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The **TIMBERJAY**



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Pilot dies when plane crashes into lake near Ely

Victim was dentist for state's NHL hockey team

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

WHITE IRON LAKE – The dentist for the Minnesota Wild NHL hockey team perished last Thursday night when the airplane he was flying crashed into White Iron Lake.

Dr. Kyle Edlund, of Woodbury Dental Care, left the Ely Airport sometime after 10 p.m., according to the Lake County Sheriff's Department, and crashed a single-engine,

four-seat airplane just after 11 p.m.

The plane was heading toward the Grand Marais/Cook County Airport from the Ely Airport. Edlund was reportedly flying a Lance Aircraft, serial number N997S. According to the Federal Aeronautics Administration, the registered owner of the craft is St. Croix Aviation of Woodbury LLC.

The Minnesota Wild hockey team

See...**CRASH** pg. 9



White Iron Beach Resort owner Kerry Davis brings in part of an airplane Tuesday afternoon during salvage operations from an airplane crash last week. photo by K. Vandervort



Dr. Kyle Edlund



ACTIVE CITIZENS

Rallies: Save the Post Office

Regional supporters join nationwide demonstration effort

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A nationwide show of support for the U.S. Postal Service had a local touch Saturday, as demonstrators stood and waved signs in front of post offices in Cook, Tower, and Ely.

Supporters of the United States Postal Service rally outside of the Cook Post Office last Saturday. photo courtesy of Fred Schumacher

"Save the Post Office" events were staged in more than 800 communities across the country, sparked by recent moves by the Trump administration that many believe imperil the ability of the postal service to fulfill

its mission. MoveOn, a national progressive policy advocacy organization, partnered with about 100 local organizations for the event. Northern

See...**SUPPORT** pg. 10

PUBLIC HEALTH

Coronavirus cases rise at Bois Forte

Area restaurants remain closed

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- What was three late last week has climbed to six as of Tuesday, as four Bois Forte Band members on the Vermilion Reservation and two at Nett Lake are now in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19, and the tribe has activated its emergency plan to try to contain the virus.

Bois Forte Community Health Nurse Teri Morrison announced the initial three Vermilion cases in a video posted to the tribe's Facebook page Friday morning. Two are in their teens and one is in their forties.

"All of these cases are tied to a single exposure that occurred off the reservation," Morrison said in the video. "The individuals

See...**COVID** pg. 7



STATE CORRECTIONS

Hundreds protest planned prison closure

Schnell: Legislature, supplemental budget key to avoiding shut down

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NASHWAUK— There were many voices, but one consistent message officials delivered here on Monday: a supplemental budget bill is the only sure solution to keep the Togo Correctional

Facility, long known as Thistledeew Camp, open beyond November.

About 400 supporters of the camp and its roughly 60 employees attended this week's rally in opposition to the proposed closure of the facility. They most wanted to hear from Minnesota

Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell, who announced earlier this month that both the Togo and Willow River facilities would be permanently closed to address a \$14 million shortfall in the department's budget.

See...**PRISON** pg. 8

The child of a Togo Correctional Facility worker, left, pleaded for his father's job at a rally in Nashwauk on Monday. Minnesota Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell, right, spoke at the rally. photos by D. Colburn



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Community notices

Community Night Out set for Sept. 13

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage of Embarrass is celebrating their annual Community Night Out on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 4 - 6:30 p.m. at the historic Seitaniemi Homestead. Come for a free outdoor concert and a tour of the restored housebarn at this family-friendly event. Music will be provided by Debbie Bigelow and Dean Kleven, on vocals and keyboard, with jazz standards and Big Band sounds for the enjoyment of all ages.

Bring your own picnic dinner, beverage, blanket and lawn chair. Pie will be available as individually wrapped pieces. All COVID precautions will be in place.

Freewill donations are gladly accepted. Proceeds go to Sisu's restoration projects in Embarrass and the surrounding area. The Seitaniemi Homestead is located on Comet Road in Waasa, between Embarrass and Babbitt. Watch for signs on Hwy 21. Call 218-984-3402 or visit sisuheritage.org for more information.

St. Martin's Rummage Sale

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is holding a Rummage Sale on Saturday, Aug. 29 and Sunday, Aug. 30. Hours are 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, with doors opening at 8 a.m. for early birds for a \$5 entry fee. Sunday is a bag sale where you can purchase a bag for \$3 and fill it up. There will be books, puzzles, DVDs, CDs, kitchen stuff, gardening, toys, men's stuff, fabric, crafts, décor, and more. Hours on Sunday are 8 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. and then 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Caramel rolls are available for purchase for carry-outs only at \$2.50 each. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance.

Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet Sept. 3

REGIONAL- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will again meet outdoors on Thursday, Sept. 3 at the Hoodoo Point Campground pavilion, 5788 Hoodoo Point Road in Tower. Because of shorter daylight hours and probably cooler temperatures, we will begin gathering at 5:30 p.m. and start the business meeting at 6 p.m. Teresa Dolinar and Bonnie Harma will present a program on orphan blocks.

In case we need to gather under the pavilion rather than spread out on the grassy area, you must bring a mask. Other items to bring include a lawn chair, hand sanitizer, bug spray, your own food and beverage, and, of course, show and tell items.

U of M Extension offering free Food Preservation Webinars

REGIONAL- Were you one of the many people who decided to try your hand at gardening this summer? Whether you are a novice or an experienced gardener, or just interested in enjoying the freshness of summer all year long, we invite you to learn more about preserving your harvest. Please join Suzanne Driessen, University of MN Extension Food Safety Educator, as she presents free webinars on food preservation.

Dates, times and registration links to the free webinars are as follows:

- Preserving Fall Vegetables, Thursday, Sept. 10, 10-11 a.m. Register: <https://z.umn.edu/fallvegetables>
- Safely Fermenting Food at Home, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 4-5 p.m., Register: <https://z.umn.edu/fermenting>

Can't join the webinars? Check out the food preservation resources on the University of Minnesota Extension website at <https://extension.umn.edu/food-safety/preserving-and-preparing>.

LVCC to host free Zoom program with Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Margaret Chutich

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center has hosted over 40 programs. Due to COVID-19 they will soon host their first event on Zoom. On Monday, Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. "A Conversation with Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Margaret Chutich" will take place. The format will include some brief introductory comments followed by panelists who will ask Justice Chutich questions about her career as a female judge and attorney in Minnesota. More information will follow.

To register for this free Zoom even, send an email to the LVCC at vermilionculturalcenter@gmail.com by Sept. 11. You will receive a Zoom invitation the day before the event.

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ELY

Turning Point photo exhibit in Ely

Features photographs on social activism by John Ratzloff



ELY- "Turning Point," a new photographic exhibit of riot art by photojournalist John Ratzloff will be on display Sept. 2 through Sept. 30 at Crapola World Headquarters in Ely.

As part of the rotating artist series at Crapola World Headquarters, documentary photographer and photojournalist John Ratzloff will be exhibiting a new collection of

works titled: "Turning Point." This work is a highly emotional exhibit of the riot art created after the George Floyd murder and memorial in Minneapolis.

Ratzloff is a professional photographer who has spent his life photographing environmental and social justice activism in Minnesota. His breathtaking photos have been

exhibited across the country and have drawn comparisons to the American photojournalist Dorothea Lange.

For more information on Ratzloff and his work, please contact John Ratzloff at 952-564-7029 or johnratzloff@gmail.com.

Crapola World Headquarters, 16 N 1st Ave E, is open Monday - Saturday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CLASSIC BOATS

Vermilion Antique boat show canceled

COOK- This year would have marked the 30th Annual Antique and Classic Boat Show, held at The Landing Restaurant on Lake Vermilion. Unfortunately, this event has been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. The show was scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 6.

The Lake Vermilion Antique and Classic Boat Show is honored to have the Vermilion Lake Association and the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade as its honorary Boat Show Sponsors. In 2019, the boat show was able to donate \$1,000 to each organization.

Through the VLA, donated funds are specifically designated to help maintain and improve the docks of the current eight Shore Lunch sites on the lake. The VLA is dedicated to the preservation and protection of Lake Vermilion. Their presence at the show allows the association to display and educate the public about its achievements, goals, and plans for the future - and maybe sell a hat or two.

The Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade is dedicated to search and rescue and emergency fire and medical situations. The brigade is the first line of



defense for many people on the lake. During the show they have several of their rescue boats displayed and available for tours. One of the show's highlights is a water demonstration of the fireboat's firefighting capabilities.

The boat show committee of Sandy Jackson and Mark Ludlow would like to thank outgoing member Jeff Stebbins for his dedication and commitment over the years in helping to organize the show. Jeff

and his wife Nancy graciously hosted the Captain's Dinner every year. Jeff and his famous BBQ pulled pork and chicken will be sorely missed. Thank you, Jeff and Nancy.

We look forward to 2021 and the return of the Lake Vermilion Boat Show, our fabulous sponsors, and most of all the boats and their owners. Mark your 2021 calendar for the weekend of Sept. 4-5, when we will try to celebrate our 30th year, again.

COWBOY SKILLS

Team penning and ranch sorting event set for Aug. 28-30

EMBARRASS- The inaugural Danny Theel Memorial Team Penning and Ranch Sorting Event will be held at the Embarrass Region Fairgrounds from Friday, Aug. 28 through Sunday, Aug. 30.

Team penning begins on Friday at 4 p.m. and goes until dusk. The event continues on Saturday

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ranch sorting will be held Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon for beginners (non-competitive) and 1 to 4 p.m. with prizes awarded.

Buckles and cash prizes will be awarded to top teams in both events. Food will be available onsite and primitive camping is available.

Team penning has

become a popular attraction and is a fun spectator sport, with plenty of action and laughs. Riders try to herd three calves into a small fenced-in area at the opposite end of the arena. They get 30 seconds, and the calves may or may not cooperate. Teams are judged on their time and number of calves that are penned.

Ranch sorting is another timed event, this time with a team of two riders who attempt to sort 10 head of cattle in numerical order from one pen to another.

Cost to enter either event is \$10 per horse and

rider. There are three riders for team penning, and two for ranch sorting.

There is no admission charge for spectators.

This year, the event is being held in memory of Danny Theel, who passed away in April He was the vice-chairman of the Embarrass Region Fair Board. He was active in competitive ranch sorting and team penning. The Embarrass Fairgrounds are located at 4855 Hwy. 21 in Embarrass.

For more information, contact Lori Lilienthal at 218-780-7477 or Jeff Anderson at 218-780-3449.

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board reviews back-to-school plans

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Para-professional contract approved ahead of union vote

REGIONAL- St. Louis County School Board members reviewed the comprehensive plan for a return to in-person learning at a special working session on Aug. 19, with much of the discussion focused on remote learning and social distancing.

The 31-page plan was posted to the district website Aug. 18, providing frameworks applicable across the district for health screenings, facility cleaning, learning and instruction, scheduling, space, facilities, training and education, community safety, and communications. Superintendent Reggie Engebritson reiterated that schools are utilizing the comprehensive plan to develop detailed plans specific to each school's needs.

Engebritson said the district has been working to make distance learning more effective and learner-friendly.

"We tried to make a schedule so that students wouldn't necessarily have to be on Zoom seven hours a day and have some time for instruction and some time for

doing the work. The end goal is that it's not such a big change for teachers if they go from in-person learning to hybrid learning."

While academic standards were eased somewhat when distance learning was quickly implemented last spring in response to Gov. Tim Walz's executive order related to COVID-19, Engebritson said students will be held to a more rigorous standard this year.

"There will be grades and expectations and assignments that are due," she said.

If parents start with distance learning and decide to change to in-person learning, they may do so by providing two-days notice.

Board member Chris Koivisto asked how classrooms are being enabled for distance learning so that teachers can focus on teaching. Director of Teaching and Learning Kristi Berlin responded that teachers would have either an iPad or laptop to stream and record classes, and that an assessment was underway to ensure all classrooms were appropriately

equipped.

Board member Christine Taylor pressed for more details about how the district is going to accomplish social distancing. She expressed concern that the board had not seen any illustrations showing that social distancing was possible in all cases, including in hallways during class changes and on buses.

Engebritson said that in the in-person learning model the district isn't required to maintain six feet of distance between students, but that staff was working to maintain social distancing "to the best of our ability." She reinforced that students and staff are required to wear masks, and that high school students were being allowed to carry backpacks to minimize the need to go to their lockers between classes.

Taylor also asked about the availability of audio systems in classrooms to ensure that students with hearing difficulties could hear teachers who would be wearing masks or face shields. Berlin said that not all schools were equipped with audio

systems, but that face shields would allow teachers to enunciate and project sufficiently to accommodate those needs.

Taylor, who represents the area served by the South Ridge School, also expressed concern that the school's proximity to the Duluth metro area with its much higher rate of COVID-19 infections might call into question the implementation of in-person learning at South Ridge.

"It's one school out of five, I get it, but I want to make sure we're keeping them as safe as possible, and that might mean we need to do a different system for South Ridge, and I want to know what that threshold is," Taylor said.

Engebritson responded that each school will be assessed individually as the school year gets underway, and that the district would be prepared to shift the model in use at South Ridge if conditions warranted it. She also acknowledged Taylor's concern and agreed to consult with county health officials about what measure the district

should be using for South Ridge to determine the appropriate learning model.

When the board returned on Tuesday for its regular monthly meeting, Engebritson reported that county health officials said that the district should use the same 14-day average infection rate for all schools in the district.

Engebritson also reported that in response to questions from parents the district was developing a video to further explain how distance learning will be implemented.

Paraprofessional contract

Also, at Tuesday's meeting, the board approved without discussion a contract covering paraprofessionals, teaching assistants, and six other related job classifications.

As discussed in prior meetings, the contract involves major changes in hours worked and compensation. Individuals in covered positions will have their work hours reduced from 31.5 hours per week to a four-day, 26-hour maximum schedule. The hourly pay has been adjusted

See SCHOOLS... pg. 5

NATURALLY

Ely man charged in assault with canoe paddle

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - A 40-year-old Ely man is facing a third-degree felony assault charge after he allegedly attacked an acquaintance with a canoe paddle last week.

According to the Ely Police Department,

Dominic Puglielli used a bent-shaft canoe paddle "like a baseball bat" and struck another person in the head two times last Tuesday at a Pattison Street home.

The incident report states that police were called to the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital shortly after 6

p.m. on Aug. 18, where Ely police officer Adam Borchert met with the victim "who was being treated for a gaping laceration on his scalp behind the ear." The laceration was treated with four stitches.

Borchert reported that Puglielli allegedly went to the victim's house to retrieve the canoe paddle.

The victim told police he and Puglielli "had some words" and that Puglielli picked up the paddle and hit him twice in the head. The canoe paddle was broken into several pieces.

Borchert reported that he later went to the victim's residence where he saw wood splinters and drops of a substance that

appeared to be blood. At the residence, according to the incident report, a witness told Borchert that he "saw a flash through the garage window, heard a thwap, saw another flash and heard another thwap."

The witness told Borchert that Puglielli said the victim "had it coming so I gave him a

couple of good lickings." Puglielli then allegedly told the victim, "You had it coming and don't make me come back here."

A felony assault charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine.

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Social Security setup

Trump's tax deferral could set up workers and employers for a shock

President Trump's unilateral decision to defer Social Security payroll taxes through the end of the year is setting employers up for a major headache and workers up for a shock come January.

Beginning on Tuesday, Trump's executive order directs U.S. employers not to withhold 6.2 percent of their employees' paychecks to cover their workers' share of the Social Security payroll tax. Social Security is currently funded through a 12.4 percent tax on payroll, with the employer and employee each paying half the bill. It's up to employers to withhold the employees' share of the tax, which is then paid in on a monthly basis in most cases.

The impact of Trump's order is unclear, in part because the administration, as usual, has provided little guidance about how the order is likely to work. Already, major business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have described the order as unworkable and many business owners are unlikely to actually comply with the order, and for good reason.

The order, after all, simply offers a deferral of the payment of these taxes. Under the order, the taxes will become due in January. If employers follow the order and don't deduct payroll taxes for the next four months, they will be required to pay all those deferred taxes in January. That will take a much bigger bite out of workers' January paychecks than they might be expecting.

