



Wranglin' cattle...
See /1B

Inside:
Ely VA Clinic upgrade... See /3
Real estate booming... See /10
Geese, ticks, COVID-19... See 4B

The **TIMBERJAY**



VOL. 31, ISSUE 35 September 4, 2020

\$1⁰⁰

PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT

Steelworkers push back on Iron Range mayors

Mayors paint rosy portrait of Range economy under President Trump

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The United Steelworkers are pushing back against six Iron Range mayors who signed a joint letter endorsing President Donald Trump's re-election last week. The Aug. 28 letter, signed by

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, Babbitt Mayor Andrea Zupancich, Virginia Mayor Larry Cuffe, and the mayors of Eveleth, Chisholm, and Two Harbors, was timed to coincide with the recent Duluth rally headlined by Vice President Mike Pence. "Our union believes those mayors are misguided

and don't fully understand the nature of the economics of the industry or the Iron Range," stated the letter, signed by Tom Conway, the union's international president, District 11 Director Emil Ramirez, and Staff Rep. John Arbogast. The union provided the letter to the *Timberjay* this week.

The letter from the six mayors painted a rosy picture of the economy on the Iron Range, which they described as "roaring back to life," under the economic policies of President Trump.

The mayors cited Trump's tariffs against

See...**MAYORS** pg. 9



Chuck Novak



Andrea Zupancich

GOVERNMENT

Greenwood Clerk resigns

Cites 'harassment' and 'humiliation' by town board, treasurer

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP - Greenwood Town Clerk Sue Drobac submitted a letter of resignation to town board members, via email, effective Aug. 31, 2020.

The board will hold a special meeting on Friday, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m. to accept the letter of resignation, declare the vacancy, and possibly appoint an interim township clerk to serve until the next township election in March. Greenwood Board Chair Mike Ralston said the decision whether or not to appoint an interim clerk at the meeting will be a board decision.

Drobac wrote she was "fortunate to be elected Greenwood Township Clerk for the third time, each by wide margins." She added that she "enjoyed working with residents and meeting new friends."

The resignation letter went on to state that "over the last year, the township board's and treasurer's attitude toward me, has been one

See...**CLERK** pg. 9



OUTDOOR RECREATION

Getting connected

Voyageur ATV Club has big plans for trail network

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - If you're going to dream, dream big.

That appears to be the unofficial motto of the Voyageur Country ATV Club, a group started by four men in

2015 that now boasts over 700 members, all sharing the vision of an interconnected trail system that will eventually provide riders with over 500 miles of trails to explore.

Five years ago, Bruce Beste and

See...**TRAILS** pg. 10

PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 hits assisted living facility in Ely

Bois Forte case numbers more than double in a week

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Assisted care facilities in the North Country had been spared outbreaks of COVID-19 in the months since the pandemic began, but that run came to an end this week when a staff member and two residents of the Ely Carefree Living facility tested positive for the virus.

More than 800 assisted care facilities have experienced similar outbreaks in Minnesota, and many have led to multiple deaths among residents.

Merle Sampson is CEO of Spectrum Health Companies, the parent company that operates Carefree Living facilities in Ely, Cook, Orr, Babbitt, and numerous others throughout the state under the Carefree Living and Spectrum Community Health brands. Sampson issued a statement on

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



CITY OF ELY

Council member shows progress on roof repairs to vacant property

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY - City Council members received good news this week on the progress of maintenance of a private property parcel owned by

A vacant house in Ely, owned by City Council member Paul Kess, showed signs of improvements this week, following recent complaints by a neighbor and a negative report by the city's building official. photo by K. Vandervort

one of its own members.

Council member Paul Kess and his wife, Laurie, own an abandoned house at 106 E. Harvey Street that has steadily deteriorated over several years to the point where it was deemed

a threat to public health and safety. An inspection conducted last September found that the condition of the two-story dwelling failed to meet the minimum requirements of city and state building codes.

Following a blistering report last month by the city's building official on the lack of

See...**ELY** pg. 7



Canoes and kayaks are in stock! Visit us for all your paddling and gear needs. 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. 218 - 365 - 6745

Outlet Store OPEN for the season. 10a.m. - 6 p.m. every day.

Thank you for your continued support, The Piragis Staff

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



Community notices

Ruby's Pantry, Sept. 10 in Cook

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry will be a drive through food distribution at the old Cook School parking lot on Thursday, Sept. 10 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. A \$20 cash donation at the door buys an abundance of food. For safety reasons, no one over 60 years of age will be asked to volunteer. Sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango.

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 - 5:30 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.

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 (LVCC) 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 MN Supreme Court Justice Margaret Chutich" will take place. The format will include

some brief introductory comments followed by three panelists who will ask Justice Chutich questions about her path setting career as a female judge and attorney in Minnesota.

Prior to serving on the bench, Justice Chutich's career included work in private practice, as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, as a Deputy Attorney General in Minnesota, and as an Assistant Dean for the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. She was appointed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals in 2012 (elected in 2014) by Governor Mark Dayton. In 2016 Governor Dayton appointed her to the Minnesota Supreme Court (elected in 2018). Along with this stellar career, Justice Chutich also has ties to the Iron Range. She had relatives in Hibbing and spent many summers "up North" as a child.

The three panelists include two LVCC board members and an LVCC supporter. Don Erickson is the Vice-Chair of the LVCC board. He has been an attorney for over 45 years and currently works for the Fryberger Law Firm as a Certified Labor and Employment Law Specialist. Pam Brunfelt is an LVCC board member who recently retired from teaching history at Vermilion Community College. She is working on research about the importance of Iron Range steel for the World War II war effort. LVCC supporter Patty Phillips was a teacher, principal, and superintendent for the Virginia public schools. She retired to Lake Vermilion after serving as superintendent for the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale public schools.

