, and Brie Larson.

## Victoria Zupancich graduates from The College of St. Scholastica

DULUTH- Victoria Zupancich, of Tower, graduated Summa Cum Laude from The College of St. Scholastica with a Bachelor of Arts in History. St. Scholastica is a 108-year-old private, independent college founded in the Catholic Benedictine tradition. It is nationally recognized for quality and value.

## Heiam Foundation auction bidding closes Saturday

COOK- Bidding on the Heiam Foundation online silent auction fundraiser ends on Saturday, Aug. 15 at 8 p.m. You can visit the online event by visiting <https://heiam.cbo.io>. Thank you to all who have donated, bid, and visited our site already.

There are many great auction items available. From artwork, vacations, sporting goods, gift certificates and autographed collector items, there is something for everyone.

Please check out our Facebook page for further information at WC Heiam Medical Foundation.

The WC Heiam Medical Foundation board is truly grateful for the

support of all who help us further our mission of supporting our local hospital and health services.

## EVFCU annual meeting set for Aug. 18

EMBARRASS- Due to the COVID-19, the 78th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 18 a of the Embarrass-Vermilion Federal Credit Union at 5:30 p.m. will be a business-only meeting. The meeting will be held at Timber Hall in Embarrass. Attendees will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing.

## Immanuel offers Drive-In Worship

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower will be offering a Drive-In Worship service every other week using the Vermilion Country School parking lot. Services begin at 10 a.m., and all are welcome to join us! Those attending must stay in their vehicles for the duration of the service.

Dates are set for Aug. 16, 30, and Sept. 13 and 27. If it is storming, the drive in will be canceled and worship will be recorded at the church and sent out electronically as usual.

**TOWER FARMERS MARKET**

VARIETY LOCAL FRESH

Beautiful woodworking and photography

Fridays 4-6 PM

Online each week at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)

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  
**ELY WOMEN'S OPEN**  
**AA - Every Monday**  
at noon at Ledgerrock  
Community Church, 1515  
E. Camp St., 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.,  
upstairs 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 218-365-3359,

# Four candidates vie for three school board seats

ISD 696

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

ELY - Candidates for the Ely School Board election this fall will include one incumbent, Tom Omerza, and three newcomers, former Ely teacher Darren Visser, Rachel Brophy and Hollee Coombe.

The top three vote-getters in the Nov. 3 election will join the six-member board for four-year terms, along with Ray Marsnik, Rochelle Sjoberg and Tony Colarich.

Tom Omerza is seeking his second term on the school board. "I'm running again because I want to continue contributing to our community," he said. "I don't really have a personal agenda. This is about what is best for the kids' education and their safety." He noted that the

issue of the referendum and funding for a facilities renovation project has been foremost on his agenda during most of his first term. "Even after (the referendum vote), I am looking to what is best for our kids and our community and want to contribute to that."

Former Ely teacher and coach Darren Visser was the first candidate to officially file his affidavit of candidacy. He retired from an elementary teaching position in 2019, after working in the school district for more than two decades. He also coached Ely's high school football and girls basketball teams.

"I taught here for 22 years and I have a lot of time invested in this school," he said. Visser has three children in the Ely school district, entering sixth, ninth and eleventh

grades this year. "I grew up in a small town and I understand the importance of a school to a small community. It is my turn to step up and try to help out and do what I can."

Visser said the Ely school buildings continue to need improvements. In terms of the facility renovation project referendum that went before voters this week, he said, "I'm in favor of what they are doing here. If we are going to maintain our older buildings, there will continue to be different projects that we will have to keep looking at down the line, too."

Brophy is employed at the Ely Chamber of Commerce and has lived in Ely for four years. She has two children who will be entering fourth and sixth grades this fall. She formerly taught middle school at Mesabi East.

She said having children in school here was an important factor in her entering the race for school board. "I hope I can make a difference, and I would like to try to help our community and school find a way through (the coronavirus) and get to the other side of all this," she said. "School is very important to me. I come from a long line of teachers and hope to be a part of helping out kids in this community to get the best education they can."

Coombe, if elected, would be the boss, of sorts, of her husband, Tom, who is the athletic director at ISD 696. Hollee was born and raised in Ely and is a 1995 graduate of Ely Memorial High School. She works for the Minnesota Department of Revenue and has three children in Ely schools entering first, ninth and

eleventh grades this fall.

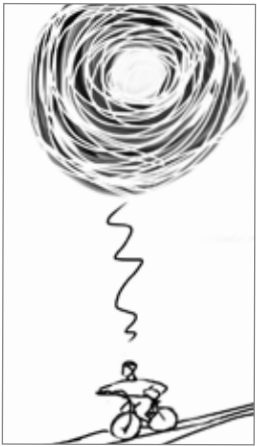
"Being an Ely girl and a parent, I feel I have a lot of ideas to contribute to our school board," she said. "I am very proud of our school and community and this is an exciting opportunity to be a part of."

Incumbent Heidi Mann announced last week that she was not interested in serving on the board past her first term, citing the growth in her business responsibilities. "I have been glad to do my part as a member of the community," she said. "I will continue to be a strong supporter of Ely Public Schools, and I thank everyone who shares in this mission."

Incumbent James Pointer did not file candidacy papers by the 5 p.m. deadline on Tuesday.

**Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



oppressive high temps  
the extended summer heat  
hot issues soaring

**CITY OF ELY**

**The James Street reconstruction project from Central Avenue to 8th Avenue continued last week. Work included the complete testing of the water main, continued road sub-cutting and storm sewer work between 5th and 8th Avenues, sidewalk installation from Central to 4th Avenue, and complete lighting base and conduit installation. A schedule is being developed for the paving and concrete remaining on the project. It is anticipated that curb may be installed toward the end of next week on the rest of the project. Paving is anticipated to begin as early as the end of next week for the first phase of the project. There are no anticipated water outages this week. Testing will be completed on the newly-installed water lines and when accepted, perhaps next week, the temporary water will be removed. Project information is posted on Facebook, and at [www.ely.mn.us](http://www.ely.mn.us). photos by K. Vandervort**

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

## Gardner Trust announces fall grant deadline

ELY – Applications for the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust's second grant cycle of 2020 are due on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

"The Trust will continue awarding grants in its established categories this fall," said Keiko Williams, the Trust's executive director. "Other arts funding agencies have adapted their grant programs to award special funding for COVID-19 related issues. But that means that 'normal' funding avenues are currently not always available for many artists and

organizations. That is one of the main reasons the Trust is maintaining its current grant programs for its arts community."

All grant applications should include a complete description of how the project will be carried out with current COVID-19 state health standards, she added.

Artists and groups can apply for grants in the following five categories:

► Individual Artist Grants encourage developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending,

concrete opportunity.

► Organization Project Grants support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. Grant support is intended to make it possible for organizations to present or produce a fine arts activity.

► Youth Grants are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts. The youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships. Youth grant applicants must schedule a grant review meeting with Williams to review draft applications. This meeting is intended to help the individual youth make their applications as compelling and well written as possible. Youth grant applicants must call or email Williams by Monday, Sept. 14 to schedule their grant review meeting.

► Scholarships are available for graduates of Ely Memorial High School who are in their third or fourth year of college studies or in graduate school. Trust scholarships are awarded to students majoring in

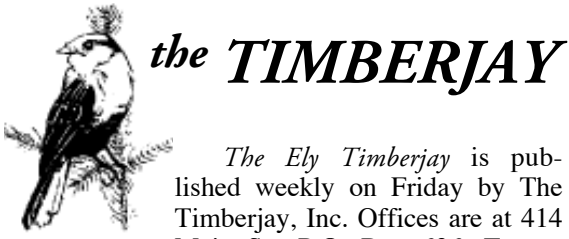
one of the disciplines of fine arts or library science.

► Operational Funding Grants fund high-quality, established Ely area organizations that produce or present fine arts activities, or provide services to artists.

Individuals and organizations that would like to have a draft application reviewed should contact Williams by the end of August. The office is open by appointment only, but draft applications can be easily reviewed by email with a telephone follow-up.

Grant forms and eligibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at [www.gardnertrust.org](http://www.gardnertrust.org). Those without internet access can contact Williams by phone at 218-365-2639 or email at [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org) to have an application mailed to them.

The deadline for applications is noon on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731 or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E. Chapman Street.



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

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Donald G.  
**Gardner**  
**Humanities**  
**Trust**

**We are now accepting**  
**2020 Arts Grant**  
**Applications**  
for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants,  
Scholarships & Operational Funding

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

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS:**  
**12:00 noon on Wed., Sept. 30**

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by the end of August, for help and review of their applications.*

**Call 365-2639 or email [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org)**  
Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Monday, Sept. 14 to schedule a grant review meeting.

# Picking up where they left off, and then some

## MnDOT work on Hwy 53 intersections to last through October

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It's impossible for anyone driving between Cook and Orr not to notice that a new season is upon us – construction season.

That will hold true for travel between Cook and Angora as well, as the Minnesota Department of Transportation is in the midst of finishing a past road

project on Hwy 53 while being immersed in another on Hwy 1.

The work currently being done north of Cook where County Road 115 and Hwy 1 intersect with Hwy 53, and similar work to be done south of Cook at the 53/1 junction there, was originally part of a construction project that created a series of passing lanes on Hwy 53. However, MnDOT encountered hurdles when it

came to doing the intersections.

"We needed to acquire right-of-way for the intersections and remove some trees, and needed some extra time for those activities, so we are actually constructing it as part of another project," District 1 Project Manager Josie Olson said.

That project would be resurfacing 21 miles of Hwy 1 west of Hwy 53, as well as five

miles of Hwy 73, including ten culvert replacements and bridge work.

The intersection south of Cook, where Hwy 53 is a divided highway, will be converted to a restricted crossing U-turn design.

On the north, the goal is to remove the angled approaches of westbound CR 115 and eastbound Hwy 1 and create safer perpendicular "T" intersections

with Hwy 53.

Olson said she expected the intersection and resurfacing projects to be completed by late October. Drivers are urged to comply with all work zone markings and speed restrictions. A speeding violation in a work zone carries a \$300 fine.

# Orr High grad Dill joins International Falls bank

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A familiar name with a local legacy has returned to the area, as Drake Dill, son of noted late state legislator David Dill, has joined Border Bank in International Falls as a business officer.

"We're from Crane Lake originally," Dill said. "I grew up on an island in Crane Lake, and I'm a graduate of Orr High School. A lot of small town, small world."

David Dill was Orr's city administrator for 11 years. He was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2002, where he developed a reputation as a "defender of the outdoors" while serving the state's large

est legislative district by area. He died in 2015 after battling cancer.

Now Drake Dill hopes to draw on that tradition of service as he takes on a new job in the area of commercial lending.

"It's an honor to be on the Border Bank team," he said. "My family has been in this area since the early 1900's – it's home. I know and understand the various businesses and commercial industries that make up our region, and look forward to helping them grow," said Dill.

Dill graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Business degree, and owned Thunderhook Fly-Ins in Ontario, Canada, with his parents Tucky and David. That resort



Drake Dill

experience is something Drake said he can lean on in his work with northern Minnesota businesses.

"A lot of these industries by default I'm familiar with, and I'm most familiar with tourism," he said. "A lot of the lending needs and banking needs in northern Minnesota, from a commercial standpoint, I'm a good fit for, and I'm looking forward to

working in that arena."

While not working on the residential side of banking, Dill said the recent uptick in the region's home sales is a good sign overall.

"It's reflective that people admire the northern Minnesota lifestyle. This is an area that we're drawing new people to, who want to come and live a rural lifestyle but still have all the perks," he said.

Also benefiting his new endeavor to assist businesses with their financial needs, he said, is the strong work ethic and determination to succeed that are historical hallmarks of business in the north lands.

"That's just kind of the northern Minnesota mentality with our people and businesses," he

said. "We do whatever it takes to get by and get ahead. All of those industries – the resort industry, the tourism industry, the timber industry, the mining industry – we're pretty hardy people up here."

Cindy Youso, International Falls Border Bank President, is happy to welcome Dill on board.

"We are excited Drake said yes to joining our team. He and his family are well-known in our region; and as a successful business owner, he will bring valuable experience to our business customers," said Youso.

Dill is married to Whitney (Mostad) Dill and enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing and flying. Dill can be reached at drake.dill@border.bank or 218-283-5556.

# Beefeaters return for Aug. 19 park concert series

COOK- Local favorite The Beefeater Brothers will again perform for "Music in the Park" from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at the gazebo in the park on River Street.

Burgers and brats will be available from St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church food stand. Patrons are encouraged to practice social distancing while enjoying the concert from lawn chairs, picnic blankets, or from their cars.

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

# Orr city council puts old fire tender up for sale

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Monday's meeting of the Orr City Council was a bit of "out with the old, in with the new" as members took action to rid the city of surplus items while receiving new ambulance funds and approving the purchase of a new pump.

Leading off the agenda was a request from the fire department to solicit bids for a 1990 International tender truck with a 3,300-gallon water tank

that has reached the end of its useful intended life.