Their Social Security tax alone would slice off more than a quarter of their January take-home, putting the hurt on the millions of Americans who live paycheck-to-paycheck at a time when we're still likely to be dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

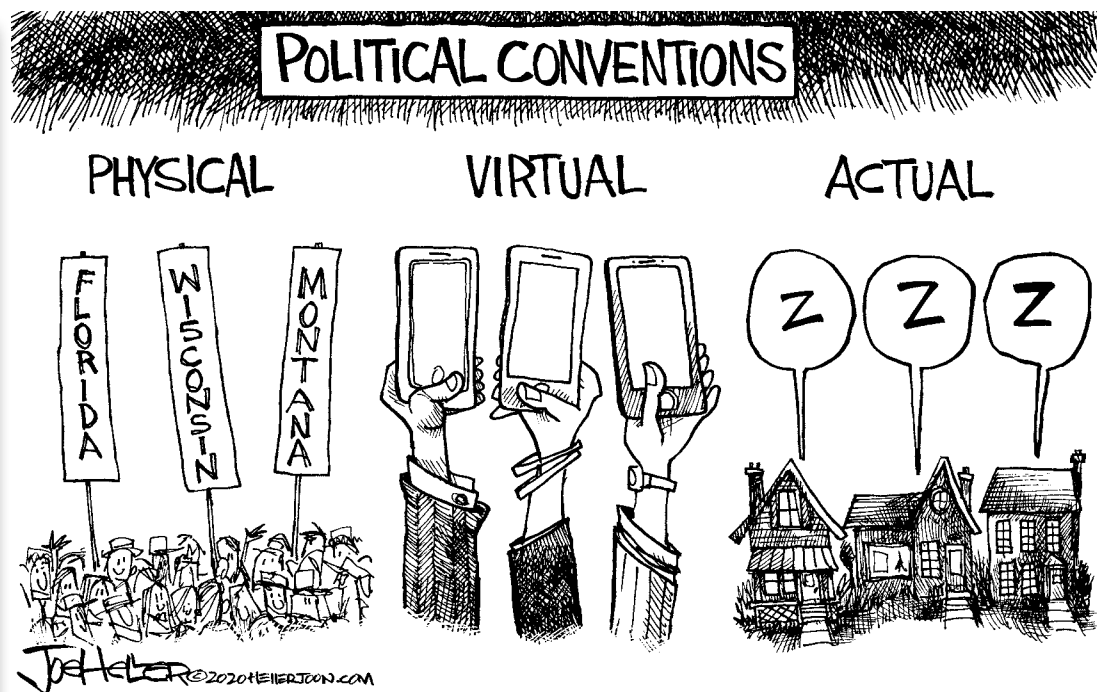
Seasonal employees, like construction workers, particularly in Minnesota,

where workers are typically on layoff much of the winter, could be especially hard hit by being forced to repay those taxes at a time when their incomes are already much reduced.

But employers have worries of their own. Trump can't forgive the taxes at some later point. Only Congress can do that. If they stop withholding taxes without any guarantee that Congress will act (and at this point, Congress has indicated no interest in doing so), they could find themselves on the hook. That's a particular concern in cases where employees leave in the interim, making it impossible for employers to recover those tax dollars from subsequent paychecks. While, technically, it would be the employee who owes the tax, many tax experts believe that the Internal Revenue Service will seek to recover the money from employers, instead. So far, the IRS has given no indication how it will seek to recover such funds.

Trump says he'll try to get Congress to forgive all the money, if he's re-elected, but that's just another idle Trump promise. If Trump isn't re-elected, and actually leaves office, he won't much care about the mess he's left behind for employers to clean up.

Unfortunately, this is what you get when policy is based entirely on electoral politics. Trump is undoubtedly trying to boost Americans' paychecks ahead of the November election, hoping that workers will reward him at the polls. Come next year, he'll either be back in the White House for a second term or dodging lawsuits and possible indictments from prosecutors in New York. Either way, it won't much matter to him if workers or their employers take it on the chin come January.



Letters from Readers

A glimpse of the real Donald Trump

In one of Clint Eastwood's movies, the American president, played by Gene Hackman, is an evil fraud with no moral compass, willing to stop at nothing in order to stay in power. At one point, Eastwood's character calls him a "heartless whore". Truth imitating fiction? The last four years have made it easy to think so.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Two events show the disparity in policing

Two events recently have put into sharp focus why so many people, not just in the cities of the United States but throughout the country and the world, have organized to protest and call for criminal justice reform and a rethink of police practice and training. The arrests of George Floyd and Steve Bannon are indictments of current criminal justice procedures and belie the ideal of equal justice before the law.

George Floyd was detained and arrested on suspicion of passing a \$20 counterfeit bill to purchase cigarettes. Steve Bannon was taken off a \$30 million yacht to stand arraignment for fraud that involved large sums of money, perhaps totaling \$1 million. Both cases involved illegal money and action. But here the similarity ends.

We have seen and read how George Floyd was questioned, detained, handcuffed with hands behind his back, and eventually put face down on the curb and subjected to a knee to his neck for over eight minutes. Mr. Floyd is no longer alive.

Mr. Bannon was arrested on a yacht, brought to court and arraigned, and with his lawyers is now calling his apprehension some political stunt. Mr. Bannon is very much alive. But the concept of equal protection under the law is not.

The money involved in Mr. Bannon's case is 50,000 times greater than the \$20 in

Mr. Floyd's case. If we had equal justice under the law this is what might have happened to Mr. Bannon. He would have been handcuffed and placed face down. Because his alleged crime was 50,000 times greater than Mr. Floyd's, one of the arresting agents would have put a knee to his neck for 400,000 minutes or 16,666 days, or 45.5 months or 3.5 years.

Or to put it another way, Mr. Floyd would have been arraigned, spoken with his lawyer and made his way to court to be judged by the facts. If this stark contrast in how two different people can be treated so differently doesn't help readers understand the anger, pain, and fear felt by so many citizens of our democracy, then I suggest there is something wrong with the moral compass of this country.

Andrew Urban
Eagles Nest Township

We can't let climate change fall off the agenda, again

What is the most important news this month? Seems a hard pick from so many options. Most of them are horrendous. Racial unfairness to the demise of some, political punches with more than normal vitriol, pandemic pain in social, economic and life terms, unresolved trade wars, geopolitical poisons, voter skepticism, job loss, evictions and hunger by so many worldwide and even here in the world's richest economy. The list is serious and grows long. We are deluged by the sadness and growing weary.

Take a breath for a moment to review the news and make sure we haven't missed something.

Oh, how about the existential threat of climate change? Any news on that front? Oops, here is an article from a couple days ago about the hottest temperature ever recorded on the planet - 130F right here in the good old U.S.

Here is another about the new Arctic record high of 100 degrees. Look at all the news about the many and now connecting-up fires from lightning

during the exceptional California to Arizona to Colorado heatwave.

Ah, look at this: Scientists just published a study on Aug. 13 that concludes in-situ data spread over three decades reveals we may have passed a point of no return for Greenland thawing. Only one year in a 100 will now add more snow than melting. Albeit, this is over an extensive time, but it joins last year's news about the 25 percent of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet melt that is also "unstoppable" due to human-caused climate change.

One now 'only' needs to search Google to find this news. "Dynamic ice loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet driven by sustained glacier retreat" and more.

It seems reasonable to pick this as a top news item. Many major cities around the world and in the U.S. are committed to go under many feet of sea water. Why is this getting so little press? Grab your snorkel.

However, climate change is finally a part of this political season's topics. Even Congress is taking note with the growing bipartisan signatories on the CCL (Citizens Climate Lobby) H.R. 763. We must get into the news to get serious about fighting the most important emergency the human race faces to extend our future on this planet. So, listen to the news but filter out the rest until this gets our attention and action. It is an 'unequaled' emergency. Urge your congressional representatives to join the H.R. 763 movement. Soon, please.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-020-0001-2>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/17/climate-change-25-west-antarctic-ice-sheet-now-unstable-due-global-warming/3706584002/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/08/16/death-valley-heat-record/>

John Munter
Dave Carroll
Warba, Minn.



So many things lie beneath our masks

As our lives continue in the Time of COVID, I believe we are feeling multi-layered effects of the restrictions and the impending sense of...of what? Of doom? Of the ongoingness of it? Of the fatigue of keeping hopeful? It's different for everyone, but I'm quite sure that not knowing what's going to



BETTY FIRTH

happen or how long this will last affects everyone.

Some of those layered effects are subtle, some are not. Who ever imagined, excepting science fiction writers, futurists, and environmentalists, that we would live in a time when mask-wearing is mandated? Some

not-so-subtle results are that it's hard to read facial expressions

and to hear muffled talking, especially from six feet away. Normally, we might lean in to hear better, but that defeats the purpose of distancing, so we stop ourselves. I think it has made us stiff, a bit robotic, this being careful in ways we're not used to. I notice a lack of eye contact in places where people are in closer proximity like the grocery store, as we carefully give as much distance as we can passing in a narrow aisle. Sometimes my mask creeps up and interferes with my vision,

another thing that makes me feel a bit disoriented and off balance. In the "old days," I wouldn't get out the door without at least a couple conversations with people I know, and now that just doesn't happen as much as we scurry through our shopping to minimize contact...and to get out in the fresh air and take our masks off.

We can communicate a lot to each other non-verbally with minimal effort when we don't have masks covering our faces. Sometimes I smile and realize

no one can tell that I am. I've thought I should make up a whole bunch of lollipop-type signs on popsicle sticks that have a happy face on one side and a frowny face on the other so I could pass them out to people in the grocery store. We could have a collection of lollipops with faces or words that express "I'm excited, sad, preoccupied, lonely, hopeful, angry, thoughtful, hungry, or bored" to choose the mood of the moment.

See MASKS...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

The other side of the Greenwood story

I read the letters to the editor in the *Timberjay* and decided I couldn't be silent. The Greenwood residents really need to hear another side of the story.

Jeff Maus is the last person that anyone should listen to. He has sued the township multiple times, files grievance after grievance and refuses to work with the current fire administration or board. He doesn't believe that any of the rules apply to him. He complains about the attorney fees. In my opinion, he has cost the township more than anyone between settlements, audits and attorney fees related to his serial complaint, grievance and lawsuit filing.

His latest letter is bashing Mike Ralston. The township is lucky to have Mike as the chair. He owns a business so is experienced in areas that the township needs – he knows human Resources law, accounting and budgeting, because of his business he understands maintenance and road issues. He also has the level personality that is needed to deal with the Bassing cabal that does nothing but complain, write letters, file grievances and continue to bash the board.

When the clerk flat out refuses to work with him, he lets it roll off of him rather than letting her get to him. She didn't bother with an agenda and refused to attend the last meeting. Mike prepared the agenda and took the minutes. Her little passive aggressive ploy

did nothing other than show how little she thinks of her position and the township. It also shows Mike's leadership ability.

For those of you who don't know the whole story about the clerk's pay – the town clerk was given a huge raise the year before the current clerk won the election. I believe the reason Drobac won is that many people didn't believe the increase was warranted. Clerk Drobac collected the same salary that was established by the board even though she didn't have any experience.

When planning and zoning went to St. Louis County under then-Chairman John Bassing, the workload for the clerk and treasurer was reduced, but there was no decrease in compensation. In fact, there was a three-percent raise added each year. The Greenwood clerk is the highest paid township clerk in the area even though our transaction level is very small. The current board reduced the salary to bring it in line with the workload and made it more comparable with the area compensation. The people complaining the most now are the same people who were complaining the most when the increase happened in 2015.

The cabal would like people to believe that the board drove me out. I was tired of working with a clerk that continued to make the same mistakes, excluded me from meetings I should have been in, didn't forward emails that should have gone to me, opened letters addressed to me and then filed them away – one of them being an IRS notice that our payroll deposits were not

made timely (her responsibility), yelled at me in meetings, and was sweet as pie when she needed help with something.

Now she has appointed Jeff Maus as deputy clerk even though our attorneys have advised that we don't share correspondence regarding lawsuits with him. I think she's a detriment to the township and I have never had to deal with such unprofessional behavior in my 40 years of working. The board does not harass the clerk. It is actually the other way around. She refuses to work with anyone unless it benefits her.

Another reason for my resignation is because even with my vast accounting background, people (including some of the board members) refused to listen when I said that I believe the township is headed for cash flow problems in a couple of years. Twice the voters voted for a levy lower than what I recommended. I don't want to stick around to deal with cash flow problems in a wealthy township and I am not going to work to borrow money. The increase in the levy would have been less than \$100 for most of us. What is wrong with people?

The Bassing cabal is hoping to regain control of the board. They will either blame the current board for the need to raise the levy, or they will try to reduce or eliminate the fire department. The fire department is the reason we have a township. Without it, our insurance will go up more than we pay for taxes. Not good for anyone. Please support the current board.

I urge everyone to take a good look around. I urge more people to come to the meetings and see for themselves what the cabal is doing. Please make sure to vote. We live in the most beautiful place on earth – why is it so hard to get along?

Pam Rodgers
Former Treasurer
Greenwood Township

Time to stop destroying our woods and wildlife

Now that we have the insane wolf hunting stopped, what about adopting a sane policy regarding the unnecessary bear hunting season?

And while we're at it we might take notice of the beauty of our woods and lakes and rivers while they're still here, because don't look now, but Mr. Peabody's big trucks are hauling it away, every day.

Speaking of the woods...the woods are the home of Bigfoot, Sasquatch, all around us. I know it's true and so do many of our friends and neighbors. They are not apes. They are some sort of human, and their home is the woods, the woods we are destroying every day.

Mike Palecek
Saginaw, Minn.

Trump and his backers put out fake news on mail ballots

Once again, on the *Timberjay's* website, someone

claiming the name Scott Atwater is blaming the Fake News for misrepresenting his favorite President's words – this time over voting by mail.

His comment about Trump not saying the word injecting, as in injecting disinfectants for the treatment of the virus, is blatantly wrong. I just watched a video of that news conference and he did utter the word inject and the word disinfectant!

The next day he tried to walk that back with the statement that he was being sarcastic. Why would someone say that when this is a serious subject? As far as rigging an election goes, he's trying his best to put out misinformation on fraud when it comes to mail-in voting. There's no credible evidence that mail-in voting has a great deal of fraud connected to it. Especially as the President has put out there that countries will put out fake mail-in ballots.

Brian LaFrenier
Embarrass

Try reading the paper you write for

Regarding Mr. Sikora's article of last week in *The Tower News*.

I am sorry you have to blame someone else for your mistakes. The date for the Greenwood Township August meeting was found in several different places. The most obvious – *The Tower News*.

Sue Drobac
Greenwood Clerk

Briefly

Bones found off Echo Trail ID'd as missing camper

ELY – Human remains found in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in April

2019 have been identified as belonging to a missing camper who had not been seen since the previous year.

The skeletal remains have been positively identified as Jordan Grider, 29, of Moriarty, N.M., who had been staying at

a campsite off the Sioux Hustler Trail, near the Echo Trail. He had not been seen since Oct. 22, 2018.

According to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, the remains were found on April 25, 2019 when officers

located Grider's campsite while attempting to perform a welfare check and found large amounts of blood at the site. Sheriff's investigators, along with officials from the U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Forestry Service and St. Louis County Rescue Squad

conducted an extensive search and gathered evidence, including skeletal remains, but were unable to locate any signs of Grider due to deep snow.

The exact cause of death remains unknown, authorities said. Foul play is not suspected.

MASKS...Continued from page 4

Meanwhile, the mask industry has been booming doing just that. A quick internet search will bring up masks that reflect your profession, hobbies, political affiliations, humor, favorite cartoon character or superhero, and a whole range of opinions about life on this planet. I found masks that said, "I'm actually smiling," "If you can read this, you're too close," "Namaste, get away," or you can customize your own message. We're like walking bumper stickers. You can transform your face with your favorite breed of dog, cat, pig, or wild animal. One of my favorites is a realistic snout and mouth of a black Labrador with a BIG hamburger in its mouth.

I saw a set printed in the UK with much more restrained images, like grimaces instead of the giant, grinning, American

mouths. There was one that looked suspiciously like Trump's weird little square mouth. They do so love to ridicule us Colonials, and Trump is giving them lots of fodder. So, you can have a drawerful of masks to express your various inner selves, whether you're feeling British la-di-dah or rock star wild and crazy.

What is much harder to express is the difficult-to-define unease that we may be feeling, whether we're aware of it or not. We have all experienced loss of various kinds: some have lost loved ones, jobs, income, and health; all of us have lost the normality of our lives. Well-known author Brene' Brown said in an interview on the Today Show, "I think, collectively, what I see is a growing weariness. I think we're tired – physically, emotionally and spiritually exhausted." She said

that when we experience crises like natural disasters, we usually have enough adrenaline to get through it, but COVID-19 is not short-lived, and we have to figure out how to do a new normal while grieving the loss of our old normal.