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

Ely Community Health Center

Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.



Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals

111 S 4th Ave E, Ely

Volunteer opportunities also available

FINE ARTS

Wolf art at First Stage Gallery

Poems and paintings on display throughout September

VIRGINIA- The mother-daughter team of Stephanie Johnson and Angie Arden, of Duluth, has a passion for wolves. They have found inspiration to create paintings and poetry through the work and residents of the International Wolf Center in Ely and the Wildlife Science Center in Stacy.

The First Stage Gallery in Virginia is featuring the team's exhibit, Pup Culture, through the month of September. The exhibit depicts the unique organizational structure of the wolf pack as it raises and protects its young pups.

One of the paintings in the September exhibit was selected to be hung at the Minnesota State Capitol this year. Since that display is on hold due to COVID, the painting is now part of the work being shown at First Stage this month.

Artists Johnson and

Arden have a unique method of creating their work, each painting and poem goes back and forth between them to accomplish the final finished piece. There are two painting styles in each piece. "In our work together we hope we will inspire a deeper understanding of the wolf," say Johnson and Arden. "We celebrate the wild innocence of the wolf species by revealing their dynamic way of life and survival."

The Pup Culture exhibit will open on Friday, Sept. 4 and be open Fridays and Saturdays through Sept. 26. Gallery hours are currently limited to Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed. The gallery is free and open to the public. Find out more at www.lyriccenteronline.org.



Growler's First Howl by Johnson and Arden submitted photo

"Soul Force," an exhibit and memorial to Sue Wolfe

COOK- From Sept. 3 to 26, Northwoods Friends of the Arts will host an exhibit and book sale honoring a founding member of NFWA. Sue Wolfe is featured with thirty other artists. The exhibit includes Wolfe's autobiographical book, "One of a Kind." Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Growing older, I've decided, is a gift. I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be," said Sue Wolfe.

Wolfe planned this exhibit and book signing for a year before she died unexpectedly this spring.

"Soul Force," is the title chosen by Wolfe for her latest art sharing her recent involvement of style.



She used her passion for color to express her maturity as an artist with the freedom to share her faith, values and humor for an unusual collection of art produced from her soul.

Sue's art is eclectic, using materials found, old and new, that she had on hand and created with joyful faith.

Here is Sue Wolfe's artist statement: "In 2015 I began an adventure. I got out my oil paints from college (1963) and painted

an image of "Everlasting Hope." This was the beginning of a journey to let my soul speak to me and

know what people see in it as they look at my Soul Force." "One of a Kind," a short autobiographical booklet, was written by Sue for her children. The first line on the dedication page reads, "Before you were born I believed in God. After the birth of each of you I believed in miracles." Her faith is expressed in her stories, some in "Ole and Lena" style. The self-published booklet will be on sale at NFWA gallery right beside the Sue Wolfe art exhibit, "Soul Force."

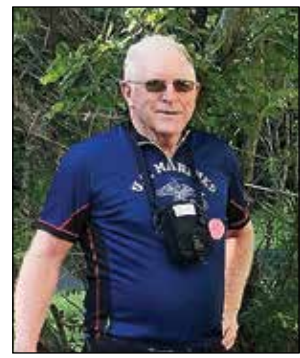
Visit the NFWA Gallery at 210 S River Street in the Dream Weaver Day Spa and Salon complex. See more information about the gallery can be found at nwfamn.org, or email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISER

Local man rides in Virtual Habitat 500

REGIONAL- Habitat Minnesota and the Habitat 500 Committee decided to move from an in-person ride to a virtual format for the Habitat 500 Bike Ride in 2020. The 28th annual bike ride is a fundraising event aimed at increasing awareness about the need for decent and affordable housing. A team of over 40 volunteers and 135 riders work together to raise funds and awareness through this annual bicycle ride.

Brian Birk, of Tower, has been a participant in past rides and is currently in the virtual ride. "Since we were not gathering as



Brian Birk at a past Habitat 500 file photo

a group, we could each decide what our own route would be and whether we would do all 500 miles in one week or take longer. I decided to ride twenty miles every Thursday and

every Saturday in June, July and August. I've done my riding on the Mesabi Trail," he said.

"Riding my bike only helps Habitat for Humanity if I also ask people to support Habitat for Humanity financially. I believe in the mission of Habitat for Humanity. I have been giving labor hours and money to Habitat for Humanity for more than twenty years. Some people have sponsored me every year for many years. There are a lot of people who are living in simple, decent, houses partially paid for by my ride sponsors. I thank those of you who have

sponsored my rides in the past, and I thank those of you who will sponsor this ride and future rides."

To donate online using a credit card, go to www.habitat500.org. Please put the name of the rider you want to support in the comment section. Or you can mail a check to Habitat for Humanity at North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, PO Box 24, Virginia, MN 55792. Please put the name of the rider you want to support in the memo section.

6 N 1st Ave E
Ely, MN
Hours: 8-4
Mon-Sat

**GRANOLA
SMOOTHIES
COOKIES
BAKED GOODS**

218-235-6161
www.crapola.us

End of Summer SALE

25-50% OFF

Lake Vermilion clothing and gifts!

-ALL REMAINING INVENTORY of Lund Boats

- Stop by to check out our deals!
- See our website to view our current boat inventory.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND HOURS: Fri, Sat 8-6; Sun & Mon 9-4
(218) 753-4190 • 6143 Pike Bay Dr, Tower • E-mail: aronsonboatworks@frontiernet.net

ELY

Work set to begin on Ely VA Clinic expansion

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - A multi-million dollar expansion project begins later this month that will double the space used by the Veterans Affairs Community Medical Clinic at the city-owned "Sato" building in the Ely business park on Miner's Drive.