"It has a lot of issues," Mayor Joel Astleford said.

Council member Bruce Black took notice that the request did not include a minimum bid.

"Maybe they figure it's just easier to let it go," Black said.

The council voted to accept sealed bids for the truck, to be sold "as is," through Sept. 9. For more information or to arrange an inspection, contact City Hall at 218-

757-3288.

Council members accepted a solitary bid from Elephant Lake Lodge for two electric deep fryers from the community center.

When it came time to consider four bids for propane for the 2020-21 heating season, council members weren't so quick to accept the low bid of 97 cents per gallon from Lakes Gas.

"Can we make it contingent on them coming to fix our tank?" Astleford asked.

Council member Tom Kennebeck made a motion, seconded by member Ericka Cote, to give the contract to the next lowest bidder, Ferrelgas, if Lakes Gas didn't fix the tank.

"We won't sign a contract until it's fixed," Astleford said.

City clerk Cheri Carter suggested a deadline of Sept. 1 to have the tank fixed. The council gave tentative approval to the Lakes Gas bid, pending completion of the work.

On the receiving

end of things, the council approved depositing a \$37,654.71 check from Cook Orr Healthcare District into the Orr Ambulance checking account. The payment was the first installment of the district's \$75,309.42 annual payment for ambulance services.

In other business, the council:

► Approved the purchase of a \$5,161 pump from Electric Pump, of New Prague, to replace a locked-up pump at the wastewater plant. Main-

tenance supervisor Paul Koch noted that the replacement about \$170 less than having the pump repaired.

► Approved without discussion a conflict of interest policy and the St. Louis County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

► Airport manager Rocky Hoffman gave an update on the facility's stock of jet-A fuel and replacing the airport beacon lights. Hoffman also reported that he now has the parts to reassemble the airport mower.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### NWFA exhibits nearing end

COOK- Ongoing and upcoming events at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts gallery at 210 S River Street include:

The second annual "Arts and Antiquities Garage Sale" on Saturday, Aug. 29, beginning at 9 a.m. Call 218-780-7130 during regular business hours for information about donating used art, crafts and antiques.

Dual exhibits "A Canvas and You" and "Hearts for Humanity" continue through Aug. 22.

Proceeds from the sales of the unique locally-created canvases in "A Canvas and You" are split between artists and

NWFA.

"Hearts for Humanity" is a collection of thought-provoking special paintings created by the members of the Lyric Art Colony in Virginia. The traveling exhibit is a visual fine art project that gives voice to the voiceless with images that recognize a problem and suggest a solution or hope.

"Open Studio Art" will resume at the gallery on Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Artists are welcome to bring their projects to the gallery to work with other artists.

Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Masking and social distancing are required.

Find more information by emailing NWFA at nwfamn.org@gmail.com, or on the NWFA website at nwfamn.org, or on Facebook.

### Heiam auction closes Saturday!

COOK- Bidders wanting to get in on the many items available in the the WC Heiam Medical Foundation benefit online auctions have until Saturday to submit their bids or sponsor the event by visiting <https://heiam.cbo.io>.

From artwork and vacations to sporting goods, gift certificates and autographed collector items, there is something for everyone.

Bidding will close on Saturday, Aug. 15 at

8 p.m.

Sponsoring is another option on the foundation's website. Each level of sponsorship includes a special gift as thanks. Donations can be made by check or credit card.

Please check out the Facebook page for further information at WC Heiam Medical Foundation.

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**TOGO...**Continued from page 1

is far out of proportion to the money that it will supposedly save the state of Minnesota, far out of proportion. The damage is just going to be tremendous," Davis said.

While the DOC says that 48 full-time equivalent positions at Togo will be affected, District 6A Rep. Julie Sanstede, DFL-Hibbing, said that number is deceptive.

"Those numbers are not accurate. In Togo there are 60-plus employees; they're not all 100-percent FTEs," Sanstede said. "When you lose a job in greater Minnesota, it's like the equivalent of losing 50 to 100 jobs in the metro area. Making cuts like they're proposing absolutely disproportionately impacts greater Minnesota. 'One Minnesota' does not mean 'Let's hammer greater Minnesota.'"

For those who lose their jobs, there aren't any other equivalent local options, Davis said.

"As far as good-paying, reliable jobs, we can't replace those jobs," he said. "There are people in this area that travel some distance to work in the mines, but as far as a more local employer, the correctional facility is it. We can't replace it."

Max Hall, Public Affairs and Political Action Director at the AFSCME Council 5 office in Duluth, the union that represents Thistledeew employees, said they've been in contact with many of their members, and the impact has been jolting.

"When I hear all these stories from our members, it's really heartbreaking — they're not sure if they're going to have a job," he said. "Members are moving up to work at Togo and they buy homes. They have families. A couple of these folks are couples with young children, and they just bought homes up there. These communities need facilities like this, and especially with really small communities that are really close knit, this is vitally important to make sure we're fighting to keep these facilities."

According to DOC Communications Director Nicholas Kimball, most of those positions will simply be eliminated, although some will be retained to implement the facility's Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) at other correctional facilities.

**Broader impact**

MCF-Willow River, another CIP site, is also slated for closure, but Kimball said Togo will likely be shut down first.

"We have to move quickly to realize savings in this fiscal year and anticipate the process being completed in this calendar year or very early into 2021," he said.

If MCF-Togo is shuttered, it won't be only laid-off workers and their families who will suffer. "The people who work at this camp, off the job they're some of the leaders in the community," Davis said. "They're some of the

first to volunteer in their communities. I know one of them who's the fire chief for a volunteer fire department. If they have to leave the area it would be such a tremendous loss, it really would, because they're very valuable people."

Sanstede amplified Davis's concerns.

"The ripple effect that relocating these individuals would have on our rural communities would be devastating," she said. "The same people who are working in those facilities are the volunteer firefighters, the EMTs, the first responders, school board members. They're the people who are buying groceries at the one small grocery store in the community and keeping that small business owner afloat."

The loss of the CIP restorative justice work crews at Togo who do projects throughout the area will be felt, too.

"Every spring, just before Memorial Day, they come in and clean up the Morcom Township cemetery," Davis said. "That's one of the many things that they do. They take care of a number of DNR campgrounds and boat landings. They're smaller campgrounds, but if the inmates are not there taking care of them, they're going to close, because the DNR says they just don't have the money to take care of them."

Willow River serves as an example of how closures can negatively affect local governments, too. Hall said an MCF-Willow River employee who also serves on the Sturgeon Lake City Council told him that the city stands to lose about \$60,000 in revenue if that facility closes.

**CIP jeopardized**

The CIP began in 1992 at Willow River and was expanded to Togo in 2015 when the facility transitioned from Thistledeew Camp for juveniles to working with minimum-security adults. Initially, adult women were served at Togo, but today the facility serves up to 90 men in Phase 1 of the CIP, which involves chemical dependency treatment, education, restorative justice, physical training, military bearing, drill, and ceremony, work crew, and transition preparation.

The program's success was documented by a study in 2006 that found CIP reduced the chances of participants reoffending and being reincarcerated by more than 30 percent. In current dollars, the study found CIP saves the department about \$6,600 per participant.

Kimball reaffirmed DOC's commitment to maintaining the CIP at other facilities, but Davis, with his law enforcement background, is skeptical that it will remain as effective. DOC officials are overlooking a critical element that makes CIP a success — Togo's rural location and camp-like setting.

"They're going to transfer those programs to other facilities such as Stillwater or St. Cloud. You're operating them out of a prison-like facility, and you're not going to get the same success rate out of a heavily confined prison. It's a different environment."

Sanstede said the advantage of having the program at Togo should be obvious to urban-oriented officials and legislators.

"Metro people know this," she said. "They always come to northern Minnesota to unwind and decompress, to relax. [For inmates] getting away from the noise and clutter and din and chaos of life and going to a facility like Togo to take a deep introspective look at what's causing them to drink or turn to drugs — you can't do that in Stillwater. It won't be the same."

The other element larger facilities can't replicate is a close-knit staff all committed to the same mission, Davis noted.

"Part of their success is their belief in their program. They believe in this program so much that the staff gets very invested in the success of the inmates who are there to participate," he said.

Sanstede is adamant that moving the CIP and closing Togo is a bad decision.

"It will be devastating and reckless on the part of the state to take something that is so beneficial in the lives of individuals struggling with drugs or alcohol, and taking that success story away from them and adding layers of costs on the backs of taxpayers when they reoffend," Sanstede said. "Here we have a shining star, we have a Minnesota success story, and we have by far the most dedicated, compassionate, skilled set of workers, and we just expect them to move? There are short-term costs, but there are going to be much greater costs, and you cannot put a cost on saving someone's life and changing someone's life permanently for the better."

**Political landscape**

The current projected budget deficit that DOC

faces through June 2021 includes a \$4.2 million shortfall in MINNCORR Industries revenue, and approximately \$14 million resulting from employment-related costs, including compensation, step increases, and health-care costs, according to Kimball. Of equal concern is the looming revenue shortfall for the next two-year budget cycle stemming from the COVID-19 induced recession.

"COVID-19 has impacted the state's revenues and budget reserves, leaving the entire state in a difficult budgetary position moving forward," Kimball said.

Sanstede isn't buying the notion that Togo and Willow River are the answer to DOC's budget woes.

"This program, this department itself was fully funded through 2021, so I need to understand why we're in such a deficit," Sanstede said. "They're not going to save the money that they're projecting if they just move the program to another location. They're only going to save the amount of a couple of facilities, but with the cost of putting the inmates someplace else, running the program, bringing in staff to work with them, they're not going to save the money they're talking about."

The budget crisis was created when the Senate failed to act on a supplemental budget request that had cleared the House, and Sanstede has been soured on the lack of communication from Gov. Tim Walz and his administration from the moment she heard

about DOC's decision to close Togo.

"I learned about this through a text from a constituent," she said. "I had no outreach from the governor's office. I had no indication this was going to happen. This is terrible communication. This is a blunder."

Sanstede said legislators were not given anything by the Walz administration that outlined possible consequences of failing to pass a supplemental budget measure.

"That should have been communicated," Sanstede said. "If it really is hinging on a supplemental budget bill, then it's time for the governor to roll up his sleeves and go back to work and start working with the legislature so we will pass this. To get out of this successfully we're going to have to work together."

In addition to the Togo closure being the wrong move to address the budget shortfall, Sanstede also believes it's a bad decision for addressing a growing backlog of offenders. Instead of closing Togo, the DOC should consider expanding it, she said.

"When we emerge from COVID and things get back to some semblance of normal, we already have a backlog in our court system of chemical dependency, drug dependency, and mental health issues that are piling up during this time," she said. "We're going to have to deal with them. We're going to have a need for probably more beds, not less. We have an opportunity in Togo to expand

if we need to. Instead of eliminating jobs we should have an eye on expanding jobs. Why we would put them in less successful programs at higher cost, I don't know. We're not looking very far into the future by doing this."

Meanwhile, AFSCME Council 5 staff are busy working with members to advocate on their own behalf, Hall said. They organized a phone campaign this week to assist workers with contacting legislators and legislative aides to push for supplemental funding that would keep Togo open. They're also being encouraged to participate in a larger effort involving AFSCME Council 5 and other unions to lobby Congress, and specifically the Senate, to pass the HEROES Relief Act which would provide more than \$1 trillion in state aid, Hall said.

"That's something that's absolutely critical for our members, given that they work in state and local governments and nonprofits that would benefit," Hall said.

Sanstede said she was scheduled to meet with Walz and DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell on Tuesday afternoon to get a full update.

Meanwhile, Davis suggested Walz hadn't helped himself in the eyes of rural Minnesotans with this most recent slight.

"I know it's upsetting people that Gov. Walz's administration has decided to put the burden of this shortfall on outstate Minnesota," he said. "That's another thing sticking in the craw of a number of people."

**ELY ROTARY AUCTION CANCELED**



For 30 years, the Ely Rotary has held an auction to raise funds for our myriad local projects: supporting youth activities, community groups, and other major projects such as benches and tables in Whiteside Park, Vets Memorial, Trezona Trail, and more.

It has always been made possible by the generosity of over 100 local businesses, donating items we could auction.

This year, many of those businesses are struggling. So rather than ask more of them, we want to say, "Thanks for all of your previous support"...and we plan to resume our auction in the future.

- NEXT MAY -

We Will Celebrate 100 Years of Service to Our Community!

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PUBLIC HEALTH

# Ely's Historic State Theater goes high tech for air safety

ELY - Out of concern for the safety of their patrons in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ely's Historic State Theater (EHST) installed a Needle Point Bipolar Ionization (NPBI) air purification system, believed to be the first such system in the area, to provide state-of-the-art protection. Research by the theater's engineer, Denis Miller, also the treasurer on the organization's board of directors, focused on the tiny particles that are suspended in the air and cannot be filtered out by existing high-quality

air filters. "This is especially important in helping to make public spaces safer," he said. "This new system injects billions of electrically charged particles, called ions, into the air. If COVID-19 is in the air or on surfaces, the ions attach to the virus and render it harmless." He explained that the naturally occurring and now-concentrated ions have proven to kill many pathogens including COVID-19 by up to 99.4 percent in independent tests by Innovative Bioanalysis Co., of

Cypress, Calif. The improved technology developed by Global Plasma Systems (GPS) is self-cleaning, virtually maintenance free and certified ozone free, he added. "Ozone is a toxic gas produced by some other ionization systems but is not produced by the (GPS) NPBI system," he said. "With the new system that has been installed our EHST theater will be much cleaner and safer during your movie, music, and theatrical performances," Miller said.