There are different levels of grief going on, and we may not want to talk about it or even acknowledge it. We may have lost the opportunity to attend celebrations or funerals, go on the planned vacation, or visit family and friends.

Lori Gottlieb, therapist and author of "Maybe You Should Talk to Someone," says that we have also lost the predictability that we take for granted in daily life: that there will be eggs and toilet paper on supermarket shelves, that we can safely touch a door knob with our bare hands,

that we can get a haircut and our teeth cleaned or spend a Saturday afternoon at the movies." I was at the grocery store today and some empty spaces on the shelves caught my attention, and I stopped short, feeling a little alarm: "Now what's not available?"

We also may be experiencing anticipatory grief, running an unending hamster wheel of possibilities in our mind: What if I can't graduate, what if we can't see our ailing parents, what if I lose my job, what if, what if, what if. Ms. Gottlieb's advice is to acknowledge the grief, our own and others, including our collective grief; stay in the present; and let those around you grieve in their own way.

If you try to tough it out or stay in denial, your feelings will leak out in various ways: fatigue, inability to sleep, mental

fogginess, grouchy or angry behavior, or resorting to food, drugs, or alcohol to numb out. Wallowing in the drama of future possibilities of loss does you absolutely no good. To paraphrase Mark Twain, "Worrying is like paying interest on a debt you don't owe." Trying to control how others are expressing their grief isn't helpful either. Some people want to isolate and be quiet, others want to socialize. Some of us like to bake, sew, or create art; some spend a lot of time in the outdoors; others bury themselves in books or TV. I was talking with a friend who was feeling depressed, and her husband said he just didn't understand or know what to do because he'd never experienced depression, so he tended not to listen to her. I said, "You really don't need to fix her or do

anything else...just listen to what it's like for her."

Ambiguous loss is a specific type of loss characterized by lack of closure, resolution, or clear understanding, first coined by Dr. Pauline Boss in the 1970s. She developed strategies to help people who lost loved ones through wars, immigration, kidnapping, and natural disasters to build resilience through accepting ambivalence and identifying new hope. Our living with a pandemic also brings with it ambiguous loss, and we need to learn the resilience of accepting loss and creating new ways of doing things. If we remember we're not alone in this and give each other time to talk and be well-listened to, that can go a long way to ease the unease and help us to feel seen and heard.

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

upward to be equivalent to that in surrounding districts, with an initial starting wage of \$16.03 per hour for paraprofessionals. Engebretson has said in the past that the increased wage will make the district more competitive in hiring for these positions.

The agreement also includes a clause that would make payment on all wage and benefit improvements retroactive to June 30, provided that the agreement is ratified by the union by Sept. 2. Engebretson said Tuesday that ratifying the agreement ahead of the union's vote would enable the district to imple-

ment it immediately upon union approval, rather than having to wait for the September board meeting.

Meanwhile, in a personnel action on Tuesday, the board accepted without discussion the resignations of ten individuals from positions covered by the agreement. It is unknown what relation, if any, the resignations had to the contract revisions.

Prior to approving the Tuesday meeting agenda, an item seeking approval of a letter of agreement addressing compensation of coaches and co-curricular advisors was removed from consideration. The letter, which was included

in the board packet, included proposed accommodations to changes made by the Minnesota State High School League in which certain sports, such as football, will have split seasons with practices in the fall and a shortened regular season in the spring.

In other business on Tuesday, the board:

► Approved a memorandum of understanding with Teamsters Local 346 removing the position of commodities distributor from the food service contract.

► Heard an updated report from Business Manager Kim Johnson regarding long-term facil-

ities maintenance funds. Among the items projected in the budget were roof repairs to Tower-Soudan Elementary in fiscal year 2022 and work on athletic fields at North Woods School in fiscal year 2022 and 2023. The budget will be reviewed again at a future meeting.

► Placed North Woods teacher Amanda Pascuzzi on a part-time special assignment.

► Hired Dawn Niemi as a full-time independent education program assistant and Rebecca Smith as a substitute bus driver, both at North Woods.

► Recalled Title 1 teachers Amy Nelson and

Nathaniel LeBeque at North Woods and Kathleen Meier at Tower-Soudan.

► Accepted resignations from North Woods paraprofessionals Jennifer Scofield, Kristine Benoit, Suzanne Holter, Jessica Gaskell, and Sydney Bell; North Woods independent

education interventionist Liz Burton; North Woods teacher aide Larry Barnes; and Tower-Soudan assistant cook Yvette Lange.



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Week of Aug. 31

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 Sept. 15.

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.

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BEST Baseball takes 2nd at Ed Berdiche Tournament

REGIONAL- The BEST (Babbitt, Embarrass, Soudan, Tower) Majors Little League team won second place at their only tournament this summer, the Ed Berdiche Tournament in Aurora, on the first weekend of August.

In the first game on Friday, BEST beat Chisholm 12 to 11. "We came from behind, we were down four and took the lead and won it with two more in the sixth," said coach Greg Dostert. On Saturday, the team won their second game against Mes-



abi East and then lost to Ely, 7 to 10, in their third game. On Sunday, BEST fell to Ely again in the championship game, 2 to 3. "I think we were the youngest team in the tournament, it's quite a feat we did so well," said Dostert. "That was a very fun team to coach."

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Tower-Soudan gets a full-time dean of students

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- When Tower-Soudan Elementary opens on Tuesday, Sept. 8, there will be a new full-time dean of students on site to greet the students.

John Jirik is known to many in the area, having worked in area schools since 1991. Most recently he was the dean of students, football coach, and Athletic Director at North Woods School. He started teaching at the Orr High School in 1991, where he also coached football and basketball. His experience also includes being a peer coach for teachers.

"I see myself as moving from one small town to another small town," Jirik said. "I want to become part of the Tower-Soudan community."

Jirik sees his new role at T-S as providing consistent leadership and becoming the



"go-to" person for teachers and staff. The school previously had a part-time principal, sharing Kelly Engman with Northeast Range, and had a half-time dean of students in the building. Engman is still the building's principal, but Jirik will be on site full-time.

"We want our kids to get the best learning they can," Jirik said. "That is why we are here."

Jirik said the small class sizes at T-S truly allow teachers to

put into practice the district slogan, "where every kid is somebody."

Jirik got high marks from North Woods Principal John Vukmanich when he was appointed to the new position last May.

"John's presence here at North Woods will certainly be missed," Vukmanich said. "In addition to his several roles, he also had a wealth of experience in working with teachers as a peer coach, bringing with him his knowledge from being a former social studies teacher. What I've appreciated most about him is his ability to show extreme patience when working with students."

New at T-S this year is a Level 3 supported classroom for special education students who need instruction outside of the regular classroom. Teacher Brandi Richards-Berger will be leading that new classroom,

which has five students enrolled at the school of the year, but those numbers are expected to grow. The school will also welcome a new Kindergarten teacher, Kristine Sorgenfrei.

Jirik said he is excited to begin working with the school staff. Jo Holen (first grade), Charissa Dahl (second grade), Jacqueline Horvat (third grade), Michelle Anderson (fourth grade), and Scott Chiabotti (fifth/sixth grade) are all back in the building this year.

"They come with very high commendations," he said. The family-like atmosphere at the school also reminds him of his time at the Orr School.

"I am hoping to be here for a long time," he said.

WIFFLEBALL

12th Annual Red Bear Wiffleball Tournament played earlier this month

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- Wiffleball will go on. The 12th Annual Red Bear Wiffleball Tournament was held on Saturday, Aug. 1. Seven teams, mostly local this year due to the pandemic, competed in the all-day event. Teams were mixed, male and female, and it was the teams mostly made up of younger folks who ruled the day.

The winner this year was "The Alaspa Bunch," coached by Ryan and Crystal Alaspa. Second-place honors went to the Tower-Soudan team, coached by Matt Tichel.

"The Alaspa Bunch" went into the champion-

ship game with a 1-1 record. The teams in their division all went 1-1, but the Alaspas advanced out of their division by having the best defensive record, giving up the fewest runs. The Tower-Soudan team went into the championship having won both of their division games. The final score of the championship game was 7-5.

"The game was tied at 5-5 going into the last inning," said event organizer Marlin Bjornrud. "So it was a close game."

The annual wiffleball extravaganza began



The Alaspa Bunch (from left): Brady Alaspa, Abby Carmody, Darren Jorgenson, Jacob Alaspa, Josh Berlin, Tommy Carmody, and Crystal Alaspa, kneeling. submitted

after the Bjornrud family created their own wiffleball field, complete with backstop, as part of the graduation party for the youngest of their six children, Brett. The Bjornruds grown children would come back with teams of friends, and the tournament was born. Attendance at the tournament was considered a family obligation and, most years, all their grown children returned home with friends and family to participate. This year, due to the pandemic, most of the teams playing were local.

"Family members didn't travel back home as they did in past years," Tichel noted.

But the tournament did go on as Bjornrud worked to recruit more local players.

Tichel, who has played on teams the past four years, said Bjornrud had asked him to form his own team this year with players from Tower and Soudan. The Alaspa team featured players from Embarrass and Vermilion Lake.

the TIMBERJAY

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RUMMAGE SALE

St. Martin's Catholic Church, Tower, MN

Saturday, August 29
8:30 AM to 1 PM

For all those **EARLY BIRD** shoppers-the doors will open at 8 AM for the small charge of \$5.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance!

BAG SALE:
Sunday, August 30
8 AM-10:15 AM
11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Purchase a bag-and fill for \$3

Lots to choose from: Books, puzzles, DVDs, CDs, kitchen stuff, gardening, toys, men's stuff, fabric, crafts, decor, etc.



Caramel Rolls available for take out only \$2.50



Goods made from Canvas, Leather & Muskrat

Fridays 4-6 PM

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,

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesdays.

All presentations are administered in a virtual presence until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. Send email to stevie-schon@gmail.com for more information.

Sept. 1 - Jeff Pike, President of WICOLA - White Iron Chain of Lakes Association (A joint Zoom meeting with Ely's Climate Change organization)

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



persistent heat waves waiting for fall's lower temps

winter's sounding fine

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ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Cross country team ready for first meet on Wednesday

ELY - The Memorial High School cross country team began their second week of training this week. More than 45 participants in grades 7-12 began the fall sport practices, an early sign that summer is coming to an end. School starts on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Runners gather at various locations in the early mornings. One constant prior to each workout is a daily temperature check and health screening, while the boys and girls teams are split into smaller "pods" during practice to limit interaction,

according to head coach Jayne Dusich.

State high school cross country teams are limited to seven regular season meets this year, because of COVID-19 restrictions, and Ely's schedule is still a work in progress. Coach Dusich said she continues working with other regional coaches to schedule meets for the season.

A partial schedule includes: Sept. 2 - Virginia Golf Course, 8 a.m. (Varsity/Junior Varsity). Sept. 10 - Greenway/Nashauk/ Keewatin Invite at

East Ridge Golf Course, 3:15 p.m. (Varsity).

Sept. 11 - Hibbing Meet, Vic Power Park, 4 p.m., (Junior High).

Oct. 2 - Ely Invite, Ely Golf Course, 1 p.m. for Chisholm, Mesabi East and Mt. Iron/Buhl and 4 p.m., for Ely, Greenway/Nashauk/ Keewatin and Virginia, (Varsity and Junior High).

Meets are limited to three teams because of the pandemic, according to Dusich, and she does not know yet if there will be postseason competition.

Ely Police Report - July 15 - Aug.15, 2020

Arrests/Citations

Traffic Stop. Officers issued a citation for Driving After Revocation.

Physical Domestic. Officers arrested an individual for Domestic Assault.

Shoplifting. Officers issued a citation for shoplifting.

Traffic Stop. Individual issued a citation for small amount of marijuana in a motor vehicle.

Traffic Stop. Individual was issued a citation for driving without a license.

Domestic Assault. Officers arrested an individual for Domestic Assault with strangulation.

Traffic Stop. Individual was arrested for 5th degree possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, juvenile in possession of tobacco, and speeding.

Disturbance. Officers were called about several individuals that were running around knocking on doors. One individual was issued a citation for Disorderly Conduct, Public Nuisance, and Possession of Marijuana. Three individuals issued Curfew citations.

Domestic Assault. Officers arrested an individual for Domestic Assault and Interference

with a 911 call.

Medical. Individual was arrested for Criminal Vehicular Operation and 3rd Degree Driving Under the Influence.

Domestic Assault. Individual arrested for Domestic Assault, Disorderly Conduct, Underage Consumption, and 4th Degree Assault on a Peace Officer.

Complaints

Animal Disturbance. Officers educated individuals about not having dogs in the park.

Animal Disturbance. Officers educated an individual about the city laws regarding dogs at the beach.

Parking Problem. Officers assisted a local business to remove a vehicle from their property.

Disturbance. Officers mediated a dispute between former spouses.

Fraud. Officers were contacted about a fraudulent account being opened. This case is pending investigation.

Disturbance. Officers were called about two individuals having a verbal argument. Officers mediated the situation for the night.

Animal Disturbance. Officers came across a bear knocking over garbage cans. Officers led the bear back

into the woods for the night.

Extra Patrol. Officers were requested to patrol an intersection as vehicles were not obeying the stop sign.

Animal Disturbance. Officers were contacted about a custody issue over a dog. Officers explained the proper way to obtain the dog.

Check Welfare. Officers were contacted about an individual that was not answering their phone. This individual was located and did not need any assistance.

Animal Disturbance. Officers educated an individual about the city laws regarding dogs at the park.

Hot Dog. Officers were called about a dog that was left in a vehicle that appeared to be in distress. Officers made contact with the owner of the dog and the owner was advised about leaving dogs in vehicles.

Fireworks. Officers were contacted about fireworks being fired. Officers located the individual and a warning was issued.

Loud Party. Officers were called about a loud party. Officers determined that there was not a party and the volume was reasonable.

Fireworks. Officers were called about fireworks being fired off. Officers were not able to locate the source of the complaint.

Extra Patrol. Officers were requested to patrol an area for ATVs driving fast.

Check Welfare. Officers were contacted about an individual that was intoxicated and laying in a yard. Officers located the individual and they were transported to the hospital.

Juvenile. Officers were contacted about a group of juveniles moving bikes around. Officers spoke with the juveniles.

Intoxicated Person.

Officers were called about a group of individuals that were intoxicated trying to start a fight. All individuals agreed to call it a night.

Intoxicated Person. Officers were called to a local business about an intoxicated individual. Ely Ambulance transported the individual to the hospital.

Mask Compliance. Officers were called to a local business about employees not following the mask order. Officers observed full compliance.

Check Welfare. Officers were called to check on an individual that was not answering the phone. Officers located the individual and all was well.

Animal Disturbance. Officers found the neighborhood bear taking a nap in a tree. Bear was given space and moved on back into the woods.

Fire Outside. Officers were contacted about two individuals that were having a fire. Officers located the fire and the individuals were educated on fire safety and the fire was put out.

Parking. Officers were contacted about a vehicle parked in a private parking lot. Officers contacted that owner of the vehicle and the vehicle was moved.

Damage to property. Officers were contacted about a vehicle that had eggs on it. This case is under investigation.

Disturbance. Officers were contacted about an ATV that was speeding around town in the alleys. This case is under investigation.

Open Door. Officers located an open door. Officers determined that nothing was out of place and closed the door.

Animal Disturbance. Officers were contacted about a dog that was barking and left alone for two days. Officers arrived and made contact with the owner of the dog who was not home and had the dog with them.

Advertisement for Donald C. 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. 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. Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Monday, Sept. 14 to schedule a grant review meeting.

Vision for riverfront park puts veterans at the fore

Fundraising for Friends of the Parks venture gets underway

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It's been the site of a popular dance hall, a location for the Timber Days carnival, and more recently, just a pretty piece of grass-covered property at the north end of Front St. called Riverfront Park.

But that's going to be changing sometime soon, as Cook Friends of the Parks has plans to turn the venue into a destination that not only provides for recreational activities, but also honors the area's military veterans.

Members of Friends of the Parks shared their plans with the Cook City Council this past spring and received approval for a signature element of the transformation, renaming the little park as Veterans Riverfront Park.

While the entire Friends group is enthusiastically on board with the project, Friends of the Parks members Jeannie Taylor and Diane Brunner agreed that one member in particular has been the driving force behind the new plan.

"We kind of have to give that to Carrolle Wood," Friends of the Parks member Jeannie Taylor said.