Work on the \$2.8 million project could be completed by the end of next summer, according to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, who provided a recent update to the Ely Economic Development Authority.

Langowski represented the city late last month in design work and project discussions with the architects and contractor, and VA officials approved the majority of the design work. He anticipated the VA would grant final approval this week on

the building addition that would increase the clinic's capacity to 7,450 square feet.

"It was a good process and I'm glad I went," Langowski said. "We were able to, in real time, revise the drawings, and the designer, who was based in Colorado, was able to take every revision we discussed before lunch and have the (new) drawings available after lunch."

Langowski related several "stumbling blocks" in moving the project forward.

"Materials gathering is seemingly a little difficult. Even with lumber, the pricing has gone up for trusses and those sorts of things," he said.

The city is completing an infrastructure grant application to the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to help pay for required site improve-

ments.

"Our hope is to be under construction for the site utilities in September, building construction in October, and have it all dried in before winter sets in so then the carpenters can work on the inside throughout the winter," Langowski said. "Late next spring we want them to occupy the new space and then we will remodel the existing space so we are complete some time next August. It is a pretty busy schedule."

The medical clinic expansion project comes with the VA agreeing to a ten-year lease with the city earlier this summer that could be extended for an additional ten years, according to Langowski.

"We will finance the (expansion) project and be paid by the VA at occupancy and over the first ten years of the term to pay for the financed

improvements."

With the 3,500 square-foot expansion, new medical services will be available for the area's many veterans.

Other business

Langowski provided an update on the West End Development and Trailhead project.

"A lot of work has occurred in the last month," he said. "The paving is done. We have a little bit of concrete work left. The (grass) seeding and erosion control is done."

He said the new Fifth Avenue West access off Hwy. 169 remains closed until traffic control signage is installed.

A grand opening is in the works to coincide with the state ATV association event planned for Sept. 18-20 in the area. Mayor Chuck Novak noted that prior to a VIP ride, slated for Friday, Sept. 18, a



ribbon-cutting event could be held.

"I know that state Sen. Tom Bakk and state Rep. Rob Ecklund could make that. We can have the city council here, hospital officials, HRA members and invite all the committee members of the state bonding committee," Novak said.

The state invested more than \$1.3 million on the project.

Langowski reported that the downtown high-speed fiber project continues to advance. The lease agreement and construction agreements

are signed, he said.

"We are receiving fiber material on a weekly basis. There are some long lead times on some of the materials and we are still waiting for all that to come in," he said.

Langowski estimated that fiber service could be offered sometime in the first quarter of 2021.

"It is very important when we start marketing this that we can deliver on the dates that we tell people. We have seen in the past when other promises did not come true, and we don't want to fall into that category."

Gardner Trust has awarded \$813,000 over 32 years

ELY - What do the Washington Auditorium renovation, and the Band Shell and outdoor musical instruments in Whiteside Park have in common? Funding from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

This summer the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust celebrates 32 years of enriching the arts in Ely. "The annual August 'Breakfast in the Garden' arts event was canceled this year due

to the pandemic but there are still many reasons to celebrate the work of the Trust in our community," said Executive Director Keiko Williams.

In the last 32 years, the Trust has awarded \$813,162.76 for Ely artists, art organizations, college scholarships, youth grants and community grants.

► Scholarships - \$96,724.15 was awarded to serve over 50 Ely graduates in their pursuit of fine arts education.

► Arts Project Grants and Organization Operational Funding - \$602,604.94 has impacted hundreds of thousands of Ely residents and visitors through arts events and support for the growth of arts organizations. Programming for children has taken the form of week-long artist residencies in the schools, school events like the Boundary Waters Choral Festival, theater or opera groups and concerts.

► Individual Artist

Grants - \$51,982.22 has impacted over 50 local artists by providing funding for unique, creative experiences. The artists also impact the community through their grants by providing interaction with students at school or in classes, presentations to the public, displays of new art work or the art process, exhibitions of new work, and performances.

► Youth Grants (new program started in 2015) - \$10,819.00 has helped 22

youth increase their artistic talents through workshops, classes, lessons and mentorships.

► Community Giving Grants - \$51,032.45 was spent enriching the Ely community by helping to fund the building of the Whiteside Park Band Shell, renovation and refurbishing of seats in Washington Auditorium, transportation for fourth-grade classes to attend Old Turtle Ballet and the Duluth Superior

Symphony Orchestra in 2007, student enrichment through LOON Opera grade school programs, and the installation of outdoor musical instruments in Whiteside Park.

"Out of the total for arts organizations, the Ely Public Library has received \$109,481.92 in grant funds," she added. "Our library has used these funds over the years to enrich the experience for library patrons by purchas-

See TRUST...pg. 5

REAL ESTATE

VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate • Appraisals

**Looking To Buy Or Sell?
Give Us A Call!**

www.vermilionland.com • info@vermilionland.com
Tower: 218-753-8985

(218) 666-5352
info@bicrealty.com
www.bicrealty.com

ELBOW LAKE 3.74 acre lot with 463 ft lakeshore. Lot features include power to site, road-access, large mature pine cover. **MLS #139118 \$169,500**

COOK 5+ acre wooded parcel is located just off Lake Vermilion. Shared access across the road w/boat slip at the dock w/electricity. The dock is located in Larson Bay. **MLS# 139273 \$75,000**

LAKE VERMILION This lot features 255 ft lakeshore and approx. 3.2 acres of mixed tree cover. Southwestern view into a small bay within Black Bay. **MLS# 135549 \$119,500**