# Former Tower clerk to face jury

REGIONAL — Former Tower Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith is scheduled to face a St. Louis County jury in December over felony charges stemming from her acknowledged destruction of a city laptop computer sometime last year. A pre-trial hearing in the case is set for Nov. 2, with the jury trial currently scheduled to begin on Dec. 1. Keith is charged with damage to property in the first degree after she acknowledged to a Breitung police officer, shortly after her suspension as clerk-treasurer in June of 2019, that she had destroyed a city-owned laptop computer that she had been using. The city council had ordered Keith to return the laptop at the time of her suspension, but she never did so. At the time, Keith stated that she had her son shoot the computer, then she ran over it with her pickup and subsequently burned the remains in a fire. She contends that the computer was no longer working at the time that she destroyed it, although that claim became difficult to verify given her apparent efforts to completely destroy the device. If convicted of the felony charge, Keith could face a maximum sentence of five years of incarceration and/or a \$10,000 fine. Keith and her defense attorney, Andrew Tiegs Poole, were successful in getting an earlier charge that she had falsified official city records dismissed. Keith and her attorney may face a tougher task with the remaining charge, given that Keith acknowledged her destruction of the device in her statement to police.

# ELECTION...Continued from page 1

the perception among some that inequities still exist be enough to lead them to turn to Villebrun Lilya as their answer? Chavers was born and raised off the Bois Forte Reservation, but moved there in 1977 and has spent more than 35 years in tribal government administration, with program administration stints in housing, education, and health care eventually leading to a term as a tribal council representative from 2008 to 2012. She was elected chairperson four years ago, and while her experience has been beneficial, she said the job has been a continuous learning experience. "I really love my

job," Chavers said. "I've learned a lot in the last four years. Usually most politicians dread the day-to-day stuff. I view things in a more positive manner." Chavers noted that the tribal chairperson doesn't vote in council meetings except in the case of a tie, but serves to identify issues the council needs to address, can propose solutions and directions, and facilitates the council's work while being a spokesperson responsible for communicating that work to members, ensuring equity, and pursuing potentially beneficial relationships with local, state, national, and other tribal officials and programs. Chavers said she's

had plenty to keep her busy since she first stepped into the position. "We had outdated tribal code, we had outdated ethics, and we had a lot of policy and procedures that weren't being handled," she said. She's also had to weather two crises while in office, an extended government shutdown and the current COVID-19 pandemic. Some things have progressed steadily, while others, such as a desire to remove the oversight of Fortune Bay Casino from the tribal council and place it under a newly-created gaming commission composed of tribal members, have moved more slowly.

While the gaming commission proposal was high on her list of priorities coming into the job, it's taken nearly four years to reach the point where a proposal has been circulated among tribal members for comment. "There used to be a board of directors," Chavers said. "It was a costly board. The staff at the time didn't feel we could afford it. We had some steps to make up at Fortune Bay regarding finances, so it wasn't a good time. Now it's OK, we've kind of gotten back on our feet. We want tribal members to have input. That's what we're asking for." And while Villebrun Lilya is in full agreement on the need for a gaming commission, her criticism of the document highlights a theme that runs through nearly all of the issues she is running on: a lack of clear communication between tribal leaders and their constituents. "I have reviewed the documents that the tribal government has put out, and there's not a lot there to comment on," she said. "I would like to have seen more of their plan put out there for the people to comment on. Are they looking for just a yes or a no? I don't know. The communication between the tribal government and our community members is poor right now, and this is an example of that."

Chavers said she's strengthened the tribal code, hiring more police officers for more rapid response when complaints are filed, prosecuting violators in a more timely manner, and recruiting more input from tribal members about what they are willing to support to end the problem. Both candidates also prioritize strengthening tribal identity through increased education about tribal traditions and support for cultural practices and Ojibwe language learning. Chavers emphasized a need to also educate the outside world about Ojibwe culture, while Villebrun Lilya wants to promote greater use of technology to make education available to tribe members. Overall, Villebrun Lilya believes she has the vision and leadership skills to bring about needed change to Bois Forte. "I think one thing the tribal government needs to do beyond communicating with band members is that we need to be able to improve our services, and that's going to be organization wide," she said. "We do have very good services and we have talented staff and educated staff. But we need to improve, we need to make good financial decisions. We can't continue as we are now."

Having done the heavy lifting in leading multiple reform efforts the past four years, Chavers believes progress is happening, and credits a tribal council that she says works well together. Her intimate knowledge of that work, her many connections that can benefit the tribe, and her broad and lengthy experience in tribal government are all reasons Chavers feels she's the best choice to continue as tribal chairperson. "I'm very well-seasoned," Chavers said. "I feel I'm the best person because I have many years of experience in tribal government. I think that gives me an upper edge. I'm so proud of the tribal leaders that are on the council now and the things we've done the past four years. It just fills your heart knowing that you had the opportunity to do this and you're doing it."

## TOWER BREITUNG WASTEWATER BOARD ATTENTION TOWER AND SOUDAN RESIDENTS



### SMOKE TESTING & SEWER SURVEY TO BE DONE AUGUST 25, 26 & 27

Inspection crews will be conducting a physical survey of the sanitary sewer system in Tower and Soudan, Tuesday, Aug. 25 through Thursday, Aug. 27. This study will involve the opening and entering of manholes in the streets and easements. An important task of the survey will be "SMOKE TESTING" of the sewer lines to locate breaks or defects in the sewer pipe system. The smoke that you see coming from the vent stacks on houses or from holes in the ground is NON-TOXIC, HARMLESS, HAS NO ODOR, AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD.

The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried-up drain traps. If this occurs, you should consult a licensed plumber. In any event, if the harmless smokes can enter through faulty plumbing, the potential exists for dangerous sewer gases to enter your home. Should smoke enter your home, you may contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in the area, and they will be pleased to help and check with you as to where and why the smoke is entering your home. If you have any seldom used drains, please pour water in the drain to fill the trap, which will prevent sewer gases or odors from entering the building.

Some sewer lines and manholes are located on the backyard easement property line. Whenever these lines require investigation, members of the inspection crew will need access to the easements for the sewer lines and manholes. Homeowners do not need to be home and the workmen will not need to enter your house.

Photographs will be made of leaks occurring in the system. We anticipate the smoke testing will require approximately three days to complete. Your cooperation is appreciated. The information gained from this study will be used to improve the local sewer service in Tower and Soudan and may reduce the eventual cost to taxpayers.

Should you have any questions, please contact Matt Tuchel, Wastewater Plant Operator, at 218-780-2560 or email: towersoudanwater@accessmn.com.

Thank You, Tower Breitung Wastewater Board

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VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

# VCS getting ready to bring students back to school

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**TOWER-** Being a really small school sometimes has its advantages: small class sizes, plenty of room to move around, teachers who truly get to know all their students, and the ability to change schedules to best meet the needs of the student body. For Vermilion Country School, adapting to the new safety protocols for school opening is a lot simpler than in a larger building.

VCS is a free public school for students in grades 7-12. It attracts students in a 30-mile radius from Tower. The school offers a focus on environmental education, with multi-grade classes and a commitment to hands-on learning as much as possible.

VCS is getting ready to resume in-person education, after moving to a distance learning model last winter along with all the other schools in the state.

The school plan, detailed in a multi-page flyer being sent to all families, is called the "In-Person Flexible Hybrid Model." The plan includes details on face mask usage (required indoors, in school vehicles, and outdoors if social distancing is not possible), social distancing guidelines when indoors, and sanitizing measures. The school is providing a clean cloth mask for each student daily, though students are free to bring their own masks.

"This model combines a mix of in-person

and distance learning for most students," Zobitz said, "with full distance learning available each day for students who prefer or need that model."

This model has two phases, starting with the in-person model to create a positive learning environment and create strong teacher-student relationships.

"Teachers advocated for the opportunity to focus their efforts on a classroom model that enables them to see their students in person," he said.

But the model also calls for implementing hybrid learning strategies, so students are able to continue to connect virtually with their teachers and classmates on days they are at home. This option would only come into play if required.

The plan is contingent on the county's 14-day case rate, which right now stands at 3.87 per 10,000 for the northern half of the county, below the 10 cases per 10,000 threshold that would require moving to a more hybrid model.

But even moving to a state-mandated hybrid model might allow in-person daily learning.

"Hybrid is based on the capacity of the building," said school administrator Frank Zobitz. "Under the hybrid model we can have 40 students in the building."

"We want to do everything we can to have kids here," Zobitz said.

The school will also be offering a distance learning option, for families who want to keep their students at home.

"This is being offered

as a long-term commitment," Zobitz said, "and we will make sure the student is set up to successfully do distance learning from home."

VCS is focused on providing a safe and supportive educational environment for students from seventh grade through age 21. The school's mission is to encourage the development of academic, social, and emotional maturity, and recognizes that all students are on their own path and timelines in regard to achieving their potential. The school's small size allows teachers to "meet students where they are," Zobitz said, "and then encourages them to take the next steps needed in their development."

"Vermilion Country School actively looks for what makes each student special," said Zobitz.

The first two weeks of school this year will not involve regular classes, but instead will be focused on orienting students, both returning and new, to the new school schedule and higher expectations.

School staff wants to make sure they can erase the impact of the disruption to learning caused by last year's quick shift to distance learning.

"We want our students starting back at school with a strong base," Zobitz said. "We want to take care and ease them into a new way of doing things,"

"We have done a lot of planning on what the first two weeks look like," Zobitz said. Teachers came back to school on Aug. 11, giving them plenty of time for planning for in-person, and if necessary, distance

learning this year.

Currently the school's enrollment is stable or a little higher than last year, though the school is still hoping to recruit some more students.

## Basics in the morning; electives all afternoon

The school's new schedule has core classes on a daily basis in the morning, and electives and environmental education in the afternoon.

"Our afternoons will be activity-based," said Zobitz, "with environmental education, indoor/outdoor physical education activities, life skills, performing arts, technology, wood shop, and community service."

In previous years, environmental ed and other special activities were scheduled on Wednesdays, in lieu of regular core classes. The problem, Zobitz noted, was that the weather did not always cooperate with the school's plans for outdoor activities, and it was difficult to reschedule. This new schedule will give the staff more flexibility to schedule outdoor activities on days the weather is agreeable.

"We want to get our students outdoors as much as possible," Zobitz said.

The schedule for afternoon classes will shift each semester, with some semesters offering three class periods in the afternoon, and others just two, allowing for more in-depth exploration of topics.

This year's environmental education includes two all-school overnight trips to the Northern Tier

High Adventure Base in Ely. A two-day fall trip in late September will include the option to have students spend the entire week, spending the extra days on a trip into the Boundary Waters. A two-day winter trip in February will have students sleeping in cabins, but those wishing to try out winter camping can opt for an extra night sleeping outdoors.

"We are really excited to have Michael Joint back on our staff," said Zobitz. The school just hired Joint as a part-time paraprofessional and part-time environmental education teacher. Joint was a para at the school previously and left to go back to finish his undergraduate degree in environmental education. He has been working at the High Adventure Base, but he is excited to be back working with students on a daily basis.

All the costs and equipment needed for these trips are covered by the High Adventure Base.

The school also has a week-long trip later in the spring planned to the Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center in Sandstone (formerly called Audubon Center of the Northwoods). This trip is also being offered free-of-charge to students.

Afternoon classes are a mix of required classes and electives. Environmental Ed, physical education (outdoors/indoors), and performing arts are required. Electives include technology skills which will focus on software, hardware, and computer repair; life skills with a focus on cooking, car repair, sewing, and

budgeting/money skills; yearbook/newspaper; and wood shop.

Performing arts will include choir, instrumental lessons, dance, and public speaking. The school's new digital piano lab, which was installed last year just prior to moving to distance learning, will finally get used.

## COVID safety

All students and staff will have temperature checks before entering the vans/bus or the building. Students and staff will need to wear masks while in the building.

The school's senior dining program will be put on hold to start, to let the school adjust to the new serving requirements.

"Once we get the system down," Zobitz said, "then we can bring senior dining back, first as a carryout service, and then we will see if there is enough space to safely seat them."

If a student or staff member does test positive for COVID-19, the school will work with a team designated by the Minnesota Department of Education to determine what steps need to be taken. Details on health monitoring and procedures if a student or staff does test positive for COVID-19 are provided in the back-to-school flyer.

The school itself has gotten a summer makeover. Almost all the walls have a fresh coat of paint. Staff has cleared out extraneous furniture to make cleaning of surfaces easier. New Chromebook computers have been purchased for all students.