"Carrolle's the one," Brunner said. "It was her dream to get Riverfront Park going."

Old-timers will remember the location as a place where they would go to kick up their heels.

"There was a big dance hall on the front of the property, Riek's," said Steve Kajala, another Friends of the Parks member. "It would have been demolished in the 50s or 60s."

"We were trying to remember - I graduated in 1971 and I don't ever remember it being there," Taylor said. "When we went to Timber Days as kids it wasn't there. We used to have carnivals

there all the time."

Over the years, while the little park has been used at times for lunch breaks by employees of nearby businesses such as Cook Building Center, it's become nearly invisible to many.

"It was minorly developed many, many years ago," Kajala said. "They had a number of picnic tables and things, and they were broken, destroyed, or stolen. After that, it's just basically been a lawn for many, many years, and most people don't even realize there's a park there. It just looks like an extension of the parking lot."

A small, more secluded park offers residents and tourists alike an alternative to the larger city park.

"It's just a nice place for even community members, not only the tourists, to go and have lunch or the workers in town that are close to their can just walk down and enjoy their lunch hour," Brunner said.

"People that want to go walking, it would be a good place to meet and they can walk the loop," Taylor said. "There will be picnic tables and barbecue grills so people can grill. If it's noisy or busy at the other park, it'll be a quieter place."

And this time, Friends of the Parks is planning to install sturdy concrete picnic tables and will design other elements to deter potential vandalism that would discourage the park's use.

Honoring veterans

There's a plaque on the bridge over the Little Fork River by the park designating it as Veterans Bridge, but few if any people notice it as they drive by. By naming the park Veterans Riverfront Park and incorporating elements to recognize veterans, Cook will have a more fitting tribute to their service, Taylor and Brunner said.

"That bridge is the only thing in town that has a veterans designation on it," Taylor said. "We have so many veterans, and they're not really recognized a whole lot."

They're still working on plans for that aspect of the park, but it will likely include flagpoles for American and POW/MIA flags, a flower bed, and eventually some plaques.

A recent presentation to the Cook VFW was enthusiastically received, and the post plans to vote to formally support the project at an upcoming meeting.

Downtown Cook could also gain increased visibility from a Veterans Riverfront Park, as many veterans and their families and friends will often seek out veterans memorials to spend a few moments reflecting and paying their respects.

Ongoing development

While the initial plans for the park, which include fencing to block off the adjacent Canadian National railroad tracks, are geared toward immediate recreational use, the group also has ideas for taking advantage of the river.

Currently, the river isn't accessible in the park, with dense shrubs and trees completely enveloping the bank, and rip rap under the bridge being unsafe to clamber on.

"The riverfront right now is basically choked with honeysuckle and buckthorn, which are both invasives, all the way from the bridge to the railroad property on the east side," Kajala said.

But it wouldn't have to remain like that.

"We've been talking about a canoe landing and a fishing pier, possibly," Kajala said.

To do that, Friends of the Parks would look to collaborate with the



Cook Friends of the Parks got a big boost to its fundraising efforts for its Veterans Riverfront Park project on Friday with a \$1,000 donation from the Cook Lions Club. Pictured are, from left, Lions Club president Steve Kajala, Lions Club treasurer Jody Refsdal, and Friends of the Parks members Diane Brunner and Jeannie Taylor. photo by D. Colburn

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which certainly puts those possibilities into a future stage of development.

"The DNR, those projects take years to complete because they have to do a lot of different things," Kajala said. "But when they do it, they cover the whole works."

Kajala said that a good section of the river is navigable from that location, and that possibly obtaining a piece of land directly across River Street from the park would provide a more suitable place for those additions.

Fundraising

Not surprisingly, even the modest first stage planned by Friends of the Parks is going to cost a fair amount - they estimate about \$25,000 will be needed. And while the group does have some money in the bank, they don't have enough to cover that, and also want to have money on reserve for other parks projects.

A strong possibility for funding is getting a grant through the Iron Range Resources and

Rehabilitation Board, which has a category of grants well-suited for this purpose. But while the grant would provide a portion of the funds, it wouldn't pay for any more than half of the total costs. The grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match from the community.

Some of that match can come from the Friends' existing resources, but community donations will be essential, and they're already receiving some major support. The Cook Lions Club and Timber Days committee have each pledged \$1,000 to the project.

Kajala is also the current Lions Club president.

"It was unanimous support," Kajala said. "The longer-term members of the Lions have been here for their whole lives or for most of it. They remember when that area was utilized. They're very excited to be a part of this. It was an easy decision."

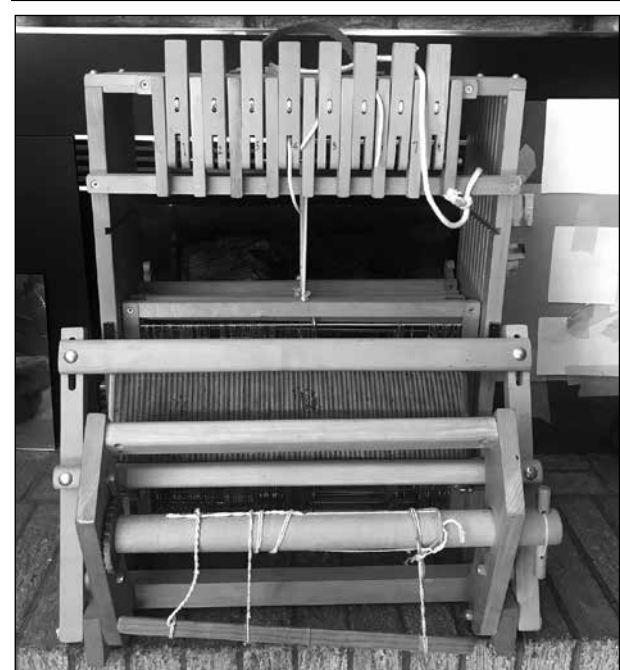
Taylor also noted that in addition to year-round community members, people who call the Cook area home during

the summers have traditionally been generous givers to local causes, and some may be interested in donating to a project honoring veterans.

Obviously, the timeline for actually starting work depends on the availability of funds, but Friends of the Parks is ready to get rolling.

"We're excited to break ground as soon as we hear on the grant," Kajala said. "We have individuals who have pledged to do all the cement work, and we have a number of people who have pledged to offer manpower to for the cleanup because there's a lot of dead trees and brush and some trash and different things that need to be worked on."

Donations to the Veterans Riverfront Project can be sent to Cook Friends of the Parks, PO Box 1141, Cook MN 55723. Those wanting more information about the project can call Carrolle Wood at 218-666-2747, or Tammy Palmer at 218-780-8445.



Art sale is Saturday at NWFA Gallery in Cook

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts will host a huge 'end of summer' art sale, "Art, Antiques and Antiquities," on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River Street in Cook, next to Dream Weaver Salon and Day Spa.

The items on sale at NWFA are always interesting and diverse, as evidenced by a tabletop weaving loom, donated

by an NWFA member, that has an interesting history attached to the previous owner.

Mabel Ellet Maxcy was a faculty member at Texas Women's University and was known for her art in many fields, including photography and hand weaving. She was one of the women named a "pioneer of modernism" at the Denton, Texas, institution as a ceramics artist.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

"The Blenders" featured at Cook Music in the Park

COOK- The season-ending hurrah for Cook's summer series "Music in the Park" will feature an act new to the event, a musical threesome from Britt, "The Blenders."

The group will perform country, folk and old-time classics from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Food will be available from the St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church burger/brat stand. The City of Cook encourages visitors at these free concerts to follow COVID-19 guidelines of social distancing and face coverings.

New exhibit honors Sue Wolfe

COOK- The Soul Force Memorial Exhibit, an exhibit and book signing planned by Northwoods Friends of the Arts founding member Sue Wolfe, begins on Thursday, Sept. 3 and continues through Sept. 26 at the NWFA Gallery

in Cook.

Wolfe planned this event for a year before she died unexpectedly this past spring.

"Soul Force" displays Wolfe's eclectic work using materials found, old and new that she had on hand and used to create with joyful faith.

"One of A Kind," a short autobiographical booklet written by Sue for her children, will also be on sale at the exhibit.

The NWFA Gallery is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 S River Street in Cook.

An extended overview of the exhibit will be published next week.

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the TIMBERJAY

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Ely schools develop 'blueprint' for reopening

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – While many school districts around the state are having to change, walk back, or rethink their reopening plans based on rising COVID-19 case rates, pushback from both teachers and parents or even budget constraints, ISD 696 officials here released and approved a “Restart Blueprint” Monday night and are set to reopen for in-person learning on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The 49-page document, sent to all parents and staff this week and available for review on the school website (www.ely.k12.mn.us) was developed with input of all district employee groups and administrators.

“This covers all of our procedures and protocol plans,” said Superintendent Erik Erie.

A video summary of the plan will soon be ready for viewing. As of now, ISD 696 will implement the “in-person learning for all students” scenario, as spelled out by the Minnesota Department of Health. School officials were ordered to create as much space as feasible between students and teachers and will strictly enforce six feet of distance between individuals.

Based on evolving data on local coronavirus cases, the Ely school district could, at any time, switch to a hybrid learning model with strict capacity limits in school facilities and transportation vehicles at a 50-percent

capacity, or revert to a distance-learning only model with just remote learning, similar to what was implemented last spring.

Rather than adhere to county-based coronavirus data that could be skewed by the high number of infections in the Duluth metro area in St. Louis County, local officials are able to now refer to COVID-19 infection data by ZIP code that takes into account the relatively low infection rates in the North County.

Erie said a regional support team will be meeting regularly to consider coronavirus cases in the northern portion of the county, regardless of what is indicated in the entire county.

“We will be able to look at our own ZIP codes to see what is happening in our own backyard,” Erie said.

Students and staff will be required to adhere to strict social distance guidelines, wear a protective face covering at all times, be screened for COVID-19 symptoms, practice good hygiene protocols, limit group gatherings, and plan for short-term school closures if there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case.

“We are one of the few school districts in the region that is doing temperature checks,” Erie said. “We are going to be coming up with the best way to achieve this and it may be different in the Washington building than in the Memorial building.”

Lunch periods in the buildings will look much different from normal for

students. “For elementary students, right now the plan is to eat in the classrooms, but that also brings up potential issues with spills and cleanup,” he said.

School principals highlighted additional plans for feeding students during the school day. “Our intention is to have hot lunches (in the Washington building), but to start the year we will likely have bag lunches and work our way toward hot lunches once we work out the kinks and the timing of that,” said K-5 Principal Anne Oelke.

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal, said in the Memorial building, all usable area will be available for lunch eating. “Some students may eat in the cafeteria, especially on those days when they can’t be outside,” she said. “We will use the gymnasium and bleacher areas as well.” The school will be closed for lunch periods and all students will be required to stay on campus.

James Pointer, one of two school board members not seeking reelection this fall, asked for all school sports seasons to be accounted for in the re-opening plan.

Athletic Director Tom Coombe explained, “We really don’t know, particularly for this winter, any sort of date or timelines. If you were to ask me today if hockey and basketball and skiing are going to start on Nov 15 or Dec. 1 or Jan. 1, I really couldn’t tell you. We will follow the directives of the high school league as we move forward.”

General cleaning protocols are still being developed.

“We continue to meet with individual employee groups on this,” Erie said. “Everybody has the same intentions, and that is to make sure our buildings are safe, employees are safe, and we will have strict protocols to address those issues.”

Facilities director Tim Leeson noted that he does not know at this time if any students will be touching any cleaning agents other than hand sanitizer or anti-bacterial soap. He continues to research surface cleaning options for the school buildings.

Enrollment and staffing

Enrollment projections for the 2020-2021 school year show 562 students in grades K-12 for ISD 696, which would be about 10 students fewer than last year. Several families moved out of the district and as many as a dozen families have opted to home school their students this year.

According to Minnesota Department of Education orders, any family has the option to keep their children out of the in-person or hybrid-learning protocols in any school district. In the Washington building, 26 students will participate in distance learning to start the school year, and 21 students in the Memorial building will stay out of school buildings.

Erie said that if families decide to return their students to in-person learn-

ing, the transition will be made at the quarter breaks in the school year.

“We are looking at those natural breaks for continuity,” he said. Notification to principals will be required for the learning model transition.

Most of ISD 696 staff are returning to school for in-person learning this fall, but there are several changes.

► Anja Nienow resigned and the district is seeking a foreign language teacher.

► Kindergarten teacher Megan Devine will be taking a leave of absence for the 2020-2021 school year.

► Music teacher Mike Rouse will be working from home this year and will be focusing on elementary students.

► Sarah Mason will be teaching music to 6-12 students, and will not be teaching the normal band courses.

► Chelsea Blomberg will be teaching physical education in just the elementary building.

► Max Gantt will be teaching physical education classes for 6-12 students this year.

► Donna Carlson and Gail Lekatz will both be working on interventions as para-professionals from their homes this year, specifically on math and reading for 6-12 students.

Schoolboard members had mixed feelings about returning to the Memorial building board room, or some other location, with social distancing protocols in place. Board chair Ray Marsnik indicated that he will ask for a vote on the

issue at the Sept. 14 board meeting.

Schoolboard members will also vote next month on utilizing a Teachers on Call program to provide substitute teachers for the district, and will consider a memorandum of understanding for coaching compensations in the event of changes or cancellations of sports seasons because of COVID-19.

Other business

In other action during a special meeting Monday, the board:

► Approved the school “Restart Blueprint” and the Memorial building master schedule for the 2020-2021 school year.

► Accepted the resignations of foreign language teacher Anja Nienow and longtime noon supervisor Patsy Gibney, effective immediately.

► Approved the leave of absence of elementary teacher Megan Devine for the 2020-2021 school year and hired Kara Kahle to fill the position.

► Hired Elyssa Erickson for the third-grade teaching position.

► Increased Matthew Koch to a .64 FTE position to reflect the addition of a psychology class.

► Hired Mary Schwinghamer for the temporary nurse position, and Jason Levar for the temporary custodian position.

► Hired Sara Burger for the bus driver position, and Ron Riikola and John Lahtonen for the substitute bus driver positions.

COVID...Continued from page 1

are currently under isolation at their homes.”

Morrison was back with another video on Saturday, announcing that two additional COVID-19 cases, one a teen and the other in their forties, had been identified, bringing the total to five. One of the new cases is at Vermilion, and the other is at Nett Lake.

A sixth case, a person in their 60s at Nett Lake, was announced by Morrison on Tuesday.

Prior to the announcement of the sixth case, tribal chairwoman Cathy Chavers addressed the outbreak in a message posted on the tribal website.

“We are in the process of implementing our emergency plans due to the positive cases in Nett Lake and Vermilion,” Chavers wrote. “If people want to be safe, please stay home. That is the best way. We knew at some point the virus would come to Bois Forte.”

In their separate communications, Chavers and Morrison both emphasized that the affected individuals were in mandatory isolation, and contact tracing has led to others being quarantined who were in close

contact with the infected people. Bois Forte Health Services has been coordinating with the Minnesota Department of Health and Indian Health Service to respond to the situation.

Chavers also emphasized that “None of the exposed individuals have been to the casino or were exposed to workers in the casino.” In the Aug. 22 note, she also said that all the cases to that point had originated through contacts off the reservation.

The tribe’s first COVID-19 case in mid-June led to the tribal council enacting strict penalties for anyone in isolation or quarantine who knowingly violates those orders, which in cases of multiple violations could result in the loss of all tribal benefits for five years and a \$2,000 fine.

“We want people to know this is a serious issue,” Chavers said at the time. “We have a lot of elders and a lot of high-risk population out there that in the event individuals leave their quarantine residence, it poses a serious threat to all the members of our reservation.”

Chavers is now one

of those people in quarantine, having come into close contact with one of the affected individuals.

Chavers said that the tribal government office in Nett Lake was closed due to a positive case there. While public access remains restricted, some workers have returned to the building and others are working remotely from home to continue services. The DNR, RTC, and fitness center facilities also have been closed.

Vermilion and Nett Lake health clinics and pharmacies remain open but have modified their operations. Health and dental clinics are not accepting walk-ins, and only one parent or guardian can accompany a child or vulnerable adult for appointments. The pharmacies have implemented curbside service for people needing to pick up prescriptions.

The Bois Forte Head Start program announced that it would delay the start of its school year for two to three weeks beyond the scheduled Sept. 8 opening.

The tribe is also working with the Minnesota Department of Health to schedule a

mass testing event.