SOLD ~ LAKE VERMILION 2 BR home in Norwegian Bay. Situated on a 4 acre lot w/ 400 ft lakeshore. Additional lot sold with property. **MLS# 137942 LISTED AT Home \$419,900, Lot \$159,900**

LOCALLY OWNED/NATIONALLY FOCUSED
OUR BROKERS/AGENTS
HAVE 100+ YEARS
COMBINED EXPERIENCE

RE/MAX Lake Country
218-757-3233
www.TheLakeCountry.com

Pelican Lake-\$129,000 1.62 acre peninsula and 840 ft of lakeshore. **MLS#136679**

Biwabik-\$399,900 4 BR, 5 BA home near Giants Ridge with access to Wynne Lake. **MLS#139234**

Ash River, Orr-\$235,000 2 BR, 1 BA home with garage, shared shoreline, dock and boat slip. **MLS#140005**

Lake Vermilion-\$137,500 3.2 acres on Lake Vermilion with 204 ft of shoreline. **MLS#136286**

Ban Lake, Orr- \$89,000 550 ft of shoreline and over 6 acres on Ban Lake. **MLS#132788**

"As measured by residential transaction sides."

Edina Realty
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

TIM LILLQUIST, Realtor
Serving Lake Vermilion, Tower, Soudan, Breitung, Cook, Ely and surrounding communities
612-834-5769 (cell)
timlillquist@edinarealty.com

#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX

"As measured by residential transaction sides."

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644

Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...
ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM
OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Eroding the foundation

Under Trump, federal decisions have become arbitrary and capricious

In 1946, the U.S. Congress and President Harry Truman enacted the Administrative Procedures Act as a means of ensuring that the federal government enacted policies and regulations with transparency and based on the best information available to agency officials.

It was landmark legislation that was designed to ensure not only that the public had a voice in federal decision-making, but that its voice wasn't drowned out by special interests or the whims or personal biases of federal officials.

The act also provided the public new legal avenues for challenging federal decisions when they were made without sufficient basis in fact or logic. When federal officials made decisions arbitrarily, the Administrative Procedures Act gave the public clear statutory ability to challenge those decisions in court.

Two recent actions by the Trump administration demonstrate the consequences of arbitrary decision-making and show how the gains this country made in the past eighty years are being undermined today by the Trump administration. As we reported last week, the Trump administration suddenly and unexpectedly reversed itself on whether to begin permitting for the Pebble Mine in southwestern Alaska. In July, its Army Corps of Engineers issued a determination that concluded the mine would have little or no impact on the sockeye salmon population in Bristol Bay, located about 100 miles downstream of the proposed copper and gold mine.

We need not weigh in on the merits of the Army Corps decision, since its merits, either way, were no match for the arbitrary nature of so much decision-making by President Trump. As has now been widely reported, the administration reversed itself 180 degrees after Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest son, celebrity Fox News talking head Tucker Carlson, and BassPro Shops founder Johnny Morris, came out publicly in opposition to the mine. Turns out, Trump Jr. likes to fish salmon in Bristol Bay.

The reversal is obviously good news for the future of the Bristol Bay fishery, but it reveals how decisions in the Trump administration are made based on the interests of whomever has the president's ear at the moment. This is exactly the approach to governance that the Administrative Procedures Act was designed to prevent. In the case of the Pebble Mine, the president may have come down on the side of the salmon — but only because of the influence of a handful of politically-connected

individuals.

Closer to home, the president took the exact opposite position on the proposed Twin Metals mine, which the U.S. Forest Service has already determined poses a grave threat to the Boundary Waters, the nation's most popular wilderness area. Yet the administration forced the agency to not only go along with renewal of a lease that the Forest Service opposed, but to relinquish its right to object to future renewals of the lease, in perpetuity.

What was the basis for the Forest Service's about face on Twin Metals? Who knows? The Forest Service certainly hasn't offered an explanation, which strongly suggests it was based on strong-arming from the White House and, possibly, the administration's friends in Congress.

These are two examples, but there are many, many more in this administration. President Trump has taken a shellacking in the courts over the past three and a half years, and not because of liberal judges. Many Republican-appointed judges have reversed the administration as well, because time after time, this administration has made arbitrary decisions based on nothing but the coarsest political calculation or the commentary of a talking head on Fox News.

In the case of Twin Metals, the law is ignored and the mineral leases are renewed not because the administration has made a reasoned case for a change in policy, and certainly not because the administration believes, or even cares, whether the mine can operate without impacting the Boundary Waters. The decision is made only because the president wants to win votes on the Iron Range.

You can run a country this way, but not well and not for long, because every organization, including mining companies, need some sense of predictability. When a country makes decisions based on the whims of an unstable president, businesses lack the stability they need. What happens if a Fox News celebrity visits the Boundary Waters and suddenly comes out on television in favor of its protection? The Twin Metals proposal could vanish with a tweet.

Don't believe it? Just ask the folks behind the Pebble Mine.

The Administrative Procedures Act provided that predictability because it guaranteed that government decisions were based on a factual foundation. The Trump administration is undermining that foundation, perhaps unwittingly, every single day.



Letters from Readers

DFL Iron Range delegation supports mining

Recently, the State Central Committee of the DFL adopted a resolution calling for a moratorium on copper-nickel mining. In response, the DFL Iron Range delegation released the following statement:

“The Iron Range delegation has always supported, promoted, and defended mining, our jobs, and our way of life. The proud history and traditions of the Iron Range run as deep as the minerals under our feet. Our commitment to fight for the men and women of labor, our businesses, and our communities will never change.