You can learn more about VCS at [vermilion-country.org](http://vermilion-country.org).

## GARDEN...Continued from page 1

well as the well-weathered hand-hewn log storage shed. The neatly-kept lawn includes apple trees, many more small plantings and a screened-in gazebo complete with a small dining table decorated with beautiful arrangements of flowers fresh-cut from the yard. This is a favorite spot for Pong Robinson to enjoy her time outdoors, no matter what the weather.

And with all those flowers, Pong spends a lot of time outdoors. Creating such gardens have always been her dream, and now that she is retired, it has basically become a full-time and much-loved job.

Pong bought her house in the fall of 2017. She retired from her job at the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in the Twin Cities in February 2018 and moved up to Tower.

Pong's sister married a man who lives on the Vermilion Reservation, and the two sisters have always tried to live near each other.

"She is my only family," Pong said.

When Pong was getting ready to retire, her sister started looking for a suitable house. The main requirement, of course, was that the house had a



**Pong Robinson started her gardens at her Tower home in 2018. She starts most of her flowers from seed.** photo by J. Summit

big enough yard to support a large expanse of flowers. This house was a little bigger than Pong and her two cats required, but the yard was exactly what she wanted, so based on photos taken by her sister, she bought it.

"This is the perfect size yard for me," she said.

The house still bears the nameplate of the Burgess family, and the Burgess family members I spoke with were pleased to see the family house so well cared for and are amazed at the transfor-

mation of the yard into a flower paradise.

The most amazing thing about Pong's garden is that this is only the second summer she has been in Tower. The first year she hired Charlie Winger to remove a few trees and help prepare some of the flower beds. Last year she planted plenty of flowers. This year, the yard really showed off the expertise of this gardener.

Almost all the flowers in the beds were planted from seed, purchased not from any fancy mail-order

shop, but from a local big box store in Virginia.

"They have a good variety and good prices," she said.

There were flowering hydrangea bushes in front of the house, which she has divided and added to the roadside beds. She has also gotten cuttings from her sister's house.

Pong's neighbors say they see her outside most of the day when weather permits. She admits she spends a lot of time both weeding and watering. A riding lawnmower lets her

keep her lawn in tip-top shape, but she does everything else by hand, and by herself.

The pathways from the street to her front door are lined with football-sized rocks, a new addition to her yard this summer. She found the rocks by a nearby road construction site and hauled them all back to her yard with many trips in her small car, by herself of course.

Pong's gardening skills are all homegrown, learning by trial and error. She had large gardens at her previous homes, first in Buffalo, N.Y., and then the Twin Cities, where she worked for 14 years before retiring.

She enjoys the perks of life in Tower. "This is a really nice small town," she said. "I am a very private person. But I have some really nice neighbors."

Though she mostly likes to keep to herself, Pong said she is happy that so many people will stop and look at her flowers.

"I hope the flowers last a long time," she said, "and that the weather cooperates."

The garden, the first week in August, was absolutely at peak bloom,

except for the tallest sunflowers evenly spaced along the roadside, which were not quite ready to blossom.

"My retirement hobby was going to be to plant a bunch of flowers and be surrounded by them," Pong said.

Out back, parallel to the alley, is a large vegetable garden that grows all the usual favorites, along with some vegetables more common to Korea, the country where Pong was born and lived until she was 21, when she emigrated to America. Pong said she mostly sticks close to home, and doesn't eat out, so she is cooking for herself most days.

"I grow, harvest, and then make," she said. "That is fun. I love to watch things growing."

In the winter, when there is no gardening to do, she luckily has another hobby that is more suitable for indoors - oil painting.

"I like to paint still lifes and scenery," she said.

And her neighbors report that Pong is just as talented at painting as she is at gardening.

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ISD 696

# Ely students set to return to school in-person on Sept. 8

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — School board members here Monday night approved the administration team’s plan to re-open school buildings for in-person learning to begin the 2020-21 school year amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz released guidelines last month on how all state school districts are to approach the school year, using the prevalence of new COVID-19 cases in each county as a starting point for school leaders as they considered which models of instruction they’ll employ this fall.

Schools must adhere to parameters determined by the Minnesota Department of Health in implementing or shifting between three learning models laid out in the 2020-21 school year planning guidance: in-person learning, hybrid learning, and distance learning, using “a localized, data-driven approach” to put student and staff safety first.

ISD 696 school board chair Ray Marsnik introduced the recommendation that both the Washington and Memorial schools will begin the new school year with in-person learning.

“I think we are all in agreement that students learn best when they

in school,” he said. “In looking at the plans, I am glad to see that we are taking every effort to make sure that our students and staff are going to be made as safe as possible. In making our decision it is important that we listen to the health and medical experts and not the politicians. That was a concern of mine. The easiest part to all this is going to be opening the school. The hardest part is making sure we remain open. We have a lot of work ahead of us.”

“Throughout the school year, we will need to be flexible and adapt to the fluid nature of this pandemic,” Superintendent Erik Erie said. “The Departments of Education and Health will work with our school district and local health professionals to consistently track the virus to determine if and/or when school may need to adjust the learning plan.”

ISD 696 administrators emphasized that while the Ely learning plan says “all students return to school,” parents have the choice of keeping any or all of their children at home and the district is mandated to provide a distance-learning option.

“This would mean joining their classmates virtually from home and participating to the fullest extent possible,” K-5 Principal Anne Oelke

said. “There will be daily expectations.”

Parents must notify the building principal if they intend to utilize distance learning.

Surveys of parents and teachers were conducted in recent weeks to gauge the reception of implementing the learning plan scenarios. For the Ely high school parents, 47.6 percent indicated they were comfortable with in-person learning with additional safety precautions, while 29.4 percent favored hybrid learning plan, and 19 percent favored distance learning.

A majority of Ely teachers (34 out of 42) responded positively to the survey question, “If students returned in the fall are you comfortable returning to the classroom?” Just three local teachers indicated they were not comfortable with returning to the classroom, and five teachers “had serious concerns.”

Schoolboard members voted unanimously to approve the administrative team’s recommendation to begin the school year with in-person learning.

The plans were released to district families this week via email and posted on the Ely Public School Website. Administrators are asking families and staff to

self-identify their health risks related to COVID-19 so they can accurately create learning plans for all students.

The learning plans for both K-5 and 6-12 students are similar but some differences were highlighted by Oelke and 6-12 principal Megan Anderson.

The following health and safety practices will be implemented:

-Screening and temperature readings for all students and staff,

-Modify arrival/dismissal processes and stagger class and lunchtimes to minimize congestion and use social distancing when possible,

-Avoid large gatherings or congregating before or after school and during lunchtimes,

-All elementary students will have recess every day

-Memorial School will support a “closed campus” for lunchtime and all students will eat lunch in the gym balcony or bleachers,

-Routine cleaning and disinfection will increase,

-Schools will follow MDH/MDE guidance regarding face coverings for all students, staff and visitors,

-Stress frequent hand-washing and good hygiene habits,

-Additional hand-washing stations will be

designated in the hallways, -Provide hand sanitizer throughout the buildings,

-Additional staff will be utilized to monitor social distancing in hallways and bathrooms,

-Markings on floors and walls will be installed to visually give guidance for social distancing practices and signage for cleanliness habits such as appropriate hand washing and coughing or sneezing,

-Additional tables, rugs and other furnishings may be removed to accommodate as much social distancing as possible in a full classroom.

School board member Tom Omerza noted that public health information in the Ely area is “cryptically” disseminated from the local hospital and medical clinic.

“If there is a positive test (for COVID-19), you don’t know where and can’t get specifics,” he said. “It seems like Ely has done a very good job. We have people from a lot of different states running around town here. Based on that angle, how the administration could put together a plan is better than the perceived success we have had in containing

the virus. I’m feeling good about what we’re doing going into the school year.”

School administrators spelled out the parameters of a hybrid learning plan and a return to distance-learning scenario. More details are available on the school website at [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us).

## Other business

In other business Monday, the school board took the following action:

➤ Approved an amended Joint Powers Agreement with Northland Learning Center to reflect the addition of ISD 2909 Rock Ridge.

➤ Approved a photography contract with Eric Sherman Images for the 2020-21 school year.

➤ Hired Sarah Hansen for the Early Childhood Family Education parent educator position for the 2020-2021 school year.

➤ Approved the Long Term Facilities Maintenance plan.

➤ Agreed to designate the proceeds of the Hoff Online Auction of surplus industrial arts in the amount of \$14,082 to the district’s industrial technology program.

## SCHOOL...Continued from page 1

and improving the overall condition of the 100-year-old buildings.

Superintendent Erik Erie monitored election returns Tuesday night in the school district board room.

“This all looks pretty good,” he told the *Timberjay* as he tracked the incoming vote totals. “We don’t have all the official results, but one of the taglines from some of our supporters, ‘strong community, strong schools,’ seems to be validated by these returns I’m seeing.”

Approval of the effort, initiated nearly two years ago, clears the way for a project that will feature renovation of the district’s existing buildings with new construction, including the creation of a new structure that links the Memorial and Washington buildings, and includes a secure entry, second gymnasium, commons space, cafeteria, renovated industrial tech learning spaces, and classroom renovations.

Voter support for the project indicated a 694-335 margin within the city of Ely. That was a difference between a 448-246 count of in-person ballots on Tuesday and a 246-89 margin among absentee ballots. Winton voters approved the measure by a 38-14 margin. In-person voting in Morse Township resulted in a 195-163 favorable count. Other absentee vote totals were not available

In September of 2018, ISD 696 secured a School Safety Grant of \$495,000 from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and plans were developed to join the buildings with a \$1.9 million structure, basically a secure entrance with hallways between buildings and not much else.

“This all started with



The \$20 million facility renovation project in the Ely school district will be centered around new construction linking Memorial and Washington buildings. Construction should start in the spring.

former Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson’s recognition, and the school board’s vision, that our school campus needed improvements,” Erie said. “That initial state grant to help link our buildings snowballed into the formation of a community advisory committee and a School Perception survey that showed there was strong support in the community for a facility renovation project.”

District officials applied to the state Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) in hopes of securing more funding and were awarded a \$7 million grant. The district committed \$500,000 from their general fund balance as well as \$1.6 million from Long Term Maintenance Funds (LTFM) to bring the total funding for the project up to \$19.65 million.

This spring and summer, Erie spearheaded an effort to gain community support for the project. He conducted presentations to various community groups around the area and supervised the distribution of a direct mailing brochure to all district households. His columns were published in local newspapers, and social media was used to

get the word out about the school project.

In addition, the school district conducted 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.

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.

## Next steps

The wrecking ball needed to demolish the former heating plant to make room for the new campus-linking structure won’t be pulling up this week, but Erie was confident Tuesday night that work on the Memorial building roof replacement and the continuation of the window replacement project on the west side of the Washington building could potentially get started this fall.

“We can’t get ahead of ourselves. The board will gather in special session on Monday to canvass the election,” he said. “Our facilities committee will soon meet with the

architect and construction managers and report back to the board on the next steps. We will consult with our public finance people regarding the sale of the bonds for the project.”

With the approval of the project this summer, construction bids could be ready by the end of the year.

“There could be shovels in the ground next spring,” Erie said. “We will need the 2021 and 2022 building seasons to hopefully be completed and ready to go in the fall of 2022.”

He said the ongoing coronavirus pandemic could impact the various phases of construction. “The facilities committee and the board will certainly be looking at priorities and re-evaluate with the public health requirements of COVID-19 in mind. Some priorities may be shifted. For instance, there could be a greater emphasis on our ventilation systems and plumbing renovations. They were already slated to have significant upgrades, but we will be looking at that closer.”

For more information on the school facility project, call Erie at 218-365-6166. Details are also available on the ISD 696 website, [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us).