Restaurant closures

As of Tuesday, four area restaurants remained closed temporarily “for the health and safety of our employees and our customers.”

The closures began Thursday, Aug. 20 when Tower-area eateries The Vermilion Club and Bayview Bar and Grill posted similar notices on their Facebook pages about 5 p.m. indicating that the restaurants would “temporarily close” for the health and safety of their employees and customers.

About four hours later, the Wilderness Grill at the Wilderness golf course at Fortune Bay also posted a temporary closure notice to Facebook.

A reliable source told the *Timberjay* that the closures are due to a kitchen staff member who worked at multiple locations and tested positive for COVID-19.

Saturday afternoon, T. Pattenn Café in Orr was the fourth area restaurant to close temporarily for health and safety concerns. Contacted Monday by the *Timberjay*, owner Tara Patten said that the

closure is precautionary.

“There is no COVID case in house,” Pattenn said. “We just are trying to be safe and keep it from being in our house and café. Many of our customers’ workplaces are taking precautions, so with that we are following with our own precautions. We want to do our part in keeping all of our family, employees, and patrons safe.”

Fortune Bay Director of Sales and Public Relations Brian Anderson said that Wilderness Grill staff responded immediately when informed of the positive case, closing the grill and implementing extensive cleaning. Professional cleaners were also brought in, Anderson said.

Per tribal rules, all Wilderness staff who had prolonged contact with the employee who tested positive were sent home and told to self-quarantine for 14 days, Anderson said.

Anderson also explained why the outside grill at the Wilderness remains open.

“The food cooked out there (i.e. hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats) does not come from the kitchen,” he said. “They are stored

in an outside cooler. The Wilderness does have other staff to cover the outside patio and they can use Fortune Bay staff to step in as needed to assist.”

Anderson said the response at the Wilderness is reflective of Fortune Bay’s overall strict health and safety emphasis to protect the resort’s customers and staff.

“We are taking this pandemic very, very seriously, and are doing whatever it takes to keep our guests and staff safe,” Anderson said. “We have staff in place to specifically clean, wipe down, and disinfect high touch areas throughout our property. Guests cannot make it past the checkpoint at the main entrance if they have a temperature of 100.4 or higher and they are required to wear masks at all times, unless they are in their resort room or in one of our outside venues. If a guest refuses to wear a mask, they are asked to retire to their resort room or to leave the property outright. We all have to realize that we’re in this together and have to do our part to get through this pandemic.”

ATV crash victim in critical condition

REGIONAL – A Cambridge man was transported to a Duluth hospital following an ATV accident last Saturday night near Babbitt.

According to the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department, deputies responded to the crash site on Pulkinen Road, approximately 10 miles northwest of Babbitt, just before 7 p.m. on Aug. 22.

Ward Meyer, 53, was traveling northbound on Pulkinen Road when his ATV went off of the roadway into the ditch and struck a tree, deputies reported. Meyer was transported by the Babbitt Ambulance to Essentia Health in Virginia and later transported to a Duluth area hospital in critical condition.

The incident remains under investigation.

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ISD 696

With voter referendum support, Ely school project hits the ground

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Municipal bond interest rates continue to drop to historic lows

ELY—ISD 696 school board members adopted a resolution last week officially canvassing the returns of the \$10 million referendum vote held on Aug. 11 and officially began the district's facility renovation project.

School board chair Ray Marsnik highlighted the vote totals from the five voting precincts in the district. The referendum received approval of 65 percent of the votes cast, 1,110 "yes" votes and 597 "no" votes.

In the city of Ely, voters approved the referendum by a 708-337 margin. Morse Township showed a 320-208 margin. In Winton, the vote was 38-16. The official vote in two unorganized townships included supportive vote margins of 14-7 and 30-29.

School board members also adopted a resolution last week providing for the sale of

general obligation bonds to finance the project.

Matthew Hammer, representing the district's financial advisor, Ehlers and Associates, of Roseville, described that process.

"The most important step in this process was the successful vote of your referendum, and the next step is to authorize the sale of the bonds as well as to authorize the participation in the state credit enhancement program," Hammer said.

He noted that the state of Minnesota provides an additional level of insurance for those who purchase the bonds in case the school district is unable to meet its obligations. "Interestingly enough, this program has never been used before but it does provide that extra assurance," Hammer said. "Right now, interest rates are at historic lows so it will be a really good time

to sell bonds this fall."

At a study session this week, Ehlers' senior municipal advisor Jodie Zesbaugh confirmed to ISD 696 officials that now "is a good time" to be in the municipal bond market.

As officials planned for the referendum this past summer, an interest rate of 3.25 percent was forecast.

"We now expect that rate to be slightly over two percent," Zesbaugh said. "As a result of the interest rates being that much lower, we should have a savings of \$1.4 million as compared to the initial schedules we prepared prior to the election."

The school board facilities committee met last week with the architect and construction managers. ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie updated school board members at a study session Monday night. He said that the \$1.6 million Long Term Facilities Maintenance bond, a part

of the overall voter-approved \$10 million referendum package, will be sold early next year.

"We can have a limited number of bonds sold in a calendar year," he explained. Certain aspects of the building project fall under the long-term maintenance category of the total project.

Four bidders were interested in the Memorial building roof project, according to Erie. He said he will be recommending to the board next month that Range Cornice and Roofing Co., of Hibbing, be approved to complete the project. They submitted the lowest bid of \$307,317.

"They may be able to start the project before winter, and if not, they will address the current roof issues we do have on the Memorial building to make sure we are buttoned up for the winter," Erie said.

As the district's architect, Architectural Resources, Inc., completes the design phase of the project, company officials will be on hand during a teacher workshop day on Sept. 2 to take staff input on the building project.

"They feel this is a critical piece as they prepare designs. They are optimistic they can go for construction bids in January and start construction in May," he said.

Schoolboard members and district officials will be on hand for a special meeting on Sept. 23 to open bids for the \$10 million bond sale. "We should have funds available by Oct. 15 to start construction," Erie said.

Outgoing schoolboard member James Pointer suggested that the vacant boiler building, standing between the Memorial and Washington buildings, be demolished this fall to give construction crews a head

start in the spring.

Board chair Ray Marsnik noted that electrical wiring and plumbing pipes are located under the building and added that the building razing will need to be coordinated as infrastructure changes are made during the project.

"Those issues need to be addressed before we demolish the building," he said.

Erie said on election night that he looks forward to beginning the campus construction process.

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

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.

PRISON...Continued from page 1

Schnell emphasized that the department had submitted a supplemental

budget request to the state Legislature in February, and that while it had passed

in the DFL-led House, the GOP-led Senate never held a hearing or took action on it.

"We need to get this through, and I believe that I'm hearing it's possible," Schnell said. "We certainly had a lot of conversations about it. But there was a lot of talk about the importance of it. And there is nothing that I would like more than the opportunity to walk this back."

Schnell said he visited Togo before coming to the rally, and in comments made to the *Timberjay* after the event he described his experience.

"It was all a horrible decision to make anyway, but then you come here," he said. "I talked to the men who were being served by the program. You talk with staff who are being impacted, and then come here and see the community support. Of course, it's disheartening. And it's certainly not a position I'd like to be in. I wish, and I'm hopeful, that this type of mobilization ultimately results in the outcomes that we all want."

Schnell confirmed that without supplemental funding, MCF-Togo will close in late November or early December. A graduation for current participants in the Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) is scheduled for Nov. 16, and no new inmates are being sent to the facility, he said. Staffing will be gradually reduced to the minimum needed to decommission the facility.

"We invested in infrastructure here and in Willow River and had a supplemental budget we wanted. We were 100 percent committed to moving forward," Schnell said. "We are planning to move forward (with the closure), because we have to be responsible. But at the same time, we're hopeful

that the supplemental budget comes through and we can walk this back and just keep on without a big change."

Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber, R-Duluth, had harsh words for Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Schnell, and urban state legislators, even though most of the resistance to the supplemental funding has come from rural GOP legislators.

"This is not a playground for the metro," Stauber declared. "This is our home. This is where we work. This is where we live. This is where we raise our families. This decision isn't over yet. That's why we're here, Commissioner. You're going to bring this passionate message to our governor and tell them, 'No more, we've had enough.'"

Multiple speakers noted the contributions of MCF-Togo CIP participants to the quality of life in the region, including their work on 29 Habitat for Humanity homes and building ramps for home accessibility for clients of Access North Center for Independent Living in Hibbing.

Ben DeNucci, chairman of the Itasca County Board of Commissioners, emphasized Togo's community service in his remarks.

"Their work crews make our communities better places," he said. "They clean up our cities. They look after our parks. They assist the elderly and disabled, and the men and women at MCF-Togo do all this with humility." DeNucci then turned to the MCF-Togo staff. "They don't ask for recognition or awards," he said. "But how have they been rewarded? By being called into a room and told that their jobs have been terminated, their families' health care insurance gone,



Rep. Pete Stauber

their retirement plans gone? They're faced with the decision to sell their homes and move. That doesn't make sense to me. Does that make any sense to you? Are we just going to sit back and let this happen to them? Are we going to go down without a fight? No, we won't. We are tired of being ignored. We are sick and tired of being lied to. They are not the problem. MCF-Togo, you are the solution. You are the solution."

Rally-goers also heard from District 6A Rep. Julie Sandstede, DFL-Hibbing, District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, District 6 Sen. David Tomassoni, DFL-Chisholm, District 5 Sen. Justin Eichorn, R-Grand Rapids, House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler, DFL-Golden Valley, former MCF-Togo captain and CIP director Terry Sullivan, Itasca County Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Jamie Mjolsness, and RAMS Executive Director Steve Giorgi, all extolling the virtues of MCF-Togo and the CIP program and urging people to support saving the facility by contacting legislators and state officials to support supplemental funding.

However, the most emotionally stirring speech may have been the unscripted spontaneous remarks of District 6B Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora.

Lislegard was on stage as a show of support and didn't intend to speak, he said, until moved to do so at the last minute by someone in the crowd.

That someone was youngster Nikko Porter, of Pengilly, whose father works at MCF-Togo. Nikko and his family were among the few who chose to sit on the hot asphalt in front of the stage rather than seek the comfort of the shade. Seated in a child-sized lawn chair, Nikko held a brightly lettered sign over his head that read "Save Our Daddy's Job."

"I wasn't going to speak, but I saw that sign out there that says save my daddy's job," Lislegard said when he stepped to the podium. An edge of emotion in his voice grew as he continued.

"Almost 20 years ago, I was a father, 27 years old, married with two children, and I lost my job," he said. "And I watched what happened when it just ravaged the Range. We lost our only grocery store. We lost our only dentist, we lost our only pharmacy, and we're still struggling. The union hall that I was a trustee of, Local 41? Oh wait, it's now the food shelf."

Lislegard continued, "You know, it's really sad how hard it is on the Iron Range that we have to fight, to go to work and to keep our jobs," he said. "We're not asking for a free lunch or hand-outs. We're asking for the ability to go to work and provide for our families and contribute to society. And yet we're here doing this. Come on, Governor. Come on, Commissioner. We need your help. And we need to get it done."

The next opportunity for the Legislature to consider the supplemental budget request will be at a special session in September.

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY

County Board approves plan to distribute \$24.5 million in CARES Act

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Board unanimously approved a plan on Aug. 11 for the distribution of the approximately \$24.5 million in federal CARES Act funds that the county received. The plan calls for \$6 million to be allocated for small business assistance, \$6 million for community assistance, \$1.25 million for the logging industry, \$10 million to cover costs the county has incurred while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and \$255,000 for cities and townships with populations under 200 people. An additional \$1 million will be held in reserve to be distributed later in the fall based on analysis of need.

With the plan now approved, the goal is to move quickly to distribute the funds to help people and businesses hard hit by the economic toll of the pandemic.

For small businesses interested in applying for assistance, application

information will be on the county's website sometime this week, along with details on informational webinars that will be held to provide guidance on eligibility rules and the application process.

Money from the Small Business Relief Fund will be allocated in two phases.

Phase 1 began Aug. 24 and runs through Sept. 8. This phase will focus on businesses and non-profits with 25 or fewer full-time employees (or full-time equivalents). These businesses may apply for assistance equivalent to \$1,000 per employee, for COVID-related expenses previously incurred by the business such as to purchase PPE, cleaning supplies, signage and safety barriers. These funds will be awarded on a modified first-come, first-served basis.

Matthew Johnson, from St. Louis County, said they expect this first phase funding to be approved by Sept. 18. A virtual information session will be offered to explain the process and answer questions applicants may have on Monday, Aug. 31

at 10 a.m. Participation in a virtual session is recommended but not required. Anyone wishing to attend must register in advance. More information and registration links can be found on the county's CARES webpage.

Phase 2 will provide emergency grant assistance of up to \$50,000 to businesses and non-profits with 100 or fewer full-time employees for COVID-related expenses. This phase will begin Sept. 7. The details for this funding, which will also cover lost revenue, rent/utilities, and payroll costs, are still being finalized and will be overseen by an outside accounting firm, Baker Tilly.

The documentation to prove payroll, rent/utility, and loss of revenue will not be required as part of the application, but will be requested if the grant is awarded. Phase 2 grant applications will open on Sept. 7 and close on Sept. 21 at 8 a.m. These grants will need approval by the county board, so will not be awarded immediately. These grants, according

to Johnson, will be spread throughout the county, and a review committee will make the final recommendations to the board.

Meanwhile, Community Assistance Program funds will be allocated to organizations that serve populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and support people in priority settings such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, community-based services, mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services, and those that provide services to individuals connected to housing programs.

Organizations may apply for assistance for necessary COVID-19 expenditures incurred, such as PPE, physical modifications and additional staffing. Organizations also can apply for service expansion and related programmatic expenses (incurred or proposed) related to COVID-19 such as increasing food access, food shelves, meal delivery and mask distribution for community members. Limited gap funding is also

being directed towards individuals and families with COVID-related emergencies.

To ensure equity and access for populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, CARES dollars will be vetted and prioritized to fill the gaps that remain for organizations and individuals and families where other funding streams have been inadequate.

The application process for the Community Assistance Program will launch in late August. County staff plan to offer virtual information sessions to assist organizations with the proposal process.

Meanwhile, an online application will soon be available for individuals and families in an emergency situation due to the impact of COVID-19. An emergency situation could include being without or at risk of losing housing, utilities, or transportation that would affect gaining or maintaining employment, or needing assistance with other unexpected COVID-19 related emer-

gencies. Any assistance would be paid directly to the appropriate vendor such as a landlord, mortgage company, utility company or licensed repair person.

More information will be made available soon on both the Small Business Relief Fund and the Community Assistance Program. Questions about either program can be emailed to CARES@stlouiscountymn.gov. Applications for the program will be available online once finalized at www.stlouiscountymn.gov/CARES.

Program guidelines and other information, a video of one of the virtual information sessions, and the option to sign up for email updates on the program, are now available on the county CARES page.

For more information on any of the assistance grant opportunities, visit stlouiscountymn.gov/CARES, email CARES@stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-726-2033

CRASH...Continued from page 1

released a statement last Friday on the loss of their team dentist.

"We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Kyle R. Edlund. Kyle was a fantastic human being that positively impacted so many people during his life. His smile will be greatly missed at Woodbury Dental Care, at the hockey rink, and by all his family and friends. We offer our sincere condolences to the Edlund family and his loved ones."

A letter from Woodbury Dental Care to patients said Edlund was flying his plane to his cabin in Grand Marais, alone, to spend the weekend there with his son and friends.

Emergency responders found the victim, age 58, in the wreckage off the shore of a resort. It was deter-

mined that Edlund died on impact. The accident remains under investigation.

The plane apparently nose-dived into the water about 300 yards off the shore of White Iron Beach Resort. "The plane was in about 30 feet of water," said resort owner Kerry Davis, who was one of the first people on the scene.

"My wife woke me up about 11 p.m. and I motored out to the area where some of our guests witnessed the crash from the beach," Davis said last Friday morning. "I smelled fuel and I quickly turned around and started seeing debris floating to the surface. He pointed to an area to the left of his resort's beach area and indicated the crash area was behind a small

The wreckage of an airplane that crashed into White Iron Lake last week was brought ashore late Tuesday. photo courtesy of Kerry Davis

island. "I contacted law enforcement and helped guide rescue boats to the location," he said.

Both Lake and St. Louis County Sheriff's Departments, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, Ely Police Department, Ely Area Ambulance Service, and Morse/Fall Lake Township Fire Department responded to the scene.