There has always been a small anti-mining group that has been opposed to us. This is nothing new or unexpected. This latest effort doesn't change the goals of the Iron Range delegation in the House or Senate.

Our resolve to fight for our communities is even stronger.”

Sen. David Tomassoni
Sen. Tom Bakk
Rep. Rob Ecklund
Rep. Dave Lislegard
Rep. Julie Sandstede

Trump should take a stand against voter suppression

To honor the 100-year anniversary of woman's suffrage, President Trump should have given an Executive Order to declare the Equal Rights Amendment the law of the land. (Or at least strongly advocate for it.)

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

Instead he pardoned Susan B. Anthony. I guess he does not know much about her — she never married, she was a teacher, a writer, a lecturer. She was an abolitionist and worked for a woman's right to vote and to own property and to receive equal pay for equal work. Therefore, she was a “NASTY” woman!

In the words of Deborah L. Hughes, executive director of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House in

Rochester, New York, the best way to honor Anthony would be to take a clear stance against voter suppression and for human rights FOR ALL.

Elizabeth Urban
Eagles Nest Twp.

Greenwood already has a generous firefighter pension

Greenwood Fire Chief Dave Fazio thinks that the paid, not on-call, fire department (again!) needs a larger pension. Following are some Minnesota towns' and townships' annual pension amounts. Our department is much appreciated. It can be very dangerous work. In Greenwood however, not that much is required to make more money than any department in the surrounding area. The members must respond to two calls and attend six meetings or trainings per year. I think there should be a 10-year moratorium on the current \$2,500 per year pension, currently in place.

Breitung-\$2,000, Aurora-\$1,400, Buyck-\$800, Crane Lake-\$1,000, Ely-\$1,800, Hoyt Lakes-\$1,500, Lutsen Township-\$1,500, and Mt. Iron-\$2,000. Time for the board to 'just say NO!'

Barbara Lofquist
Greenwood Twp.

Blind to the work of the real cabal

Wikipedia defines a cabal as “a group of people united in some close design, usually to promote their private views or interests in ideology, state, or other community, often by intrigue and usually unbeknownst to those outside their group. The use of this term usually carries negative connotations of political purpose, conspiracy and secrecy.”

To refer to a group of concerned citizens exercising their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and to petition the government, by writing letters to the editor to keep our fellow citizens aware of certain questionable situations with actions taken by the town board, as a cabal is ludicrous at best.

However, a town board singling out and voting to slash the salary and limiting the available paid hours to be worked by another elected official with little or no actual discussion fits within the working in “secrecy” definition of a cabal, doesn't it? How about deliberately skewing the results of a survey to change a negative result to suggest a positive result? Certainly fits the “promotion of private views and self-interests” of a cabal, doesn't it?

The development of a five-page ordinance by the board with the intention of limiting access by the public to only certain public documents that had previously been available to all carries with it an air of creating secrecy. How about inclusion in the five-page ordinance the provision that the board has to approve of the contents of the public information packet required by open meeting law but it can only be seen and reviewed by the public during the monthly meeting? Again, “secrecy.” The board has also declared that violation of any of the sections of the ordinance “shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to a \$1,000 and a jail sentence of up to 30 days.”

As the clerk is responsible for all documentation this provision has most definitely been included to intimidate. Given the previous actions toward the clerk and with the sudden and unexplained Option B on the last ballot that would have combined the clerk and treasurer as an appointed position, suggested after the chair spoke with the township attorney, these actions certainly indicate a “conspiracy” to remove the clerk, don't they?

I most certainly agree that there's a cabal at work in Greenwood, but it's not the folks who are concerned with the legitimacy of some of the actions taken by this board. As to the alleged Bassing cabal, they've taken the time to do the research and keep our fellow residents informed by working out in the open and sharing what they find in the press. By definition that doesn't even come close to being the work of a cabal now does it?

Rick Stoehr
Greenwood Twp.

Toto, we're seriously not in Kansas anymore

It's hard to believe I've already been on the job at the *Timberjay* for seven months now. Even with the COVID-19 shutdown, time seems to have passed as quickly as a hiccup.

I can unabashedly proclaim that I



DAVID COLBURN

couldn't be happier with my move from the wide-open prairie of central Kansas to the north lands of Minnesota. Or is that the northlands? Or north of “the divide?” Or north of “the Iron Range?” Or the Boundary Waters area?

And therein lies the one drawback to feeling totally settled here in my new home — I'm still trying to figure out just where I am.

Google Maps has long been a go-to for me, and in early February I sat down at the computer to get a better feel for the lay of the land around here. As the new Cook/Orr Editor, I figured I ought to learn more about the area. I knew the Orr was on the shores of Pelican Lake, so I put “Pelican Lake” into the search bar, clicked, and started browsing the area.

I immediately noticed something odd. Orr wasn't where I thought it would be, there on the eastern end of the lake.

Hmmm. I scrolled around the shoreline — no Orr. I zoomed out — no Orr, no Cook, no Lake Vermilion nearby. What was going on???

Jodi Summit clued me in. I was looking at the Pelican Lake in Otter Tail County, about 170 miles away as the crow flies from the Pelican Lake I wanted. TWO Pelican Lakes in the same state? What's up with that? But no, it was worse than I imagined. Minnesota has six Pelican Lakes. Ye gads!

I suppose that with more

than 11,000 lakes it was inevitable that people would run out of original names and start duplicating, but six seemed rather excessive. Turns out it's rather conservative.