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## Back from the brink

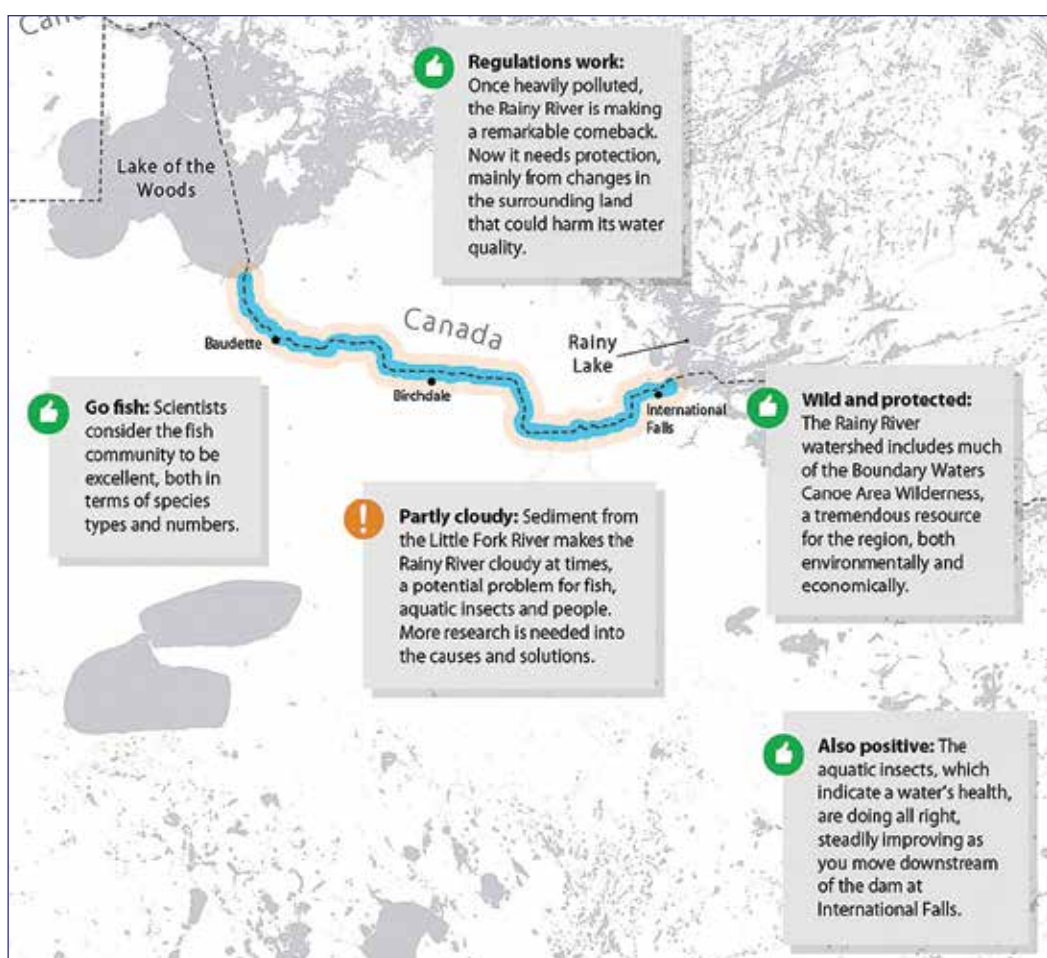
### RECOVERY

After decades of industrial abuse, the Rainy River has made a remarkable turnaround, according to new study

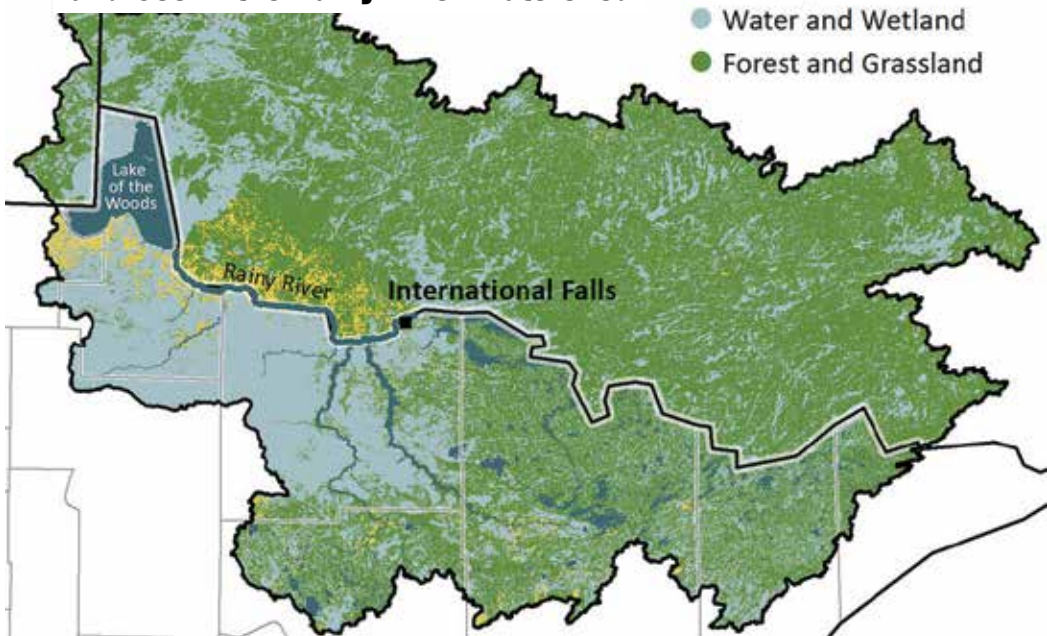
by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A half century ago, biologists with the state of Minnesota were documenting a river that had been devastated by pollution. Before environmental regulations, wood fiber and toxic chemicals from the paper industry were choking the Rainy River from industrial sites at International Falls and Fort Frances built in the early 1900s. Those mills provided jobs and economic activity, but also fouled the water in countless ways.

In 1952, state researchers had to dig through three feet of wood waste simply to find the river's water. In addition, raw sewage from the two border cities flowed virtually unchecked into the river. The industrial and municipal discharges fouled



### Land Use in the Rainy River Watershed



water quality in the river is now rated "good to excellent," and supports a diverse and thriving fishing and recreation sector that benefits communities all along the river.

"The Rainy River is a vital economic and cultural bond between the United States and Canada," says MPCA commissioner Laura Bishop. "With all partners working together — including federal, state, and local governments, Tribal Nations, industry, and environmental advocates — we have moved the river from near total destruction to one of the most treasured fishing spots in North America that is also integral

to the health of economies on both sides of the border."

A conduit between Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods, the river forms part of the border between the United States and Canada. For more than 50 years, the two countries have collaborated to restore and protect water quality, important to the river life and the people who treasure it, as the river faces new potential threats from changes in land use.

#### World class fishery

While the conditions in the river were once toxic to many

**Top: Clouds at sunset reflect in the calm waters of the Rainy River. The river has made an extraordinary comeback in terms of water quality since the introduction of environmental regulations in the 1970s.**

photos and images courtesy of the MPCA

See **RAINY RIVER**, pg. 2B

### SCHOOLS

## COVID tosses Ely fall sports into chaos

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—The release of school sports guidelines by the Minnesota State High School League last week has upended plans for the fall sports seasons here.

"The world of school athletics has changed completely and things continue to evolve," said ISD 696 Athletic Director Tom Coombe, who updated school board members on the situation on Monday night.

"Literally, every single one of our schedules is going to be blown up in some way, shape or form. We are dealing with short seasons. We are dealing with moved seasons. We don't know what winter sports will look like as they may be reduced in number of games. The good news is that some activities are moving on as scheduled."

Ely's boys and girls cross country teams, led by veteran coach Jayne Dusich, will start practice on Monday, Aug. 17 for a 2020 season that will be altered significantly with meets limited to no more than three teams, and major schedule changes that won't be finalized for several weeks, according to Coombe. He noted that just seven meets are currently scheduled.

The swimming team,

See **SPORTS**...pg. 2B

### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Iron Range COVID-19 testing finds few positives

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Results have been tallied from the two-day COVID-19 testing event in Chisholm in late July, and out of a total of 1,679 people tested, just four of those people tested positive.

"Going into this, we weren't entirely sure what to expect for results," said Amy Westbrook, St. Louis County Public Health division director. "Typically, these free community events have yielded a very low positive test percentage, and we are glad that was the case here."

Those who tested positive were contacted by phone within 72 hours and provided guidance on quarantining themselves and seeking medical care if needed.

"This provides us a point-in-time picture for the presence of the virus in this region," Westbrook added, "and we have requested more detailed demographic information from the state regarding age and ZIP codes of those who tested because that will give us an even better understanding. But we are very appreciative of the tremendous response we saw, and the number of people who thanked us for providing the testing opportunity."

See **TESTING**...pg. 2B

“We have moved the river from near total destruction to one of the most treasured fishing spots in North America...”

Laura Bishop  
MPCA Commissioner

the water with sediment that made it cloudy, toxins that harmed recreation, and low oxygen levels that harmed fish and other creatures.

At the time, studies conducted on both sides of the border found the river's condition unfit for swimming and a menace to public health and waterfront development. It was one of the worst examples in the state of industrial abuse of a public resource.

Yet, today, the Rainy River has experienced a remarkable turnaround, serving as a testament to the value of international partnerships and effective environmental regulation. In the 1960s, the International Joint Commission began to pressure communities along the river to clean up their act, helping to build political support for environmental protection. A few years later, passage of Canada's Environmental Protection Act in 1971 and the U.S. passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, created the regulatory framework for the river's remarkable recovery. By the early 1980s, pollutants in the river had dropped dramatically and the river was on the road to recovery.

A new report, from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, notes that

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Board seeks more funds for Ely ambulance

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL—A non-profit joint powers board that manages the operations of the Ely Area Ambulance Service recently agreed to seek additional funding for the remainder of this year and next year.

Officials from the cities of Ely and Winton, and Morse and Fall Lake townships, met last month with St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald and Brandon Larson from the county auditor's office, to discuss ways to stabilize and increase the ambulance service's finances.

The current funding formula, based on population, charges the governmental bodies \$5.15 per capita for their annual contribution to fund the ambulance service's operations. As an alternative, the board has been discussing an assessment fee for each parcel of land in the service area.

Before the funding formula can be changed, the immediate

shortfall needs to be addressed. "We had a pretty robust discussion," Ely Mayor Chuck Novak said last week in recapping the meeting for city council members. "In order to have a sufficient staff, the ambulance service increased its wages, and right when the increase (took effect) we were hit with COVID-19, and hospitals basically shut down, along with (ambulance-provided) transfers. We increased expenses and lost the revenue."

Ely Ambulance Service Director Geoff Galaski predicted a shortfall of \$170,000 in 2020.

Novak said the loss could start evaporating if the number of transports increase. He predicted that for the rest of the summer ambulance transfers should increase and expenses should remain stable.

The state demographer's population count is due later in August, so the per capita contribution (\$5.15 per person) from each governmental unit is not yet determined for this year.

The ambulance service

proposed nearly doubling the per capita contribution to \$10.10 per capita for the remainder of 2020 and increasing that to \$20.20 per capita for 2021.

Winton Mayor Kathy Brandau suggested each entity go back and ask their boards for an additional contribution of \$5.05 per person for the remainder of 2020 to help make up the shortfall. That motion was approved.

Galaski presented the joint powers board with information on financial contributions at a rate of \$20.20 per person. Under that scenario, Ely would pay \$68,882, Morse would pay \$24,240, Winton would pay \$3,313, Fall Lake would pay \$10,443, and the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital would contribute \$21,376, for a total of \$128,254 in 2021.

Fall Lake supervisor Mary Tome, supported by Novak, made a motion to increase the ambulance service contributions to \$20.20 per person for 2021. The motion passed unanimously

and each representative will now seek approval from their councils and boards.

## Per-parcel option

The joint powers board discussed how many parcels there are in each entity and how much a \$10 per-parcel fee would generate.

Larson said the Ely Ambulance Joint Powers Board, by state statute, is not allowed to impose a tax levy, and recommended the board consult legal counsel on creating a Special Taxing District (an individual per-parcel fee per parcel is defined as a special assessment) as ambulance services are not specifically addressed in the statute, according to the meeting minutes.

There are 2,584 taxable parcels in Morse Township, according to Larson. Ely has 2,196 parcels, while Winton has 147. Fall Lake Township has 2,161 parcels while Stony River has 1,648, although the service doesn't cover all of Stony River. Larson said Stony River

is currently not paying anything into the ambulance service.

According to the meeting minutes, Morse Township officials stated that if a per-parcel contribution was implemented, they would drop out of the Joint Powers Board and decide on their own how to contribute to the ambulance service.

Novak predicted that if the joint powers board was to vote on a per-parcel contribution, the measure would fail.

"We don't know where this is going to go at this point. The city of Ely is dedicated to fund (the ambulance service)," he said. "This is a necessary service in Ely."

More than 65 percent of ambulance service calls are made to the city of Ely.

He asked council members to consider their position on funding for the ambulance service.

The joint powers board set the next meeting for noon on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at Winton Community Center.

## HEALTH CARE

# New mental health provider joins Scenic Rivers

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff writer

REGIONAL—Scenic Rivers has recently added a new mental health provider at their Cook, Tower, and Floodwood clinics. Charlene Colwell joins the staff with 12 years of experience.

Colwell is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker licensed through the Minnesota Board of Social Work.

She obtained a master's degree in clinical social work from the University of St. Thomas/St. Catherine University in 2012 and a bachelor's degree in psychology from North Central University in 2009. She grew up on the Iron Range and has enjoyed working as a therapist in the Iron Range area for the past eight years and in the mental health field for the past 12 years.

"I've always loved being a

counselor; it's a privilege to be a part of people's lives and helping them meet their goals," she said. "One of the most fulfilling things in my job is being able to come alongside someone and help them access their inner resources of courage, compassion, clarity, and calm and use these resources to attend to anything they may be struggling with in their life."

If you're not sure if you need help or are hesitant to make an appointment, Colwell said you

can always call a therapist to ask a few questions and see if it is something you would like to do.

## Pandemic help

Colwell said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, struggles with mental health have been on the rise. "The pandemic can bring stress, increase symptoms of existing conditions, or bring on new ones. In this time, isolation is needed but it backfires in terms of mental health," she said.