A large pile of debris was roped off at the White Iron Beach Resort boat launch Friday morning. A wreckage salvage operation at the crash site began early Tuesday morning, using the boat launch at White Iron Beach Resort as a staging area. A vehicle

from Wentworth Aircraft Inc. of Crystal, Minn. was parked at the resort.

Scuba divers could be seen from shore attempting to secure the aircraft to a floating dock towed by Kerry Davis's pontoon boat. Several motorboats assisted in the recovery, and an insurance investigator was reportedly at the scene.

The salvage crew struggled to keep the aircraft secured as they drew closer to shore. Davis transported a 12-foot section of the plane to shore in his motorboat. The salvage operation continued into the afternoon.



One injured in Motorcycle accident

REGIONAL- A motorcycle crash on Hwy. 1 in Linden Grove Twp. on Saturday caused non-life-threatening injuries to the driver.

Grant William Schmall, 40, of Elbow Lake, was driving a 2007 Yamaha westbound on Hwy. 1 when it crashed in a curve west of Hwy. 73 shortly before 2 p.m. According to the Minnesota State Patrol report, the motorcycle ended up in the eastbound ditch.

Schmall was not wearing a helmet, the report said. He was treated for non-life-threatening injuries at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. The report did not specify the manner of transportation or what agencies were involved in the accident response.

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JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Jury trials return after months-long hiatus

Adjustments to court rooms will allow safe proceedings in COVID era

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The U.S. Constitution guarantees everyone accused of a crime of the right to trial by a jury of their peers. But turning that right into a reality has been a challenge over the past several months as the COVID-19 pandemic has gripped the country.

For months, the courts here in the Sixth Judicial District, which covers most of northeastern Minnesota, have functioned remotely, with judges, attorneys, victims, and defendants all appearing via the online video platform Zoom. While that has been a passable solution for most court matters, it was far too cumbersome to guarantee any defendant a fair trial, which is why criminal trials had been on hold since March.

That's now changed, however, after the

Minnesota Judicial Council approved a plan to restart criminal trials in the region. "Felony trials are now up and running," said Mark Muhich, the managing public defender for northern St. Louis County. "Priority is given to felony cases where the defendant is in custody, or where there is a speedy trial demand."

The right to a trial before a jury is the foundation of the American process, notes Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Michael Cuzzo. "Our goal is to fulfill our obligation to administer justice, while protecting the health of our community members who are exercising and performing their duties, responsibilities, and rights in our courthouses," Cuzzo added. "The most basic characteristic of an American jury trial - fairness to all participants - will be the same as ever."

Northeastern Minnesota counties have worked in collaboration with the courts to adapt facilities and courtrooms to ensure public health, by modifying jury boxes, adding floor markings for social distancing, increasing sanitation and cleaning, and adding Plexiglas partitions where necessary.

St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin says the public will likely notice the changes. For one, the jury will be sitting in the public gallery, while attorneys will operate from the jury box. Jurors will be located at least six feet apart and will be required to wear masks, as will everyone else in the courtroom.

In addition, technology is being used to allow public and media access to trials in a way that will not compromise the safety of courtroom participants. The court continues to hold

regular court proceedings on a remote basis through Zoom. Those members of the public who are unable to access their court hearings remotely, may contact their attorney or the court for available resources and accommodations.

The backup in criminal trials has prompted challenges for both prosecutors and defendants and their attorneys. "Our cases never get better with age, I'll tell you that," said Rubin. The backup has also posed challenges for protecting victims of domestic violence. "That's always a problem, but now it's a greater challenge," he said.

For those who remain in custody, waiting months to resolve their case, it is especially frustrating to everyone involved. "My responsibility is not just to the victims, but the defendants as well," notes Rubin.

Muhich said the

case backlog in the Sixth District is better than in other parts of the state, and he credits a good working relationship between all sides in the court process in northern St. Louis County. "Virginia and Hibbing have either caught up on their backlog or have no backlog at all," said Muhich. "We've all worked together very collaboratively in addressing that."

Even so, Muhich has had a number of criminal defendants who have questioned whether the delay in conducting trials is a violation of their rights. "There is a difference between horrible inconvenience and a violation of rights," said Muhich. "I've been telling my clients that. If you're not in custody, it's really more of an inconvenience."

With the resumption of criminal trials in the region, St. Louis County courts will again be issuing

jury summons and those receiving such notices will need to respond. For those jurors required to come to court, each will be provided with a paper mask when he or she arrives at a courthouse each day. If they wish, jurors may supply their own face coverings. Additionally, Minnesota Department of Health social distancing guidelines will be followed in each courthouse, including when and where jurors assemble, participate in voir dire (the question and answer part of the jury selection process), listen to proceedings, deliberate, and move throughout the courthouse. Guidance will be available in each courthouse for how to follow social distancing in seating and elevator use. Where necessary, partitions and physical barriers have been set up in each courthouse to ensure that traffic flow and interactions are taking place safely.

SUPPORT...Continued from page 1

Progressives, a regional group with about 300 members in the area from Orr to Ely, and the North of the Divide DFL Network were local sponsors.

"There as a national call to come out to the local post office and show your love," volunteer Val Myntti said. "All American citizens, both Democrat and Republican, love their post office."

The biggest turnout was in Cook, where 18 people turned out, according to volunteer Leah Rogne.

"People were very friendly," she said. "People honked and gave thumbs up as they drove by. I didn't see a single negative indication from people passing by."

The group picked up additional support from someone who came out of the post office during the demonstration.

"She asked what we were up to," Rogne said. "She said, 'Well, I don't have a sign,' so I said, 'Why don't you hold up your mail,'" so she did and she stood with us."

The demonstration even moved beyond the post office.

"Several of us moved up to Hwy. 53 to catch the weekend summer traffic," volunteer Keith Steva said. "We waved our American flags, held up our posters, and waved at travelers."

Myntti was one of three volunteers who stood in front of the post office in Tower.

"I live on Eagles Nest Lake, and that's my little post office," she said. "We've loved that post office since my great-grandparents arrived from Finland in St. Louis County a long time ago."

Myntti said there was a steady stream of traffic and a variety of responses.

"There were people waving and honking, there were others who smiled, and there were others who didn't understand why we were there," she said. "We had people stop and park and ask us if there was a chance that the Tower post office was closing, and we said no. We just want to keep the funding robust and make sure the hours aren't limited. There's

Residents of Eagles Nest Township showed their support for the United State Postal Service Saturday at the Tower facility. submitted photo

some talk of cutting the funding and hours."

Two police officers stopped and offered their encouragement as well, Myntti said.

"We were there for an hour, and we could have stayed longer," Myntti said.

Vital services

Postal service has become increasingly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly to elderly customers, Myntti said.

"Many elderly people are relying on the post office to get their food, their basic necessities, and their medicine, and their Social Security checks," she said. "We're dependent on the post office for basic household goods."

Myntti acknowledged that she was concerned about recent moves by new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy that could compromise service.

"(He) has treated the post office as a profit center, which it was never meant to be by the Constitution," she said. "He is cutting hours, he's cutting overtime hours, he's potentially going to close branches in less profitable areas. He's taking out post boxes and removing sorting machines. So, right before an election during a pandemic where people will feel safer to vote by mail, it's just very bad optics to show that

they're defunding or tightening up the post office by cutting hours as well as services."

However, Myntti also emphasized that the postal service should be a non-partisan issue, and that problems and threats have been longstanding.

"Let's not make any mistake, this has been going on for the last 20 years. This isn't just new under President Trump," she said. "It's ridiculous that when I mail a letter across the street in Ely that it has to go to Minneapolis-St. Paul to be processed before it can come back. That's been going on for years."

Budget issues facing the post office stem from the fact that it's the only agency that has to pre-fund its pension program, Myntti said.

"That is what years ago put the postal service on unsound financial footing," she said. "It wasn't because of mismanagement. The post office does just fine just charging its rates for the service and its done well."

Myntti said she was glad to see people get engaged with Saturday's demonstration.

"We're citizens and we can't just sit back," she said. "It's the citizens who need to demand our rights and also understand all of our responsibilities."



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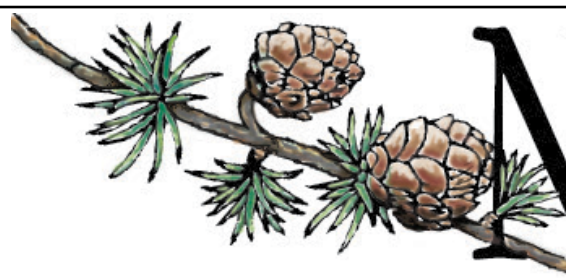
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PUBLIC LANDS

Twin Metals critics laud Pebble Mine decision

But argue the Boundary Waters faces the same threat from sulfide mine plans as Alaska's Bristol Bay

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — Local business owners and wilderness advocates are calling on the Trump administration to take a skeptical look at the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine just upstream of the Boundary Waters, and they're citing the administration's recent about-face on an equally controversial copper mine in southwest Alaska as justification.

Just last month, the administration had cleared the way for development of a massive copper operation, known as the Pebble Mine, in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, one of the world's top salmon fisheries.

Yet, on Monday, the administration, reversed itself when the Army

“Protection of these areas should not be dependent on the views of a Trump family member, or a friend.”

Becky Rom

Corps denied a key wetlands permit to the Canadian mining company behind the project. Just a month ago, the Army Corps had concluded the mine would have little impact on salmon numbers in Bristol Bay and had signaled it planned to move forward with permitting the project.

The turnabout appears to have been engineered by Donald Trump Jr., who has fished for salmon in Bristol Bay on multiple occasions. The younger Trump was joined by Fox News celebrity host Tucker Carlson and others with influence over the president who argued that the environmental impacts and economic risks to the fishing industry outweighed the project's potential benefits.

“They were right,” said Becky Rom, of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, during a press conference on Monday, drawing attention to the administration's decision. “The headwaters of Bristol Bay is no place for a sul-

See MINE...pg. 2B



An aerial view of a portion of the proposed Pebble Mine site. The Trump administration recently reversed course on the project. EPA photo



LIVING IN GOD'S COUNTRY

Parking lot pastor

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Dozens turn out for Sunday service at former Shopko

ELY — With ushers wearing high-visibility vests and directing vehicle traffic with red flags, the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church participated in a unique outdoor worship last Sunday morning in the age of the coronavirus. Parishioners were guided into the parking lot at the former Shopko retail store for a drive-in worship service.

“Church is not a building,” said Pastor Eric Thiele. “Church is anywhere that people gather.”

Parishioners have relied on Facebook Live and YouTube for their weekly services since COVID-19 public health protocols were put in place that prohibited gathering in their church building.

The church building remains closed, and with no parking lot of their own, the Shopko lot allowed church leaders to continue doing their ministry as they were called to do, Thiele said.

As many as 50 vehicles and about 100 people participated in the service.

“This was slightly below average for our summer worship services,” he said. “There are many in our congregation who are not comfortable with going out too much.”

Nonetheless, Thiele was encouraged with how the service turned out.

“All things considered, and this being our first attempt, I thought things went quite well,” Thiele said. “Everyone wore masks, maintained a proper distance, stayed in their cars and stayed safe. I believe we learned new things that we didn't know we were going to learn.”

With public health protocols in mind, Thiele outlined guidelines church members should follow for future drive-in services.

He implored those who have any symptoms of illness to stay home or seek

“Everyone wore masks, maintained a proper distance, stayed in their cars and stayed safe.”

Pastor Eric Thiele



Top: Dozens of cars nearly fill the Shopko parking lot for last Sunday's sermon by Pastor Eric Thiele.

Above: Thiele delivers his sermon from the store's sidewalk.

Left: Passing the collection plate.

photos by K. Vandervort

medical attention.

“Please do not come to the worship,” he said.

He also suggested that attendees use the restroom before they arrive.

“Since we are not at our own building, there will not be any readily available bathrooms,” Thiele said. “While Subway is in the same parking lot, we want to be respectful of their business and not send in an influx of people simply to use the bathroom. If you do need to use a restroom, we recommend

driving to the nearest gas station.”

Congregants are asked to arrive earlier than the start time of worship.

“It takes time to get (vehicles) parked and situated. All worship services will start on time. Try not to be late and a distraction for others,” he said.

Thiele also suggested bringing something to do (especially for the kids) while waiting for the service to begin.

See CHURCH...pg. 2B

TOWER

Insurance rate claims inaccurate

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — Recent claims in local media that residents and businesses are likely to face insurance rate increases as a result of the recent sale of the Tower Fire Department's elevated master stream engine were premature, and most likely false.

The claim, by former fire chief Steve Altenburg, which appeared on the front page of the Aug. 14 *Tower News*, is part of a continuing pattern of attacks by Altenburg in that newspaper against the fire department, the city's ambulance service, city officials, and others, that he appears to believe were responsible for his dismissal as fire chief and ambulance director back in March. Altenburg has since launched dozens of public records requests on the city in an effort to find grist for his attacks, which have dominated city coverage in the *Tower News* for months.

Altenburg recently filed for a four-year term on the city council, making Altenburg's continued attacks on electoral opponents a clear breach of journalistic ethics.

Altenburg, in his Aug. 14 story, claimed that the sale of the city's second fire engine “will have a negative impact on the city's ISO rating,” which could lead to higher insurance rates for residents, business, and even the city itself. ISO stands for Insurance Services Organization, a private ratings company.

In fact, there's little reason to believe that Altenburg's claim is true. A department's ISO rating is based on dozens of factors, including the quality of emergency communications, department training, record-keeping, response time, and the ability to flow a sufficient volume of water to effectively fight fire. In Tower, which is primarily served by hydrants, the capacity of the city's water system is likely to be a bigger factor, according to Jeff Mayer, who leads the firefighter training

See CLAIMS...pg. 2B

CLAIMS...Continued from page 1B

program at Mesabi Range and Technical College in Virginia and Eveleth. Mayer is also chief of the Pike-Sandy-Britt Fire Department.

What's more, the ISO rating is not dependent on the resources of any given department. Resources available through automatic mutual aid also count toward any ISO rating for a department. Tower has automatic mutual aid with both Breitung and Greenwood townships, both of which maintain substantial pumping capacity, located in close

proximity to Tower, particularly in the case of Breitung.

"In either case, they wouldn't automatically lower it," said Mayer. "They would have to do an evaluation. The change probably wouldn't lower the city's rating much, if at all," predicted Mayer.

The city of Tower's ISO rating was not available as of press time. ISO does not make that information generally available to the public.

Even if the department's rating was lowered, the impact to insurance

premiums would likely be negligible or non-existent, since most insurance companies don't even consider the rating. "It's not cut and dried, I'll tell you that much," said Donna Mosher, with the Tower Soudan Agency. As an independent agent, Mosher sells products from five different insurance companies, and she said only one, Auto Owners, even considers ISO ratings when setting rates. Most insurance companies she works with use other criteria, such as distance from a fire hall, when determining

premiums. Mosher said a multitude of factors determine the rates paid by home or business owners. "Things like a good credit score can make a big difference," she said. While premiums can vary significantly between customers, in part because of the many factors at play, Mosher said, in general, rates don't vary much between customers in town or in the country, all things being equal. That's despite the fact that many rural areas don't even qualify for an ISO rating, or are rated at a nine or ten.

Tower fire officials opted to sell the second engine, a 1982 American LeFrance engine that had seen minimal usage in recent years. They received \$4,200 for the vehicle as a result of competitive bidding.

According to city records, the truck's hydraulic ladder, which is supposed to be certified annually, had last been inspected in 2014.

The sale also made room in the fire hall to store the department's brush rig. That rig, which sees far more use than the depart-

ment's second engine, had been sitting outside, unprotected since a fire burned the department's storage garage in 2014. The truck is now badly deteriorated, with extensive rust, hose damaged by ultra-violet light, and an inconsistent and badly-rusted external pump. The deterioration in that vehicle took place during the period that Altenburg served as chief.

CHURCH...Continued from page 1B

For communion, parishioners are asked to bring a clean plate from home (any kind you desire). "To-go" communion cups are provided.

Paper bulletins for the service are not provided.

"They will be emailed and posted to Facebook, so either download it, print it, or have it ready to go," Thiele said. He noted that for those uncomfortable or unable to attend the

drive-in service, Facebook Live and YouTube remain available.

"Please wear your masks when speaking with an usher," he said, and he asked all attendees to be considerate when parking and to follow directions.

The service is simulcast on the radio at 88.1 FM.