Long Lake appears to be the king of lake names in Minnesota, although apparently there's some disagreement as to just how many have that name. Wikipedia lists 30, while another source says 27. And woe is me — four of those appear to be in

See **LAKES...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Walz backs metro over northern Minnesota

In a move pandering to metro area legislators and environmental zealots, tone-deaf Gov. Tim Walz and the Minnesota Department of Commerce, appealed, for the second time, the Public Utilities Commission's decision approving Enbridge's \$2.9 billion Line 3 replacement pipeline. In a letter supporting Walz and Commerce, 16 metro area DFL lawmakers said the decision was based upon a finding that oil demand "is not sufficient to justify a project that will contribute significantly to climate change, usurp Indigenous treaty rights and imperil Minnesota's waters."

Joining in the appeal to the courts, were Honor the Earth, the Sierra Club, the Red Lake and White Earth bands of Ojibwe, Friends of the Headwaters, and Youth Climate Interveners. The tactics employed by Line 3 pipeline opponents replicate those that are being used to block PolyMet and Twin Metals Minnesota's copper-nickel mining projects in Northeastern Minnesota. Contest the science based findings - bring suit in the courts - appeal adverse decisions, and delay, delay, delay.

In March 2018, the Minnesota PUC first approved the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and granted a Certificate of Need for the Enbridge Line 3 replacement pipeline. The Dayton administration appealed the PUC's decision. In February 2019, Commerce and Governor Walz announced that his administration would continue the court challenge begun under the Dayton administration.

In response to Gov. Dayton's appeal, the *Star Tribune* weighed in with their support for the replacement pipeline in a March 10, 2019, editorial. "For safety's sake, let Enbridge build." The arguments made by those opposing the pipeline, the paper noted, included the risk of pipeline spills to arguments that the pipeline will wed the state even further to fossil fuels. Further, the *Strib* wrote, the delay will mean even higher rail shipments of oil that "travels some of the most densely-populated areas of the state, posing a potential environmental disaster should there be a derailment." "Walz and the Commerce Department should drop the court challenge and allow the project to proceed."

In June 2019, the Minnesota Court of Appeals found that the EIS was inadequate in that it

didn't properly address the effect of an oil spill in the Lake Superior watershed. A new study was conducted, confirming that in the unlikely case of a spill, the Line 3 replacement segment did not introduce risk to Lake Superior.

In February 2020, the PUC approved Line 3 for a second time, the result of six years of public hearings (70), and a 13,500-page EIS. Yet, last week, the Governor and the Commerce Department announced they would appeal the latest decision by the PUC granting a Certificate of Need and approving Enbridge's plan to replace its Line 3 pipeline.

In a post-election appearance in Mt. Iron, before a large audience of union officials as well as federal, state and local elected officials, Governor Walz spoke of his support for jobs and his conviction that "We are one Minnesota." The Governor's actions speak louder than his hollow campaign rhetoric.

Three projects are presently being proposed that will enormously benefit northern Minnesota. The Enbridge Line 3 replacement pipeline is a \$2.9 billion project that will generate 4,200 well-paying union jobs. Crossing 13 Minnesota counties before terminating in Superior, Wis., it is estimated that Enbridge will pay an additional \$20 million dollars in annual Minnesota property taxes in addition to the millions it already pays annually on the existing pipeline.

Once again, the Governor has displayed his contempt for rural Minnesota in deferring to metro area interests. Our advice to Governor Walz: Ask for the resignation of Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelly. If he doesn't resign, he should be fired. Lastly, end your opposition to the Line 3 pipeline by withdrawing the appeal made to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

**Gerald M. Tyler, Chairman
Up North Jobs Inc.
Ely**

Rodgers spins a spurious tale

In last week's letters, Pam Rodgers tried to convince us of her perspective about what has transpired in Greenwood Township, but she yet again proved it to be another one of her spurious tales. She would have the reader think that Clerk Drobac, out of the blue, refused to work with Chair Ralston in writing an agenda, participating in the monthly meeting and taking the minutes. What she leaves out is that the board

motion passed at the meeting in July restricted the clerk's hours from 20-plus to 12, as well as converting her to hourly pay from her previous salary. This left Clerk Drobac with no hours left in the week to attend the August board meeting. Clerk Drobac, knowing what the hours and pay entailed, decided to run for clerk again, and what Ralston's board did amounted to a "bait and switch." Ms. Rodgers describes Ralston's actions as leadership when they only amount to bullying, intimidation and harassment. Even the editor of this newspaper has described, in his op-ed, the board's actions as harassment and intimidation. Leaders have empathy and inspire those around them toward a common goal, but bullies intimidate and coerce for their own interests.

Ms. Rodgers tries to claim the clerk before Clerk Drobac got voted out because she was given a huge raise, but fails to mention the many other reasons (the back door way the raise was proposed, three-year contracts for part-time employees, election law violations, and keeping public data private) voters turned her out. Ms. Rodgers points out the workload of the clerk has decreased due to transferring planning and zoning functions to St. Louis County, but doesn't tell you the extra hours of work and meetings with the county to transfer all the data related to that change to the county. Clerk Drobac, Treasurer Clark and I spent many extra hours working on a budget, as well as the hours Clerk Drobac spent working with other township clerks to turn aside the hostile annexation attempt by the Cook Hospital District.

Ms. Rodgers seems to be upset that the last two annual meetings have turned down her levy requests and asks "What's wrong with people?" What's wrong is that people want to know, through a budget presentation as recommended by the Minnesota Association of Townships, what their taxes are paying for. Ms. Rodgers, in her usual arrogant fashion, refused to present such a budget. The old "we don't need a budget and I am smarter than you" just doesn't work. It is, after all, not Ms. Rodgers' money, or a company's money. It's the people's money.