Colwell said the clinics have the capacity to help.

"There are four counselors now at Scenic Rivers. It's a growing department and we're all able to help and can be seen via telehealth," she said.

To make an appointment, call Scenic Rivers in Tower at 218-753-2405 or Cook at 218-666-5941. Colwell is at the Cook clinic Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the Tower clinic on Tuesdays.

## RAINY RIVER...Continued from page 1B

species, today the river supports a remarkably healthy and diverse fishery. The MPCA's recent study documented 42 species of fish in the river, including ten that are considered sensitive to pollution, such as longnose dace, smallmouth bass, and sturgeon, which had been all but extinct in the river as a result of the decades of pollution. In recent years, the river has become a world-class fishery for both sturgeon and walleye, attracting thousands of anglers every year to communities along its route.

While fish are one indicator of the river's health, the rivers many invertebrates, such as mayflies and dragonflies, are another sign of the exceptional water quality that has now returned. In fact, the Rainy River now supports some truly sensitive species, like finger-net



**Left: A state researcher in the 1960s stands in a hole he dug through several feet of wood pulp waste in order to reach the water in the Rainy River. Wood waste, raw sewage, and toxic chemicals, were dumped into the river for years by mills located in International Falls and Fort Frances, Ontario.**  
Courtesy MPCA

caddisflies and common stoneflies, that have almost no tolerance for pollution.

## Upstream protection a major factor

While clean water regulations helped to eliminate pollution discharges from industrial and municipal sources along the river, the Rainy has also benefitted from the quality of the water in upper reaches of the watershed. "A major reason

for the excellent water quality in the river is the expanse of undeveloped land draining to it," notes the MPCA's recent study. That includes the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Voyageurs National Park, and the 1.2 million-acre Quetico Provincial Park on the Canadian side of the border.

About 40 percent of the river's watershed is

within Minnesota, with the rest located across the border in northwestern Ontario. And continued protection of the watershed from development is critical to maintaining the Rainy's exceptional water quality, according to the MPCA. "Any major changes in the land draining to the river, such as incentives to expand cropland on the Canadian side and proposals for

mining on the U.S. side, will need careful consideration on how to protect the river from any negative impacts," note the authors of the MPCA's recent report.

## Little Fork remains a concern

The one question mark in the Rainy River's future comes from continuing water quality concerns in the Little Fork River. The Little Fork, which begins in the Lost Lake Swamp near Lake Vermilion and connects to the Rainy

River downstream from Pelland, continues to carry a considerable amount of suspended sediment and algae-growing nutrients eroded from the river's clay-dominated banks.

High levels of sediment can limit the ability of fish and other aquatic life to breathe, find food, and perform other life functions, and the inflow of water from the Little Fork does have an impact along portions of the Rainy River located downstream.

The Little Fork flows through a region that is still home to some agriculture, which can also impact water quality. As the *Timberjay* recently documented, at least one farmer in the Little Fork Valley continues to use the river as an open sewer, by dumping large amounts of livestock bedding straw and manure into the river.

## SPORTS...Continued from page 1B

based in Babbitt out of Northeast Range High School, will be restricted to conducting meets with no more than two teams. Practices will begin next Monday for the team that consists mostly of Ely-based swimmers. Cheri Debeltz takes over as head coach.

This year ISD 696 officials approved the addition of a girls soccer cooper-

ative with Mesabi East. Practice starts Monday. At this point a lone Ely girl has signed up to participate.

The Ely Memorial High School dance team welcomes a new coach, Desirae Cram, but their season has been pushed back until winter.

Traditional fall sports of volleyball and football had their seasons put on hold until March. MSHSL

discussions centered on safety considerations for both sports, and indoor restrictions could likely prevent fans from attending volleyball games, he said.

Minnesota is the only nearby state to move football to the spring. Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota are proceeding with plans for fall seasons. Football

practice will begin indoors in March and the start of the season will likely be delayed by snow-covered fields.

Coombe told school board members, "Spring is going to be tremendously challenging."

"Football and volleyball seasons will be held in a mid-March to early May time frame. You all know what the weather is like

here in March. We have a grass field. To be perfectly honest, we are going to be hard-pressed to be playing high school football in Ely even in early April. We might get one (here) at the end of the season. Many other schools in the region are in the same boat."

Traditional spring sports will look very different with much later start times, sometime in May,

and will continue past the end of the school year, he said. "I don't particularly think that decision was all that well thought out. We are going to have some struggles in terms of participation. I don't know if our coaches are going to want to coach in that time frame."

## TESTING...Continued from page 1B

The free tests were provided in cooperation between St. Louis County Public Health and the State Emergency Operations Center. The St. Louis County Fairgrounds in Chisholm donated use of its facilities, with only a minimal cost to cover electricity.

St. Louis County has

seen a significant increase in recent weeks in the number of confirmed cases in the county. Community transmission has become the dominant form of exposure.

In early July, it was more rural parts of the county that saw a larger percentage of cases, but more recently the Duluth

area has seen the largest growth.

The fastest growing age group for COVID-19 cases in St. Louis County now is 6-19-year-olds. In June, this age group represented only 2 percent of cases and now it is almost 14 percent.

As more and more young people become

infected, the median age of people with confirmed cases continues to decrease. In April, the median age was 68 years old. By June, the median age had dropped to 54. It dropped again in July, and currently is 36 years of age.

The 20-29-year-old age group continues to have the highest number

of cases, with 29 percent of the total cases in the county.

Everyone is urged to remain vigilant and continue practicing the prevention habits that have been emphasized for months: stay home when sick, wear a mask, maintain six feet of physical distancing, and wash hands with soap

and water for at least 20 seconds.

To learn more about the COVID-19 situation in St. Louis County and to view the county's COVID-19 online interactive dashboard, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/covid19](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/covid19).

TRADITION

# Bois Forte members gathered to bless Vermilion pow wow grounds

by David Colburn  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- It's not necessarily what people have come to recognize as traditional Native wisdom, but "Use it or lose it" was the lighthearted way Bois Forte tribe member Terry Goodsky described a short ceremony of drum songs and dancing on Saturday to bless the pow wow grounds at the Vermilion Reservation.

"We had a social gathering about blessing our pow wow grounds and everybody coming out from Lake Vermilion in their regalia to have a fun time for just a short time," Goodsky said. "We sang four jingle dress songs, and the jingle dress is the Ojibwe healing dance. That's to help with COVID-19, to help healing in the community and the things people are going through."



Vermilion drummer and singer Terry Goodsky, right, poses with his son, Rodney, left, and grandson, Ezra St. Germaine, after a ceremonial blessing of the pow wow grounds on Saturday. photo by D. Colburn

wow was canceled to protect tribal elders and those with underlying health conditions from being exposed to the coronavirus, Goodsky said, but

a smaller gathering at the site was still necessary.

"We do have to take care of these pow wow grounds here," he said. "We have to come here

together to do something for these grounds. Use it or lose it, basically. So, we had to come together at one point in time during this year to sing some songs and have some fun."

Drum circle members traveled from Mahanomen, Duluth, and Fond du Lac to perform, but they all call Vermilion home.

"The guys who showed up here today are all original Lake Vermilion singers," Goodsky said. "We just grew up and moved other places. We started singing over in that yellow building right over there almost 35 years ago. Our members have just gotten older and moved out of Lake Vermilion. Now we can bring the second and third generations back to the drum and they'll take it over for us."

Indeed, Goodsky brought his son, Rodney, 15, and his grandson Ezra St. Germaine, 4.

"We had three different gen-

erations singing," Goodsky said.

As the seasons change from summer to fall, it's unlikely that there will be any formal pow wows the rest of the year. Goodsky said, because they would need to be inside, heightening the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

"It's better to have it outside where there is social distancing," he said. "We wash our hands; we're wearing our facemasks. I'm diabetic and I have to be careful what I do myself. But when asked to do something like this, I show up anyway. This is who we are, this is how we come together. We've been doing it for so many years now that when we're asked to come, we come from all four directions. We have to keep our language strong, we have to keep our culture strong. This is what we do."

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

# Tom Poderzay retires from Breitung maintenance crew

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- At the Breitung Town Board's special meeting on Aug. 5, the township accepted Tom Poderzay Jr.'s resignation, with regrets. Poderzay has been an instrumental part of the Breitung maintenance team for the past ten years; his last day on the job will be Aug. 15.



Tom Poderzay Jr. photo by S. Ukkola

Poderzay is a familiar face around town, mowing lawns, maintaining the baseball field, skating rink, and sidewalks and even keeping score at the baseball games.

"His dedication will be missed," said maintenance director Tom Gorsma.

Poderzay also works for Tower Breitung Wastewater and plans to keep that position.

"It's been a good run, but it's time to pass the torch on," said Poderzay. "I had fun, but it came with a lot of sacrifices."

Poderzay worked seven days per week between working at the

wastewater plant and at the rink or field on week-ends and doing regular maintenance work during the week. With his extra time, Poderzay said he plans to do more hunting, fishing, and work around his own house. Poderzay worked his last baseball tournament this weekend and was enjoying banter with the players.

"The kids made the job," he said.

The Breitung board directed Gorsma, clerk Dianna Sundahl, and supervisor Greg Dostert to prepare a job description

for Poderzay's replacement, and everyone agreed an equal replacement would be difficult to find.

## Pumper truck

A private party wants to purchase an old Breitung Fire and Rescue pumper truck.

When the township first tried to sell the truck last spring, there was no interest, and the township decided to keep it as a maintenance vehicle. However, maintenance has not been using it and agreed to put it up for sale.

The township is accepting sealed offers due by Tuesday, Aug. 25. The township will remove all emergency equipment before the sale. Gorsma said the truck needs work but is still worth between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

Gorsma asked if

money from the sale of the pumper truck could be used for purchasing a smaller, more economical truck for maintenance to use to get around town. Sundahl suggested that if the truck were to be used to separate maintenance workers it could qualify for money through the CARES Act. The township has received \$14,500 from the CARES act to use for COVID-19 precautions and purchases made between March 1 and Nov. 15.

## Other business

In other business, the board:

► Heard a public complaint about Soudan

residents feeding deer in town. The complaint alleged that a neighbor who was putting out food attracted deer that then continued to eat an entire garden. Dostert will follow up with the deer feeders, reminding them that the DNR, at a past township meeting, has stated they do not support deer feeding and that congregation can result in disease among the animals.

► Heard from Dan Broten, representing the Prospectors Loop ATV Trail, about using township resources such as a loader and operator and gravel to work on the trail near McKinley Park later this month. Supervisor

Chuck Tekautz said, "I'm all for it," and Dostert and Tomsich were also in favor, though Tomsich said official approval would have to wait until the next regular meeting.

► Planned to schedule contract negotiations with Local Union 49 for September.

► Paid \$7,036 to ARI for the town hall renovation project.

► Paid \$3,670 to JPI Engineering for town hall improvements.

► Will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 25 at noon.



## COVID-19 Testing Available

Curbside COVID-19 testing available Mon-Fri at our Cook and Tower Clinics. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 through someone with a known positive test result, please call to schedule a testing appointment.

Testing will not be completed without an appointment.

Scenic Rivers will not bill patients for testing.

Insurance coverage will be processed when available.

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

## HUNTING

### Ruffed grouse numbers look hopeful for fall

Above-average spring drumming count and warm and dry June should yield good grouse numbers for hunters

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Grouse hunters in northeastern Minnesota have reason for optimism heading into the fall, based on the results of this year's spring drumming counts. While the annual grouse drumming survey found considerable variation around the state, this year's average drum count of 1.7 birds per stop is somewhat above average. It was also considerably higher than the

1.2 drums per stop recorded in the northwest and the central hardwoods region. No routes were surveyed in southeastern Minnesota due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the spring drumming count is one indicator, a warm and dry start to the summer, as the region experienced this year, normally leads to strong ruffed grouse reproduction. Strong reproduction typically means hunters see more birds in the fall than they might otherwise anticipate given the spring drumming counts. Young

birds often make up a considerable percentage of harvested birds each year.

Drumming is a low sound produced by males as they beat their wings rapidly and in increasing frequency to signal the location of their territory. Drumming displays also attract females that are ready to begin nesting. Ruffed grouse populations are surveyed by counting the number of male ruffed grouse

See GROUSE...pg. 5B



photo courtesy MNDNR



THE GOOD LIFE

## Wild wine on the vine

A strong crop of wild fruits should make for a busy winemaking season

It's the season of anticipation if you're a home winemaker, like me. The chokecherries are hanging ripe and heavy this year. The crab apples are abundant and beginning to show their pinkish blush. The wild plums look plentiful, too, although it'll probably still be a month or so before they're ripe for the plucking. All-in-all it looks like I'll be busy in my makeshift winery this fall, crafting the varieties that will keep us in very enjoyable wine right through the coming year.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

I've always liked the concept of self-sufficiency, which we've tried to achieve in multiple ways around our house. We grow a big garden and maintain a season-extending greenhouse. Jodi cans tons of the produce, which keeps us in homegrown veggies throughout the year. We harvest wild rice. We pick gallons of blueberries (most years) and shoot a deer in the fall to put some top-quality meat in the freezer as well.