"Feel free to open your windows, talk to your neighbors next to

you, wave at friends. You should be parked far enough away to abide by the social distancing guidelines," Thiel said. "If people get out of their vehicles to greet their neighbors, I will immediately end the service."

He also asked that attendees refrain from honking the horn to show their approval or to say "amen." He encouraged the flashing of vehicle

headlights and car lights.

For Communion, the pastor, donning a face mask will come to each vehicle driver's window to distribute the proper amount in each of the communion cups placed on the clean plate provided by the driver. Communion is also provided upon request for those not able to attend.

Following the service, drivers are asked to remain patient as they leave the

Shopko parking lot.

"Remember, everyone is trying to leave (and back out) at the same time," Thiele said. "Follow the directions of the ushers as you leave. If you have an offering, you may place it in a basket as you leave, which ushers will have available."

The drive-in services are scheduled to be held on Sunday mornings, beginning at 9:30 a.m. as long

as the weather cooperates.

"I hope we can do this into November," Thiele said, and added, "but you just don't know what kind of weather to expect."

"We hope that this will be a meaningful experience for our faith community as we have not been able to worship together since March 15."

For more information, go to www.graceinely.org, or to their Facebook page.

MINE...Continued from page 1B

fide-based copper mine," she said, before adding that the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness deserves the same consideration.

Unlike the Pebble Mine, which was slated to be built more than 100 miles from Bristol Bay, the proposed Twin Metals mine would be located less than ten miles upstream from the BWCAW, along one of the wilderness area's primary watersheds.

The U.S. Forest Service rejected the mine plan back in 2016, citing the high probability that acid drainage from the mine or its tailings would contaminate some of the

most pristine waters in the lower 48 states, located just downstream.

"The water is so clean that you can dip your cup in the lake and drink," said Rom.

Echoing Fox News' Carlson, Rom said the future of the Twin Metals project should not be a partisan issue, noting that recent polls have shown strong bipartisan support for protecting the BWCAW from mining pollution.

Local business owners joined Rom in making the case, noting that a thriving industry has grown up to outfit and guide visitors to the wilderness. That's

been particularly true this year, as Ely outfitters Steve Piragis and Jason Zabokrtsky stated in their own comments on Monday. Both Piragis and Zabokrtsky, reflecting the experience of many other outfitters in the region, said that their summer business has been off the charts this year, as vacationers, mostly from the Midwest, have sought time in the wilderness in record numbers.

"Ely seems to be basically recession-proof," said Piragis, who operates Piragis Northwoods Company with his wife Nancy. "People love this wilderness. This year,

especially, it's a place where many people are seeking solace and safety."

Rom stated her belief that an economy based on outdoor recreation was a more stable and sustainable model of development than a copper-nickel mine, a view that was supported by a study produced by two Harvard economists back in 2018. That study examined 72 separate scenarios, and concluded that in all but three scenarios, the Ely area's economy would be better off without the mine within just ten years.

Zabokrtsky said it's clear that the Boundary Waters, and the amenities found throughout the Superior National Forest,

continue to "drive the local economy."

While pleased with the decision on the Pebble Mine, Rom said a tiny handful of influential individuals should not be able to determine the future of public lands owned by everyone.

"Protection of these areas should not be dependent on the views of a Trump family member, or a friend. Or the landlord of a Trump family member," Rom added, referencing Andronico Luksic, the primary owner of Twin Metals' parent company Antofagasta. Luksic purchased a Washington, D.C. mansion shortly after the 2016 election, which

he has rented ever since to Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner.

"The Boundary Waters is at risk of being sacrificed for the benefit of a billionaire family tied to a Trump family member," said Rom.

Rom acknowledged that the campaign has considered reaching out to Carlson or Donald Trump Jr. to arrange a possible visit to the Boundary Waters. "But it is our initial view that we would be playing the same 'insider game,'" she said.



Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

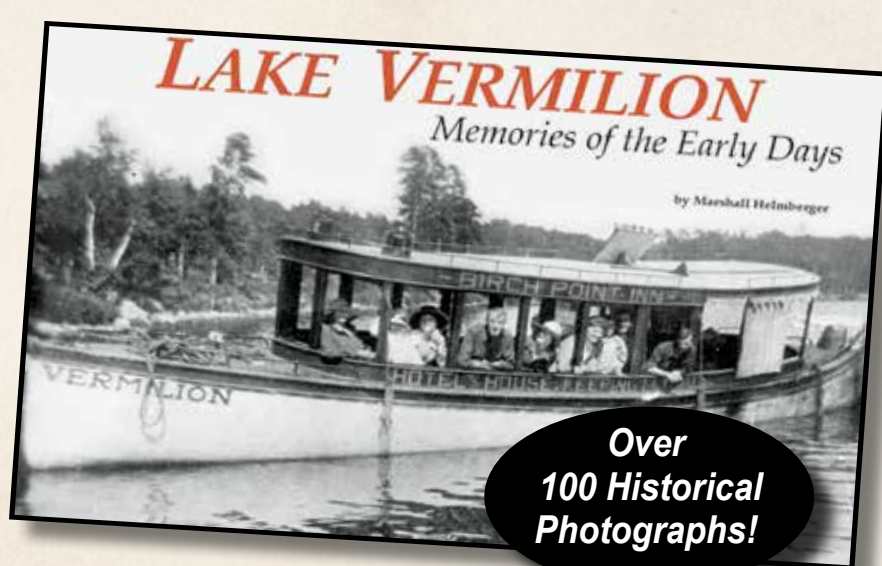
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NORTH AMERICAN BEAR CENTER

Ted the ambassador bear retiring; still can be seen on web cam

ELY – The North American Bear Center here announced the retirement of one of their ambassador bears last week.

“Retirement is a human term based on one’s ability or desire to take one’s self out of the workforce,” said NABC’s senior bear keeper Sharon Herrell, “But what about the furred ones we care for? There are no written laws or rules on animal retirement, but there are suggestions and recommendations. “Staff along with all parties involved, including Ted’s owner, made the decision to give him a much-needed rest.”

The COVID-19 pandemic created many changes and

placed numerous restrictions on how Ely’s bear center operates. The choice was made early in the season to give guests the best views of bears, according to Herrell.

“The bears have been in the viewing area as much as possible, along with behind-the-scene visits. The constant visits became taxing for Ted, and I knew it was time to give our big guy a rest,” she said. “Ted will now be less stimulated by constant visitors, and instead we will be on his time. He will choose to visit or nap. He can rest and not be obligated to get up from his nap or leave his tub or a shower to see visitors. Ted will still get lots of special one-on-one attention

from the staff and interns. We love him dearly.”

She also noted Ted will still see guests occasionally. “The difference is he doesn’t have to pay attention to them or be ‘on’ all the time. His camera is up and running so his fans can watch him. The best part of all this is Ted can rest and be loved for the wonderful sweet bear he is,” Herrell said.

“I take my job as bear keeper very seriously. As their spokesperson I have a direct obligation for their well-being. I consider it a privilege to do so. I’m positive that this decision is the correct one for our Ted bear,” she said.

submitted photo



BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Long-time Breitung Township maintenance staff retiring

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- The Breitung Town Board took sometime on Tuesday to publicly wish retiring maintenance staffers Dale Swanson and Tom Poderzay a fond farewell.

Swanson, who has been the township’s maintenance director for the last 15 years, is set to retire on Sept. 1. Part-time maintenance worker Tom Poderzay retired earlier this month, after working for the township the past 10 years.

“It’s been a good run,” said Swanson. Swanson said he hasn’t made any big plans for his retirement, other than spending time with his family.

During an afternoon open house, Chairman Tim Tomsich thanked both men for their service to the township and complimented them on their dedication to their jobs. Quite a few township residents turned out to wish them both



Dale Swanson (left) and Tom Poderzay (right). photo by J. Summit

well. St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald also stopped by to give his regards.

Tents set up in the township’s new community center parking lot served as the meeting area, due to COVID-19 precautions,

and the township served cupcakes and refreshments.

In other business, the town board:

- Will begin repayment of a \$465,000 loan at 2.69 percent interest for town hall renovations.

- Received a DNR PILT payment of \$160,095 from St. Louis County.

- Received \$3,986 in aid from the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

- Will pay \$3,670 to JPJ Engineering for design and management of the

town hall improvement project.

- Awarded the bid on the township’s pump truck to Dan Wiire, the high bidder, at \$1,601.

- Will pay the deputy clerk \$18 per hour for training and time.

- Will charge 25 cents per page for copies of Public Data Requests as the law states the township may. Previously, the data had been provided digitally, free of charge. “The law allows us to charge; I think that’s reasonable,” said Tomsich.

- Approved the use of gravel, a loader and operator, to work on an ATV Trail near McKinley Park for the Prospectors Loop ATV Club.

- Looked over a draft job description for a part-time maintenance worker to replace Tom Poderzay. The board discussed making weekend recreation work a separate position. The board will have to work with the union to finalize the job description.

- Heard public input about the danger a resident on Puncher Point is causing by putting barricades on the side of the road and directed police to speak with the resident.

- Acknowledged but took no action on a letter from residents with con-

cerns over the Tower Seaplane Base. “I don’t think we need to get into Tower’s business,” said Supervisor Greg Dostert.

- Acknowledged but took no action on a letter from Lee Peterson concerning the TAAS.

- Acknowledged but took no action on a letter concerning the safety of a rental cabin on McKinley Park Acres Rd.

- Will send a letter to representatives asking for their support in legislative bonding for the water filtration plant.

- Will send a letter of support to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital in their endeavor to create a telehealth space for mental health patients within the hospital.

- Thanked the election judges for their service during the primary, and thanked judges Barb Burgess and Laurie Anderson for donating their pay back to the township.

- Will have contract negotiations with Local Union 49 on Wednesday, Sept. 9

The next town board meeting is set for Tuesday, Sept. 22 at noon.

Chavers re-elected as Bois Forte chairwoman

REGIONAL - Incumbent Cathy Chavers has won a second four-year term as Bois Forte Band tribal chairwoman, prevailing in all four electoral districts in the Aug. 18 election.

Chavers tallied 329 votes to top challenger Miranda Villebrun-Lilya’s 194 votes, a 63-37 percent edge.

Chavers outpolled Villebrun-Lilya 100-73 at Nett Lake and 90-52 at Vermilion. The race was

tighter in Minneapolis and Duluth, where Chavers came out on top 29-25 and 14-10, respectively. Chavers also captured the edge in absentee ballots 96-34.

In the race for tribal council District 1 representative, incumbent Travis Morrison won over challenger Tara Geshick in a close race, with just 20 votes separating them.

Morrison carried the day with advantages in Nett

Lake, 97-73, Vermilion, 32-17, and absentees, 51-37. Geshick held the edge in the cities, besting Morrison by 33-14 in Minneapolis and 10-5 in Duluth. The final vote total favored Morrison by 190-170, a 53-47 percent advantage.

Prior to the election, Chavers touted her experience as the reason she deserved a second term.

“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.”



COVID-19 Testing Available

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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

DNR's CWD fight edges closer to the Arrowhead

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— It's probably only a matter of time for the North Country. As the incidence of chronic wasting disease in wild deer moves ever closer to the Arrowhead, the Department of Natural Resources has made several changes to this year's deer hunting regulations and has expanded a ban on deer

feeding in hopes of slowing the spread of this deadly disease.

These changes won't affect residents or hunters in St. Louis or Lake counties, at least not yet. But neighboring Carlton and Aitkin counties are among those counties now subject to a ban on recreational deer feeding. Deer are more likely to spread CWD when they gather together in close proximity, so residents who

feed deer recreationally may contribute to the spread of the disease.

Deer hunters in much of southeastern and east-central Minnesota will also find increased CWD sampling, which will remain voluntary in 2020. No CWD sampling will be conducted in the Arrowhead, at least for this year.

Hunters elsewhere will be able to submit samples from

their deer at unstaffed sampling stations that facilitate social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are committed to keeping our wild deer healthy, while also facilitating social distancing for hunters and our staff," said Michelle Carstensen, DNR's wildlife health program supervisor. "Deer hunters are essential

See CWD...pg. 5B



HUNTING

Bear season kicks off Tuesday

Early drought contributed to below average food year, which should aid hunters

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A mixed bag for wild foods should be good news for bear hunters as they head to their stands this year, beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Early summer drought took its toll on the blueberry crop across much of the region, although timely rains later in the season helped salvage other bear foods. "Our chokecherries were fairly good," said Dennis Udovich, now in his 39th year as a bear-hunting guide. Other late summer foods, like hazelnuts, high-bush cranberries, and wild plums are present, but appear to be less abundant than usual, and that's made hunters' baits particularly attractive.

Hunters and guides have been working their baits since the middle of the month and Udovich said the baits he's put out are getting hit hard by multiple bears in many cases. "We're having to bait every day. It kind of reminds me of years past," said Udovich, who believes that the bear population may finally be starting to recover.

So far, wildlife managers with the Department of Natural Resources are unconvinced of that, which is why they continue to limit bear permits to just under 3,500. Udovich said he'd like to see a few more permits issued, but wildlife managers have been

reluctant to take that step short of more evidence of a rebound in the population. Aggressive bear harvests about a decade ago sliced the state's bear population in half and despite a significant reduction in permits, the population has shown little sign of increasing from the current estimate of 12,000-15,000 statewide.

Even so, the DNR has reported that nuisance bear activity is up sharply over recent years, in part because

"We're having to bait everyday. It kind of reminds me of years past."

Bear guide Dennis Udovich

of the relative lack of wild foods. Bears are in what's known as hyperphagia this time of year, which generates an intense desire for food as they seek to build up their fat reserves before heading into the winter dens later this fall.

The continued high harvest of younger female bears appears to be one of the factors limiting a population rebound, according to DNR officials. Udovich said a trained eye can distinguish a female from a male bear, but wildlife managers say most hunters are unlikely to make

See BEARS...pg. 5B



Above: High-bush cranberries are a natural food targeted by bears in late summer.

Right: Chokecherries are another important bear food.

Top: Bear hunters will be in the field starting Tuesday.

Above: Limited availability of natural foods has prompted more nuisance behavior from bears in the region this summer.

file photos

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
PANICLED ASTER



The **Panicled Aster**, *Symphotrichum lanceolatum* is the most common white aster blooming in our area right now. Color and shape distinguish it from the very common Flat-topped Aster, which is also in bloom in late summer and early fall. That species' flowers are off-white to light tan in color.

The Panicled Aster is bright white and the blossoms have many more petals than its flat-topped relative. The flowers grow in a loose, widely-branching cluster. The leaves are also very narrow, which helps to distinguish it from other asters.

Outdoors in brief

Antlerless lottery deadline Sept. 10

REGIONAL— If you're hoping for an antlerless deer tag for the upcoming deer season, don't forget to apply by the deadline.

The Department of Natural Resources is reminding firearms and muzzleloader hunters who want to harvest antlerless deer in a deer permit area designated as lottery this season to purchase their license by Thursday, Sept. 10.

Hunters who purchase their license before this date are automatically entered into the lottery for the deer permit area or special hunt area they declare. No application is needed to take antlerless deer in permit areas with hunter choice, managed, intensive or unlimited antlerless designations.

Hunters who want to participate in special firearms or muzzleloader deer hunts also need to apply for permits that are issued through a lottery, and that application deadline is also Sept. 10.

More information about designations and regulations for deer permit areas, as well as details about special hunt opportunities, is available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/hunting/deer and in the 2020 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook.

See us at
timberjay.com

CWD...Continued from page 4B

in our surveillance efforts. They've been great partners, and we're confident that their continued participation will help us collect the needed samples to detect disease on the landscape."

While no CWD has been found in wild deer in the Arrowhead, the disease has spread quickly in recent years, moving from a few southeastern Minnesota counties to parts of central Minnesota. The DNR continues to monitor and manage CWD in an effort to keep prevalence low and reduce spread of the disease.

Hunters in disease management zones, control zones, or surveillance areas can get their deer checked throughout the season by dropping off the head of deer one year of age or older at a self-service sampling station. Hunters are encouraged to submit samples in these areas and zones to help monitor the spread of the disease in wild deer.

Deer harvested in the disease management zones or control zones will have self-service sampling stations available for all seasons. Any hunter who has harvested a deer in a CWD surveillance area can get their deer tested when self-service sampling stations are not avail-

able. Current information for station availability is on the CWD webpage. Hunters can call the local DNR wildlife office within that surveillance area to arrange for their deer to be sampled for CWD.

Based on discoveries of CWD in wild and captive deer in new areas last year and this spring, the DNR will monitor and manage the disease in these newly created areas, as guided by its CWD response plan.