As usual, Ms. Rodgers ends with a "the sky is falling moment" when she says the cabal wants to eliminate the fire department and our insurance will go up. No one is or has advocated eliminating the fire department. Ms. Rodgers describes this group of people

as a cabal but she should know it is this group who kept the township from being annexed into the Cook Hospital District at an estimated cost to Greenwood of \$500,000 a year, reduced the over-bloated surplus of \$1.346 million, which has given us the lowest township taxes around, and moved planning and zoning to the county, saving us from paying double for those services. I don't recall Ms. Rodgers or any other current board members helping much in any of those endeavors. Maybe they saved up their energy to force a twice re-elected (by overwhelming margins) clerk from office. Well, they did it usurping the will of the people, and I would like to say "good work" when my township board reaches a goal but not this time. This time, all I have to say is RESIGN.

**John Bassing
Greenwood Twp.**

Greenwood board creating its own problems

I would like to make clear the reason for the clerk's absence at the August meeting of the Greenwood Board. As reported in the *Timberjay*, the board voted to limit the clerk's workweek to just twelve hours. The clerk told them that her responsibilities require more than twelve hours to complete. The new norm is to be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday six hours a day. With the election on Tuesday, the clerk had worked all the hours rationed to her for the week. Her attending the board meeting on Wednesday night would have violated the board action. Ralston had an issue with her absence and spun a tall tale to convince her that she could have attended. She was told, "perhaps you don't understand the motion." Ralston writes "all election hours are not township business." "Items outside of township business can be presented for pay i.e. election, election training, clerk training." Did you miss it? "Can be presented", words matter. I do not believe for one second that this board would pay any hours she submitted. They would just use it as another bludgeon to force her out, telling her that she should have asked in advance or some other B.S. and refused to pay her. The motion contained nothing to support Ralston's fabrication. His discussion did accuse her of too much socializing and mandated that she complete all her work in twelve hours. Period. To my memory, the clerk has not missed one board meeting in

four years. The board action and ongoing harassment forced her to not attend this last meeting.

Remember last March when Ralston and his toadies did not bother to work up a budget to propose to the residents for the levy and there was no discussion of resources needed to meet planned expenses?

Give us 250K, period. Ralston once again brings up the township finances at the August board meeting. He presented a jumble of numbers with no coherent order bemoaning the unfounded financial woes of Greenwood. He reports the fund balance at "\$456,181" with no date reference. Certainly, not the balance just read a few moments earlier by the treasurer where she cites the township's overall balance to date at \$646,000. Ralston then explains that the recommendation from the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is to have one and a-half times the budget in reserves. Last time he said it was "recommended by the state." There is no state document making such a recommendation.

Then, Ralston begins discussing cutting the pay of the supervisors. Board member Carmen DeLuca is quick to jump up and proclaim "I'm not for cutting anything." Ralston then says, "We have to take money out of reserves." Deluca shouts back, "I'd like to see some proof of that!" and "We had the same amount of money as we had last July; we got 646K." Not wanting to allow contrary information to be spoken Ralston cut him off and pulled in the reins on his defector, shutting down the discussion. "Carmen, we are moving on," he said.

As the official cheerleader for the mendacious Ralston, former treasurer Pam Rodgers not only supports Ralston's fabrications she creates her own. Everyone I know supports the Greenwood Fire Department. There are many good people that are there to serve the township. She fails to reveal that I have attempted to contact the board Chair DeLuca by phone multiple times to open a dialog with no return phone call. DeLuca did not respond to certified mail sent by me to him and the clerk. At a meeting, the clerk attempted to read this letter as correspondence, but DeLuca stopped her mid-sentence. DeLuca clearly demonstrated he has no desire for dialogue or his campaign promise of "government transparency."

**Jeff Maus
Greenwood Twp.**

TRUST...Continued from page 3

ing updated computers and printers, new shelving units, tables and chairs, lighting, expansion of the library in 2001, increased the library collection of books, CDs and DVDs, and purchased

new artwork and displays for the new library building."

Local stained glass artists also collaborated with the library and used Trust project grant funding to create some of the

beautiful stained glass windows installed in the library.

This year's fall grant deadline is noon on Wednesday, Sept. 30. New applicants are encouraged to contact Williams

at 218-365-2639 or grtrust@gardnertrust.org to discuss their grant proposals. Youth grant applicants must contact the Trust office by Monday, Sept. 14 to set up a grant review meeting. The purpose of

the meeting is to help the youth applicant review their narrative and help them write the best application they can.

LAKES...Continued from page 4

St. Louis County. SERIOUSLY? Couldn't folks get together and mutually agree to rename three of them Longer, Even Longer, and Longest Lakes to avoid confusing people like me?

I'd volunteer to convene a group to negotiate the changes, except that I'm fearful that I would discover that two of the Longs were named by DFLers and two were named by Republicans, and we'd get absolutely nowhere until Gov. Walz lifts his mask order and yields his emergency powers.

My hometown in Kansas, Marion, has been called "the town between two lakes" since the 1960s, when a sprawling federal reservoir was built west of town that is complemented by a charming CCC-era county lake to the east. For a number of years there was confusion for non-locals because the Corps of Engineers insisted on calling the reservoir

"Marion Lake," while the other was named "Marion County Lake." We locals knew the difference, and we never called the new one Marion Lake. It was always just "the rez." Which, of course, has a completely different context way up here in, uh, what DOI call this area again? The Corps finally relented and started calling their big puddle Marion Reservoir, and then everyone could tell the difference. Problem solved.

Meanwhile, note that Marion Reservoir and Marion County Lake are each within five miles or less of Marion. Makes perfect sense to me. Lots of Kansas lakes are named after their nearby towns. Not terribly creative, I'll admit, but predictable. If you go to Cheney Lake, Cheney is right there. Simple.