And for the past couple years, we've been making our own wine. It was a logical extension of our desire for self-sufficiency, but it had been a skill I figured I would



wait to learn during the glide path into semi-retirement. But thanks to the mentoring of George and Barb Peyla, whose wine-making prowess I've written about before, I delved into it a bit ahead of schedule.

Since then, we've all but abandoned store-bought wines for our homemade wines crafted from the wild fruits we're now beginning to gather for another fall season of winemaking.

Here are a few things I've learned along the way, that just might get you thinking about venturing into home wine-making for

yourself.

► **Find an experienced mentor who can help you.** Sure, there are plenty of books out there on winemaking and I've read several. But the first time I'd tried making a batch, I was a nervous wreck. I always assumed that winemaking was complicated so naturally I figured I would ruin my first batch. I had George and Barb on speed dial the whole time and they patiently walked me through each step along the way. And my

See WINE...pg. 5B

**Top: Ripe chokecherries after a recent rain. These common berries make an excellent red wine.**

**Above: The varieties of wild wines we now enjoy include (l-r) wild plum, chokecherry, and rhubarb.**

all photos by M. Helmberger

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**PEARLY EVERLASTING**



**Pearly Everlasting, *Anaphalis margaritacea*,** are among the more distinctive of our late summer wildflowers. The long, narrow, silvery-green leaves with noticeable fuzz and the round, white flowers with a yellow center (think egg and yolk), provide all the hints you'll need to identify this common bloomer in our area.

The name "pearly" is easy to understand given the shape of the flower, but they also make everlasting dried flowers if you harvest a bouquet and hang them upside down to dry. Their bright blossoms and silvery foliage make them an excellent addition to a dried flower arrangement.

Pearly Everlasting is a member of the aster family.

## Outdoors in brief

### Poor foods prompting more bear complaints

REGIONAL— Uneven production of wild foods is prompting more bear complaints in parts of the state, including in the Ely area. It appears that generally dry conditions may be contributing to the lower-than-usual production of the wild foods that bears rely on this time of year to put on weight ahead of their winter's hibernation.

In August, bears in the North Country enter what's known as hyperphagia, a period when bears feel the need to eat almost continuously. When natural foods are somewhat limited, they can be attracted to other food sources, like bird feeders, compost piles, or garbage, that can create nuisance situations for humans.

The food situation is somewhat more mixed in northern St. Louis County, where some wild food crops are running at least average. Hazelnuts are sporadically abundant across the Iron Range, according to the DNR, although most summer berry crops were considered poor as a result of the dry conditions.

The poorer-than-average food conditions should provide favorable conditions for bear hunters, who will begin putting out their baits later this month in preparation for the Sept. 1 start of the bear season.



**FOOD FROM NATURE**

**Wild rice harvest to begin**

Crop looks strong according to DNR

REGIONAL — Wild rice conditions are looking good this year in many areas of the state and the Department of Natural Resources is offering a reminder of important regulations restricting harvest to rice stands that are ripe.

“Favorable weather, without too much heavy rain early in the season, has been a positive for wild rice,” said Ricky Lien, DNR wetland habitat team supervisor.

Minnesota has more acres of natural wild rice than any other state in the country. Wild rice and its harvesting are profoundly important to Minnesota’s tribal nations, for cultural, spiritual, and social reasons. Many other Minnesotans also enjoy harvesting wild rice, a highly nutritious grain.

While labor intensive, harvesting wild rice can be rewarding, and finding a mentor who knows what they’re doing can make the learning process easier.

Harvesters are allowed to take ripe wild rice each year between Aug. 15 and Sept. 30, but Minnesota’s green rice law makes it illegal to harvest unripe or “green” rice, even within the dates of the harvest season. So although rice beds may look like they are ready, ricers must make sure the grain is ripe before attempting to harvest it.

Peak harvesting dates are generally between late August to mid-September as long as weather remains mild and dry.

Novice rice harvesters are often advised to use a processor rather than attempt to process themselves. Anyone looking for more information on wild rice in their area can contact their local DNR wildlife manager or a Shallow Lakes Program specialist.

Because of the grain’s importance, harvesting wild rice is regulated in Minnesota and requires a license for both individuals in a canoe.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
<b>77 57</b>					<b>76 54</b>					<b>71 49</b>					<b>67 46</b>					<b>69 47</b>				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
08/03	68	42	0.00		08/03	69	39	0.00		08/03	68	49	0.00		08/03	73	41	0.00		08/03	70	49	0.00	
08/04	73	44	0.00		08/04	72	42	0.00		08/04	73	50	0.00		08/04	73	46	0.00		08/04	72	50	0.00	
08/05	74	45	0.00		08/05	73	42	0.00		08/05	74	50	0.00		08/05	79	48	0.00		08/05	73	50	0.00	
08/06	78	46	0.00		08/06	78	45	0.00		08/06	77	51	0.00		08/06	79	54	0.00		08/06	78	51	0.00	
08/07	79	48	0.00		08/07	80	45	0.00		08/07	75	52	0.00		08/07	77	61	0.00		08/07	78	52	0.00	
08/08	78	63	0.61		08/08	78	59	0.80		08/08	75	63	1.01		08/08	81	61	0.00		08/08	78	63	0.78	
08/09	84	59	0.00		08/09	83	59	0.02		08/09	81	59	0.04		08/09	75	54	0.00		08/09	83	59	0.00	
Total			12.25		YTD Total			12.25		YTD Total			16.73		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				12.71

**GROUSE...Continued from page 4B**

heard drumming on established routes throughout the state’s forested regions.

Some consider the ruffed grouse the “king of game birds” because it’s so challenging to pursue, a thrill to witness on the wing and a delicious wild game entrée when served. These birds are native to Minnesota—the top ruffed grouse-producing state in the lower 48 states, with millions of acres of public land for hunters and their dogs to explore.

**West Nile virus results**

Test results from the second year of an ongoing study of the West Nile virus in ruffed grouse showed similar results to the previous year. Antibodies consistent with virus exposure were detected in 12.3 percent of the 317 samples submitted by hunters in 2019. This compares with a 12.5 percent antibody rate in the 273 samples submitted by hunters in 2018.

“West Nile virus exposure is lower in Minnesota than in other states where exposure has been studied, which may reflect the abundance and quality of grouse habitat in Minnesota,” said Charlotte Roy, grouse project leader with the Department of Natural Resources.

West Nile virus is carried by infected mosquitoes. Not all people or

animals bitten by an infected mosquito will contract West Nile virus. There have been no documented cases of people contracting West Nile virus from consuming properly cooked meat.

West Nile virus has been present in Minnesota since the early 2000s, but interest in its effects on ruffed grouse increased following a study in Pennsylvania documenting relationships between habitat quality, populations and virus exposure. Some bird species recover quickly and become tolerant to the virus while others, such as blue jays and crows, suffer higher rates of mortality.

The Minnesota grouse hunting season opens on Saturday, Sept. 19.

**WINE...Continued from page 4B**

very first batch of chokecherry wine came out great, which only heightened my interest in pursuing the craft.

Also, see if you can find someone with the equipment who either isn’t making wine these days or has some extra equipment. Try a few batches before you go out and buy a bunch of winemaking gear. If you decide it’s not for you, you haven’t invested much other than your time.

▶ **Nothing beats chokecherries.** I know, the accepted wisdom is that grapes are the best fruit for winemaking, but we’ve never had a batch of chokecherry wine that was anything short of yummy. Chokecherries are easy to find and gather by the gallon. If you have a blueberry rake, try using that little device to harvest your chokecherries. You can fill a gallon bucket in no time— just make sure to pick them when they’re black. That’s when they have maximum flavor and minimum astringency (that’s the pucker factor). Just be sure not to pick the berries I’ve got my eye on!

▶ **Lots of fruits can make excellent wine.** Wild plum wine comes with a spectacular blush color (like a deep sunset), while rhubarb has all the hallmarks for a very nice white wine, similar in color to a chardonnay. My batch of crab apple wine, which has a light pinkish hue, was always a hit wherever we brought a bottle, so much so that it was the first of our batches to run low. I’m saving the couple remaining bottles for at least another year or two to see how well they age.

▶ **Be patient with some wines before bottling.** If there’s a mistake I made with a couple of early



batches, it was that I didn’t let them sit long enough to truly clarify. My first batch of chokecherry was crystal clear after a couple weeks of sitting in a carboy, so I assumed it worked that way with other fruits as well. Turns out, some need to sit, sometimes for months, to give everything a chance to settle out. My first batch of plum wine definitely taught me patience— it took four months to fully clarify but the end product was beautiful in a glass.

▶ **Try steam extracting your juice.** While most winemakers undertake their initial fermentation using a mash of smashed fruits, we extract our fruit juices using a Mehu Liisa steam juicer. It’s the best method for juicing fruits there is, and one big advantage is that the steamed juice clarifies in a third the time of the traditional method. And if you end up with a bit left over, you can use the juice for other things. My wife Jodi adds sugar and boils the leftover chokecherry juice into syrup, which is great on pancakes or cornbread. She adds leftover rhubarb to her homemade kombucha for extra flavor. Then compost

**Left: A strong crop of crab apples will ensure at least one batch of apple wine this fall.**

photo by M. Helmberger

the remains from the steamer and it will be a good addition to your garden soil next year. Nothing goes to waste!

▶ **Experiment and keep good records as you do it.** Once you have the basic process down, which took me about three batches, winemaking really gets fun. You can always just make batch after batch of the same stuff, but I’ve started to tinker with recipes in hopes of hitting on the next truly great batch of wine.

▶ **Give the wine some time.** I had read that the aging process can really alter the taste and feel of wine and you can really experience that when you make your own. My first batch of plum wine was a bit more astringent than I preferred, but after a year in the bottle, it’s mellowed nicely and is now one of my favorites. The chokecherry wines also age very nicely.

▶ **Make enough to share.** Most home winemakers make wine in five-gallon batches, which will leave you with anywhere from 22-24 bottles by the time you’re done. That certainly makes for enough to share. Besides, it’s always fun when you’re at a party (remember we used to go to those on occasion?) and your bottle is the first one to be emptied.

If nothing else, winemaking has extended my interest in the harvest of wild fruits beyond the blueberry season, right into the fall. In a year like this one, it looks like we’ll be picking for weeks to come.

**CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.**

- CLEAN**
  - Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
  - Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving
- DRAIN**
  - Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
  - Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
  - Trash unused bait
- DRY**
  - Everything at least five days before going to other waters
  - (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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## Obituaries and Death Notices

### Joe Stefanich

Joe Stefanich, 81, of Biwabik Township, originally of Tower, passed away on Friday, Aug. 7, 2020, at Waterview Woods in Eveleth. Joe donated his body to the University of Minnesota Anatomy Bequest Program. A service will be held at a later date.

Joe was born in Tower to Joseph and Ann (Inky) Stefanich on Oct. 10, 1938. He attended school in Tower, graduating with the class of 1956. In the summer of 1956, he entered the U.S. Army and served three years in Germany. On his return, he went to college and received a degree in accounting. He was married to Joann Glinsek on July 29, 1961.

Joe worked in the Cities at Control Data until 1977.

He was hired at Eveleth Mines as a chief accountant. He was later promoted to director of purchasing and retired in 1997.

Joe's favorite place to be was Wolf Lake with the family. He also loved to fish and hunt.

Joe is survived by his wife, Joann; sons, Jeff (Dot), Steve and Troy (Katie); grandchildren, Tyler, Kate, Nick, Madeline and Hallie; brothers, Ray, Greg (Gerry) and Ted; sisters, Carol (Tim) Dyhr, Dorothy (Vince) Vesel and Mary Jo (Jay) Wiermaa; sister-in-law, Rosemary; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; and brother, Nick, in Vietnam.