Zones located to the north of the metro area include:

►East-central surveillance area—created after detection of CWD in a deer farm in Pine County. This area is portions of permit areas 157, 225, 235, 236 and all of permit area 159.

►The north-central management zone (DPA 604), southeast management zone (DPAs 643, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649 and 655) and southeast control zone (DPAs 255, 343 and 344) remain the same as last year.

The DNR creates management zones when CWD is detected in a wild deer, to contain the infection and reduce the prevalence in the area, and collect samples to monitor the disease.

BEARS...Continued from page 4B

the distinction unless a sow is trailing cubs.

Udovich said he doesn't allow hunters he guides to shoot females with young, and he tries to educate them ahead of the hunt on some of the telltale signs of a female bear, or sow, in hopes of limiting the harvest of young females. "In our camp, shooting a female is definitely a no-no," said Udovich.

Sows typically don't come into breeding status until their fourth or fifth year in far northeastern

Minnesota and many of those end up shot before ever contributing to the bear population, said Udovich.

The percentage of females harvested typically increases in years with limited foods, so DNR officials will be watching the harvest results with keen interest to see whether that holds true again this year.

The *Timberjay* hopes to have local results from the opening weekend in next week's edition. The regular bear season runs through Sunday, Oct. 13.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
71 52					65 46					68 52					67 49					65 46				
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.
08/17	76	45	0.00		08/17	76	45	0.00		08/17	75	52	0.00		08/17	70	52	0.00		08/17	76	46	0.00	
08/18	72	41	0.00		08/18	71	40	0.00		08/18	70	49	0.00		08/18	77	45	0.00		08/18	72	41	0.00	
08/19	78	42	0.00		08/19	77	40	0.00		08/19	78	49	0.00		08/19	82	61	0.00		08/19	77	55	0.00	
08/20	82	62	0.00		08/20	83	60	0.00		08/20	82	60	0.11		08/20	81	64	0.00		08/20	82	59	0.15	
08/21	82	57	0.02		08/21	82	57	0.00		08/21	77	61	0.00		08/21	81	61	0.00		08/21	82	58	0.07	
08/22	82	58	0.00		08/22	82	57	0.01		08/22	80	61	0.00		08/22	79	63	0.00		08/22	82	60	0.00	
08/23	73	65	0.01		08/23	75	65	0.01		08/23	76	64	0.00		08/23	79	63	0.00		08/23	75	64	0.02	
Total			13.35		YTD Total			13.93		YTD Total			19.95		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				15.65

RESTORATION

Shoreline protection planned at Itasca

ITASCA STATE PARK—The Department of Natural Resources is planning a shoreline restoration project to address erosion at the headwaters of the Mississippi River at Itasca State Park, near Bemidji. The work will restore the original river channel width and stabilize the streambank at the headwaters site.

The project is designed to minimize closure time to accommodate park visitors. Work will begin in early October after the peak tourism season. Access to the site will be restricted for a five-day period.

"Nearly a half-million people visit the headwaters of the Mississippi River every year," said Aaron Wunrow, Itasca State Park manager. "Erosion at the site has occurred gradually over a long period of time due to heavy visitation rates."

Heavy foot traffic has carried soil and other material from the shoreline into the river. Additionally, the dam below the surface has become ineffective, resulting in water flow that is undercutting the shoreline and widening the mouth



of the river.

The restoration project will use boulders atop the original dam to create a properly shaped channel that will produce a natural flow to the water. This will help reduce bank erosion by directing water away from the shoreline to prevent scouring of the streambanks. The shoreline will be stabilized with a combination of boulders and natural vegetation that will grow

and root quickly to provide erosion protection.

"The river downstream of the headwaters is still intact and shows no visible impacts from the erosion," said Wunrow. "This project will use a natural design approach to ensure it remains protected into the future, maintaining the existing high water quality and healthy stream system."

Fishing reports

Kab-Nam area

Multiple presentations are now in play as the bite finally seems to be turning on. Water temps are still in the 70's but that looks to change with cooler temps in the forecast. Walleyes have been scattered throughout Kab over the past several weeks, frustrating anglers as they are seeing them but just not able to get them to snap. Approaching this type of scenario demands patience and versatility.

The mid-lake reefs are starting to heat up in depths of 18'-25'. Looking for transition areas off the deep edges is key and two distinct presentations are working. If you decide to go with the traditional Lindy rig, moving slow through schools of fish with a leech is your best bet.

The mud flats are also producing extremely well in 28'-34'. A 2oz bottom bouncer and spinner tipped with a leech or crawler is the way to go covering these areas. Using

lead core or down riggers is also a good presentation to use.

The most consistent bite though has been the weed lines. It's hard for some to imagine fishing the weeds this time of year but for those working these areas, the bite has been fantastic. When the wind is blowing, follow it. Your best bet is to sit just outside the weed line and pitch small jigs tipped with a leech or crawler using a slow retrieve.

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CLEAN

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

DRAIN

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

DRY

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

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

Obituaries and Death Notices

Kenneth Pulkinen

Kenneth "Ken" Pulkinen, 77, of Embarrass, passed away peacefully at his home with his lovely wife at his side on Friday, Aug. 21, 2020. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Linda, a great wonderful marriage; sister, Carol Pulkinen; daughter, Tina (Marty) Petron; son, Eric (fiancée Paula); grandchildren, Sam, Jacob, Christopher,

Alex and Lilly; and great-granddaughters, Coraline and Brylly.

Kenneth M. Hegman

Kenneth Maynard "Ken" Hegman, 74, of Ely, passed away peacefully in his sleep after suffering injuries from a fall off his bike while riding with his bride of 53 years on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Ken was a man of deep faith, who also loved a good party. Join us for a celebration of life at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29 on the patio

in the yard at Veterans on the Lake in Ely. Please bring a chair or blanket, dress comfortably, and be ready to share your happy memories of Ken.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl; children, Jacque (Bill) Horvat, Ken (Kristine) Hegman, Kristie (Minh) Dang and Tim (Riana) Hegman; and grandchildren, Trevor, Andrew, Ashley, Morgan, Emma, Jakob, Charlotte, Sawyer, Noah and Olivia.

Altha E. Ojanen

Altha Ellen Ojanen, 96, of Angora, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3 at the Sand Lake Chapel in Britt. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the chapel. Guests are respectfully asked to adhere to the mask mandate. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Justin Fernlund

Justin Fernlund, 34, of Virginia, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, at his home. A service and celebration of life will be held at noon on Saturday, Aug. 29 at Olcott Park in Virginia. Please be mindful of the COVID restrictions. Cremation was provided by Bauman Family Funeral Homes.

He is survived by his children, Olivia and Zachary of Eveleth, Chloe and Elias of Embarrass; parents, Ed (Robin) and Terri (James) of Ely; sister, Amy (Mike) Peffley and nephews, Michael III and Gabriel, all of Sebring, Fla.; many aunts, uncles and cousins; and special friends, Barry, Sandy and Mike.

Alvin E. Akemann

Alvin Eugene Akemann, 90, of Babbitt, passed away suddenly on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2020, at

his home. Memorial services were held on Monday, Aug. 24 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Babbitt with Pastor John Bonk officiating. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, seating was limited and masks were required. Burial will be at a later date in the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Arrangements were with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Mary; children, Kathleen (Len) Rothlisberger of Coleraine, Robert of Alaska (presently in Babbitt), Rhonda of Babbitt, Paul of Mankato, Kerri (Travis) Wichern of Hastings and Leanne of Babbitt; grandchildren, Randalyn and Ryan Rothlisberger, Tara (Brad) Larsen and Troy Akemann, Matthew (Sara) and Dustin Bovee, Amber Akemann, Joselyn (Tyler) Rhein, Kailyn and

Jacob Wichern, Chase (Dorothy), Maree and Rylan Poppenhagen; great-grandchildren, Rylee, Kayla, Logan and Anna; and several nieces and nephews who were all special to him.

Sandra A. Pry

Sandra Alexis "Sandi" Hietala Pry, 64, originally of Embarrass, passed away at the Benedictine Health Center in Duluth on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020, following an experience with cancer. A private family memorial will be held at a later date. The family wishes to thank St. Mary's Hospice Duluth team for their care and compassion.

She is survived by her daughter, Dawn (Justin); grandson, Logan; brothers, Alex (Kathy) and Vince; and nieces and nephews.

EMPLOYMENT

LVRA Marketing and Administrative Coordinator

Lake Vermilion Resort and Tourism Association is looking for a Marketing and Administrative Coordinator. Responsible for directing, managing and overseeing all Lake Vermilion Resort & Tourism Association activities and operations, including facilitation of planning and marketing to attract visitors to Lake Vermilion. Position is year-round, part-time; performed in the Association office located in Cook, MN and one day per week working remotely, unless otherwise directed by the board. Bachelor's degree or equivalent training preferred; experience in a tourism related business and General Business Administration.

To apply for a job description please send resume and three references to: Josh Gillman, Life of Riley Resort, Box 1147, Cook, MN 55723 or Lake Vermilion Resort Association, P.O. 159 Cook, MN 55723
LVRA is an equal opportunity employer. 9/4

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@onlakevermillion.com or call 763-221-1151. tfn

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Substitute Teachers

Ely Public Schools is looking for substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. With a college degree you can qualify to obtain a short-call substitute teaching license. The District can help you in this process.

Qualifications include:
 > Bachelor's Degree to qualify for substitute teaching license is acceptable
 > Experience working with children is preferred
 > Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us
 A complete application must include the following:
 > District Licensed Application
 > Resume
 > Copy of official transcripts
 > Current Minnesota teaching license, if available
 > 2 letters of recommendation

Contact Superintendent Erik Erie at eerie@ely.k12.mn.us or Mary Wognum at mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us or call (218) 365-6166 ext. 1727 with any questions. For licensing information from the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, go to https://mn.gov/pelsb/aspiring-educators/apply/.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4, 2020

EMPLOYMENT



OPEN POSITIONS 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

- Care Center**
FT & PT Nursing Assistant (wage starting at \$15.88/hr - Sign-On Bonus)
FT MDS-PPS Coordinator/RN Educator
- Outpatient Services**
FT Infection Prevention/Outpatient Services Coordinator
- Activities**
Casual Activities Assistant
- Dietary**
FT Certified Dietary Manager
PT & Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

- Environmental Services**
PT Housekeeper
Casual Laundry Aide
- Radiology**
FT Radiology Tech

Excellent Wages! Ask about our sign on bonus!

TO APPLY:
www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/
 More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

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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

Heating-Cooling-Refrigeration Technician

Regionally-based company posting for a service technician with experience in installing heating systems, AC systems; diagnosis and repair of both, repair and preventive maintenance of refrigeration equipment. Prefer accreditation from a 2 year program and 4-6 years in the field. Full time with benefits.

Apply to Indeed: HVAC/Maintenance Technician Edwards Oil and Propane

Otherwise email resume to rskalko@eoctrimark.com 9/18

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Noon Supervisor

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Noon Supervisor to supervise students at lunch and recess times for 172 student contact days. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:
 > 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
 > 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: \$10.58/hour
 Hours: Up to 6 hours/day
 Application review to begin: September 2, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 21 & 28, 2020

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



Virginia 741-1481 Hibbing 263-3276
 "Friends Helping Friends"

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

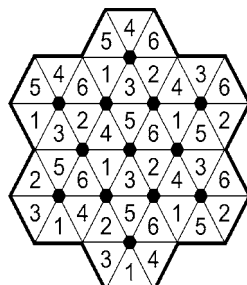
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

solution



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

HAIR CARE

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

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.

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

HELP WANTED

PT CLASSROOM ASSISTANT: 1 position working with preschool children in a Head Start Classroom in Ely. Please apply at www.aeo.org careers tab. AA/EOE. 9/4

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.

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

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

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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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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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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Sun: 9 AM-3 PM

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FOUND

TOOL TOTE with tools found on Tower's Main Street on Aug. 19. Call the Timberjay office at 218-753-2950 to describe and claim.

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Super Crossword

ELEMENTAL RECOMPOSITION

ACROSS

1 Like Pisa's famed tower
8 On the mark
16 Dangle
20 Adequate for the job
21 1974 Billy Joel hit
22 Pastiche
23 Phone alert sound whose waves travel best through element #7?
25 Refuse to
26 Expert
27 Submission encl.
28 Disney sci-fi film of 1982
29 Ukulele's kin
30 Exams
33 Skyscraping
36 Instrument whose pipes are filled with element #18?
39 Opening bits
41 Classic Fords, briefly
43 Peddle
44 Mistake while trying to mine element #55?
46 Bargain on the export of element #82?

50 What some cuts do
51 Make cherished
53 City on the Alabama
54 With 32-Down, nobody
57 Home of the philosopher Zeno
59 Oven knob
61 Swiss peaks
62 — Gay
64 Sideshow barkers peddling element #33?
69 Munich loc.
70 I-75, e.g.
73 Heavy winds
74 Binary base
75 Expert
76 Cigar holder made from element #45?
80 It may follow "Long time"
82 Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
83 Sort of sword
84 Zero
87 Not as much cereal bars
90 Harangue
94 Peyotes, e.g.

96 Dark film about people who forge element #26?
98 Internal body parts that have absorbed too much of element #47?
103 Floor cover
104 Tilting type
105 Crooked
106 Clog-clearing stuff found to have element #86?
110 Reach over
112 Poets' Muse
113 Old Apple laptop
114 Impact noise
116 Floor cover
118 Mean dog
119 A.J. of Indy
120 Half-moon-shaped deposit of element #34?
126 Deanna on the USS Enterprise
127 Collectors of lots of stuff
128 Dutch painter Jan
129 Flabbergast

130 Rates
131 Unity

DOWN

1 Really absurd
2 Not gendered, as a noun
3 Vouches for
4 "... — a lender be"
5 Bit of NYSE news
6 Pestera a lot
7 Wonderful
8 IRS filing mo.
9 Nero's 102
10 Is unable
11 Not marked, as an exam
12 Turbine parts
13 In a crowd of
14 Earthy shade
15 Austin-to-Atlanta dir.
16 1991-2003 Vermont governor
17 See 42-Down
18 Masked warrior in black
19 Boarded
24 "How clever"
29 Links
31 Like clans
32 See 54-Across
34 16-oz. units
35 Pet pests

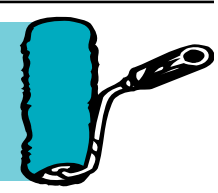
37 Be hammy
38 Pro-learning org.
40 "Hook" pirate
42 With 17-Down, scramble
45 Actor Gibson
46 Secular
47 Orbital curve
48 Current units
49 Rodeo ropes
52 Vitascopes inventor
54 Cocktail of gin, vermouth and Campari
55 Sixty minutes
56 Ontario's capital
58 Person quarreling
60 Enactment
63 Meyers of "Think Big"
65 Raimi of film
66 Yale alum
67 Actor Sparks
68 Politico Paul
71 Voting day, often: Abbr.
72 More devoid
77 "Heck yeah!"
78 Prince, e.g.
79 500 vehicles
81 Literary Twist
85 Women's patriotic gp.

86 Org. for free speech
89 Using a pen
91 Flabbergasts
92 Jorge's "day"
93 Some annexes
95 Part of a fork
97 Obsolete
99 Bigwig
100 One fleeing a flood, maybe
101 Adjusts the pitch of again
102 Noisy sleepers
104 Cry after "Psst!" perhaps
106 Fissures
107 Call off, as a mission
108 "What — mean?"
109 Rand McNally reference
111 Jorge's "new"
115 Goes kaput
117 Fed. agents
120 "Na Na" preceder
121 Canon camera line
122 Suffix with strict
123 Orig. copies
124 State of fury
125 K-O center

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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							120	121				122	123		124	125			
							127							128					
							130							131					



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Jodee Micheletti
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF ORR CALL FOR BIDS
1990 International Tender Truck

The City of Orr solicits bids for a 1990 International Tender Truck with 3,300 gallon water tank. Truck has a Cummins 400 engine; 13 speed transmission; and high mileage. Vehicle is to be sold "AS IS".
Any questions or to inspect, call Orr City Hall at (218) 757-3288

Bids will be opened at the Orr City Council Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

The City of Orr reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Winning bidder must agree to remove lights and sirens.

Cheri Carter
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Orr

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4, 2020

Sealed bids will be accepted by the City of Orr, Clerk's Office, 4429 Highway 53, PO Box 237, Orr, MN 55771, until 3:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

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