### William A. Raida

William Arnold "Bill" Raida, 76, of Pike Township, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020. There will be an outdoor service at the West Pike Cemetery at a date to be determined. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his sister, Loretta; sons, Craig (Chris), Travis (Leslie) and Jason (Alena); grandchildren, Natalie, Kendall, Eila and Kevin William; numerous nieces and nephews; and other dear friends and family members.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

Assumed Name: Touched by a Starr  
 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 304 Alder St., PO Box 463, Tower, MN 55790  
 NAMEHOLDER(S): Gina Marie Empey, 304 Alder St., PO Box 463, Tower, MN 55790

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has

authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: July 2, 2020  
 SIGNED BY: Gina Marie Empey  
 MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 463, Tower, MN 55790

Published in the Timberjay, August 7 & 14, 2020

### KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE BUDGET MEETING CLOSE OF ANNUAL MEETING REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will meet on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

The Budget Meeting will begin at 6 p.m.; the closing of the Annual Meeting will follow; and the Regular Meeting will follow.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 14, 2020

## EMPLOYMENT

### Experienced AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN

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

### BARTENDERS, COOKS, SERVERS

The Landing, in Cook, is now hiring bartenders, cooks, and servers. Come join a great team with a stellar reputation and a fantastic base of loyal customers. Apply to info@onlakevermilion.com or call 763-221-1151. tfn

### Cook Building Center Now Hiring Full Time Delivery Driver/Yard Employee

Overtime every week 45-55 hours. Paid Time Off, 401k Match, Health Insurance, Cell Phone. Send resume to info@cook-buildingcenter.com or stop in to fill out an application. tfn

### Bailiff

Apply by 08/17/20

www.stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-726-2422

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 8/14

### POSITION OPENING

### Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional (2 positions)

Ely Public Schools is looking for two Paraprofessionals beginning the 2020-2021 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- AA Degree or two years of college required
- Preferred experience working with school age children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- College Transcripts
- 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: August 20, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 14, 2020

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## FUNERAL SERVICES

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Virginia 741-1481

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### Super Crossword

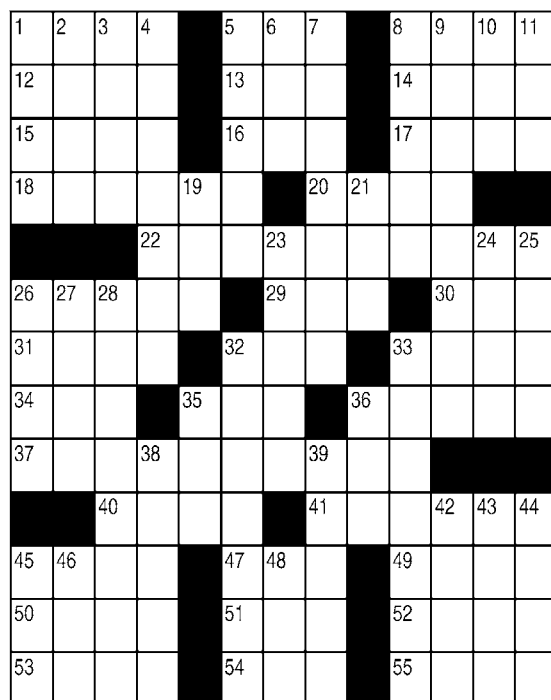
#### Answers

GOAT ILSA TETRODE ABS  
 ACCESSION ATTIRESE LAW  
 WHATCOULDTHEYCALL ELI  
 KOREA IJI LETA EXAM  
 SLACK ETC ONEMAN  
 HOD ACANADIANPROVINCE  
 ATRAUTES UAR ELDER  
 WHERE THESUNSHINES ROO  
 KEARNEY NIE VAL PIUS  
 ERRED IDIG LASS RATE  
 SOMUCHTHAT THERE  
 BART EVELTIDE UMASS  
 RUES DEFELM SKIAREA  
 ITT JSALWAYSABLINDING  
 NORAD OAT COAL EASE  
 GLAREONEVERYTHING LES  
 OCTAVO REVONSET  
 FATS ETAS SEW NEILL  
 IDI BRIGHTISHCOLUMBIA  
 DEN EDOUARD UPTOSPEED  
 ORG DONAHUE PATS STUD

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 — and call
- 5 Promptly
- 8 Despot
- 12 Verve
- 13 Rd.
- 14 Regulation
- 15 Not yet final, in law
- 16 — -relief
- 17 Blind as —
- 18 Body art
- 20 Pack down
- 22 Half a fluid ounce
- 26 Short
- 29 Swiss canton
- 30 Tokyo, once
- 31 Bergman, in "Casablanca"
- 32 Action star Diesel
- 33 One
- 34 Mel of Cooperstown
- 35 Programmer's woe
- 36 Foolish
- 37 Skiers' carriages
- 40 Summertime pest
- 41 Stary
- 45 Honeycomb compartment
- 47 Web address
- 49 Wander
- 50 Met melody
- 51 Dos' neighbors
- 52 Yemeni port



- 53 Helen's home
- 54 Previous night
- 55 Saucy
- DOWN
- 1 Crooked
- 2 Director Kazan
- 3 Group of actors
- 4 Made a sweater, maybe
- 5 Biz big shot
- 6 Eggs
- 7 Oater
- 8 Chaplin persona
- 9 Court sum-

- 10 — carte
- 11 Pensioned (Abbr.)
- 19 LummoX
- 21 "— was saying ..."
- 23 Playwright Pirandello
- 24 Valhalla VIP
- 25 Memo
- 26 United nations
- 27 Naomi's daughter-in-law
- 28 Incised printing method
- 32 Predatory sort

- 33 Remove a seat belt
- 35 Underwear with underwire
- 36 "Monty Python" opener
- 38 Dental filling
- 39 Untrue
- 42 Took the bus
- 43 State with certainty
- 44 Gave temporarily
- 45 Garfield or Heathcliff
- 46 Blunder
- 48 Gun the engine

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 Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

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 PT Housekeeper  
 Casual Laundry Aide

**Radiology**  
 FT Radiology Tech

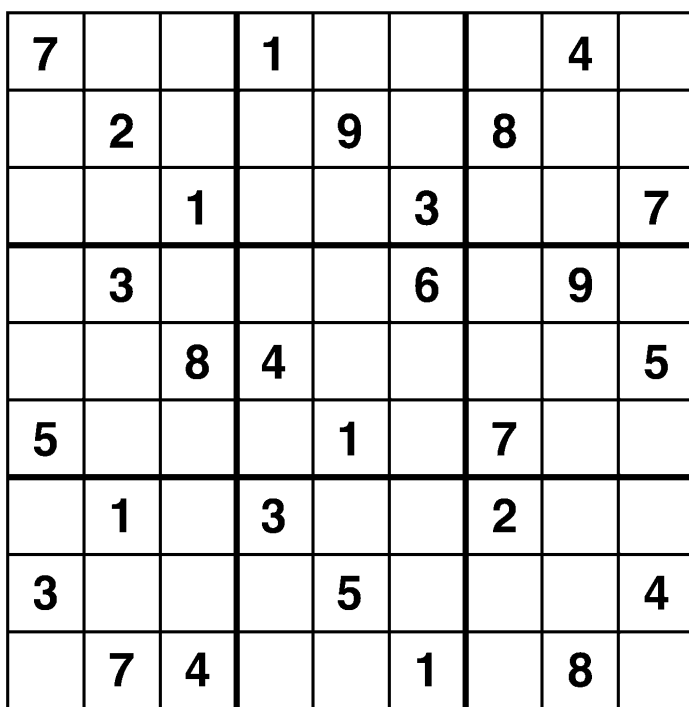
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

## HAIR CARE

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

VERMILION SHEAR IMAGE- Open Tues.-Fri., 9-5. Main St., Tower. 218-753-2928. tfn

## HOSPICE

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

## BUSINESS SERVICES

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

## GARAGE SALE

ESTATE SALE- Ridge-Inn Storage Center, Gilbert (behind Holiday Gas Station). Sat., Sun. & Mon., Aug. 15-17, 10am - 5pm. Sold our house, moved. Locker #23 jammed full, too much to list, ridiculously low prices. 8/14p

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

3 BR, 1 BA HOME IN SOUDAN for sale. 2-stall garage. 3-season porch. Will consider C/D. \$63,900. Call 612-718-1890 8/21

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland Presbyterian Church.

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

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

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

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

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E Camp St., Ely. Enter through side door.

## King Crossword - Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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

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

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## HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR PCA/HOMEMAKER for 71 year old woman in Crane Lake. 8.75 PCA hours and 10 homemaker hours per week. Flexible hours/schedule. Lake access on property (can go fishing after work....). 218-993-2342. 8/14

## HUNTING LEASE LAND WANTED

REAL ESTATE: Wanted to lease, land for hunting in Orr/Cook area. 70-120 acres. Call 651-341-0801. 9/4p

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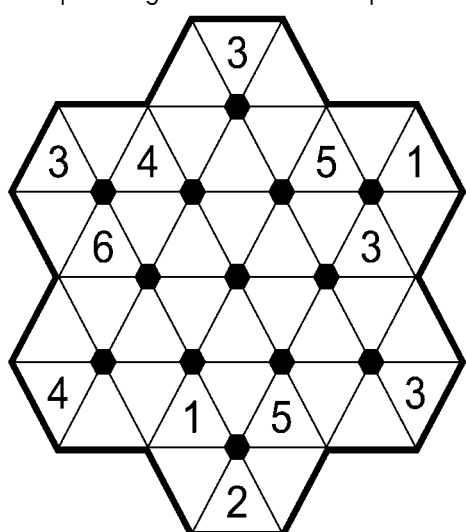
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(behind Jeanne's Cards & Gifts)  
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## SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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



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

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## Super Crossword

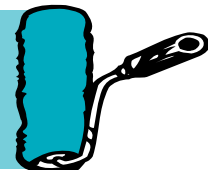
### NO CLOUDS UP NORTH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sheep kin
  - 5 Rick Blaine's love, in film
  - 9 Certain vacuum tube
  - 16 Crunches work them
  - 19 Item added, as to a library
  - 21 Decks out
  - 22 Statute
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 25 Certain Ivy Leaguer
  - 26 Split nation
  - 27 10% of XXX
  - 28 "— smile be your umbrella"
  - 29 SAT, for one
  - 30 Not taut
  - 34 List-curtailling abbr.
  - 36 Solo, in a way
  - 38 Brick-hauling trough
  - 41 Riddle, part 2
  - 46 — Plus (razor brand)
  - 48 Off-road vehicles, informally
  - 49 Egypt, once: Abbr.
  - 50 Aged person
  - 51 Riddle, part 3
  - 57 Pal of Pooh
  - 58 Nebraska city on the Platte River
  - 59 Never, in Germany
  - 60 Batman player Kilmer
  - 61 Any of 12 popes
  - 62 Blew it
  - 63 "Got it, dude"
  - 65 Maiden
  - 66 Pace
  - 67 Riddle, part 4
  - 72 The impish Simpson
  - 75 Daredevil
  - 76 Neap, e.g.
  - 77 Bay State sch.
  - 81 Regrets bitterly
  - 82 It's looked up in a dict.
  - 83 Tall, graceful tree
  - 84 Resort with snowy trails
  - 86 "Ooky" TV cousin
  - 87 Riddle, part 5
  - 91 Satellite-tracking prog.
  - 93 Cereal grain
  - 94 Scuttle stuff
  - 95 Mitigate
  - 96 End of the riddle
  - 102 The, in Nice page size
  - 104 Ramp (up)
  - 105 Start
  - 107 Some are unsaturated
  - 108 Guesses at SFO
  - 111 Create a hem, e.g.
  - 113 Actor Sam
  - 117 Exiled Amin
  - 118 Riddle's answer
  - 123 TV room
  - 124 Painter Manet
  - 125 Fully informed
  - 126 Assn.
  - 127 TV talk great Phil
  - 128 Reassuring touches
  - 129 Earring type
  - 6 "Charlie's Angels" co-star Lucy
  - 7 Pine- —
  - 8 "You — both know ..."
  - 9 Papeete's island
  - 10 Summer, in France
  - 11 Texter's "bye now"
  - 12 Cereal grain
  - 13 Gifted speaker
  - 14 Franklin — Roosevelt
  - 15 Subj. for U.S. newcomers
  - 16 Chief port of Egypt
  - 17 Become even
  - 18 Take a dip
  - 20 Milan's La —
  - 24 Knotted Jannings
  - 31 Sharp
  - 32 Actress — Lee Crosby
  - 33 Leg joint
  - 35 Lead to back in
  - 37 Preholiday nights
  - 38 "Gattaca" actor Ethan
  - 39 Additional
  - 40 Gloomy, in verse
  - 42 Pack-toting equine
  - 43 "Prob'ly not"
  - 44 Nonpublic
  - 45 Uneven, as leaf edges
  - 47 Collars
  - 52 Prefix with thermal
  - 53 Military group
  - 54 Each evening
  - 55 Ogden with funny poetry
  - 56 Additional
  - 61 Created in advance
  - 63 Frozen sheet in the sea
  - 64 FedEx alternative
  - 65 English "Inc."
  - 68 Healing drugs, briefly
  - 69 Eye layer
  - 70 Goals
  - 71 Destroy
  - 72 Lead to e.g.
  - 73 Luger pistol, e.g.
  - 74 Drawing back in
  - 78 Sans-serif typeface
  - 79 Intuit
  - 80 Wise sorts
  - 83 One dining
  - 84 Done in, as a dragon
  - 85 Brick bakers
  - 87 Concept
  - 88 Extension for PC music files
  - 89 Statute
  - 90 — -chic (fashion style)
  - 92 Part of B.A.
  - 97 Go too far on
  - 98 Concept
  - 99 Live (at)
  - 100 YSL part
  - 101 Subdivision in taxonomy
  - 106 Short-term staffers
  - 107 Pal of Rover
  - 109 Water, in Spanish
  - 110 Old ruler of Iran
  - 112 Larrup
  - 114 "Oh, ri-right"
  - 115 "In — of flowers ..."
  - 116 "Charlie's Angels" co-star Cheryl
  - 118 Napping spot
  - 119 Mr. Capote, to his pals
  - 120 W-2 pro
  - 121 Ex-Giant Mel
  - 122 Part of L.A.

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