So would anyone care to help me understand why the only Ely Lake in Minnesota isn't next to Ely, but instead is 40 miles away

next to Eveleth? Doesn't take a Scripps National Spelling Bee winner to see that Eveleth and Ely aren't terribly similar. Did an early Ely settler venture out and stake claim to the lake by Eveleth? Did the Eveleth mayor lose a bet with the Ely mayor over a hockey game that forced him to change the name of Eveleth Lake to Ely Lake?

Meanwhile, Lost Lake is a little less tedious, as there are apparently only three of those in Minnesota. But what were these people who named these lakes thinking? If they saw a lake waiting to be named, it obviously wasn't lost at all. Maybe they were lost and the names reflect their hapless state at the time, but the lakes themselves certainly aren't lost. They're right there on the map. Change them to Found lakes.

I also fear I'll never figure out why "Lake" goes in front of some

names and after others. I certainly made the rookie mistake of saying Vermilion Lake, and was quickly corrected. Lake Vermilion. Just like Lake Vermilion Township. Oh, wait - that's Vermilion Lake Township? And of course, let's not forget the River Vermilion. Oh, wait - the Vermilion River? Then there's Lake Kabetogama. NO. It's Kabetogama Lake.

And if the lakes are mind-boggling, just imagine how I'm doing with the roads around here.

It's incredibly easy to keep track of where you are in most rural parts of Kansas because the roads are laid out, for the most part, in north-south and east-west lines. Straight lines. Sure, there are exceptions, such as the vast expanse of rolling tallgrass prairie near my hometown called the Flint Hills. Thousands and thousands of cattle are trucked in every year to fatten up on this most glorious stretch of hills, and

they certainly don't need roads to get around. But the grid pattern is so prevalent that when one ends up on a curvy road it's still easy to keep one's sense of direction.

There aren't many straight roads here in my new home, and trust me, I'm not complaining. Exploration with an element of uncertainty is grand. But try as I might, I still can't seem to consistently figure out which direction I'm driving. My truck has a built-in compass on the dash, and when my brain says "West," the compass often says "SW" or "NW" or worse. Put me on a Forest Service road on a cloudy day and I haven't a clue what direction I'm going. Fortunately, since I'm on a Forest Service road, I really don't care about direction.

Anyway, did I mention that I totally love it here? I do, I do, I really, really do! Wherever here is. There's no place like home, right, Toto?

Week of Aug. 7

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.

School is open...

Vermilion Country School Administrator Frank Zobitz and Board Chair Jodi Summit accept a \$600 donation from Medtronic, made possible by an employee match from Todd Johnson. The donation was made in honor of Frank Zobitz's selection as school administrator last year. The donation will be put toward the school's new locker fund, which is raising money to buy new state-of-the-art lockers. The lockers are big enough to store student belongings plus the outdoor clothing needed for environmental education.



Above: Students work on decorating the new outdoor learning seats at their first day of school on Sept. 1. Below: (from left) Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, Frank Zobitz, and St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald welcomed school staff at their in-service on Aug. 31. See more on the VCS opening inside this week's paper.

Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY!
Call 218-753-2950

Vermilion Lake Township moves to mail-in voting

VERMILION LAKE TWP- All voters in Vermilion Lake Township will be voting by mail, after a July vote by the town board. All future elections, including the Nov. 3 general election, will be done by mail-in ballots,

which will be processed by the St. Louis County Auditor's office.

All registered voters in the township will automatically receive a ballot in the mail approximately 30 days before the election, with a postage-paid return envelope. If your mailing address is a post office box, or if you are a snowbird and having your mail forwarded, you would need to register to receive an absentee ballot because mail ballots are not forwarded.

If township residents prefer to vote in person, they can vote anytime 46 days prior to the election up to 8 p.m. on election night at the St. Louis County Auditor's Office,

ELECTIONS



Virginia Government Services Building, 201 South 3rd Ave W in Virginia, or at the St. Louis County Auditor's Office, St. Louis County Courthouse, 100 N 5th Ave W, Room 214 in Duluth.

If you vote in person seven days prior to election night, you have the option of placing

your ballot directly into the ballot tabulation machine. If you vote prior to that, you would place your ballot in an envelope that will be processed by the absentee ballot board.

Any township residents who is not yet registered to vote, can get information on how to

register online at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>. Registration can be done online if you have an email address, otherwise registration must be done by paper. Voters can also register on election day at the auditor's offices (with proper identification and address verification). Questions, call 1-877-600-VOTE.

Eagles Nest Township switched to mail-in voting earlier this year, and is it used in many smaller townships and unorganized township areas throughout the county.

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

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher Marshall Helmberger
General Manager Jodi Summit
Cook-Orr Editor David Colburn
Ely Editor Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:
City of Orr, City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.
NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.
Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

Correction

John Jirik is the full-time Assistant Principal at Tower-Soudan Elementary this year, not a dean of students. He will take over all the administrative duties at the school from former Principal Kelly Engman, who is principal at NE Range.

Cook Library still providing services

COOK- The Cook Public Library continues to provide a wide range of services even though the building is closed.

The library owns over 10,000 items including books, DVDs and audio books. The library is

a member of the Arrowhead Library System and can request books and DVDs from all across the state. Visit www.alslib.info to search the regional online catalog.

Curbside pickup is available Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call ahead to schedule your pickup time. Staff will bring your items outside in a plastic bag. By offering curbside delivery, library staff are able to serve more patrons in a more equitable way than opening scenarios that would limit the number of people inside the library.

Library Director Crystal Phillips said, "We understand that our patrons want to come into the library and browse the shelves. We also

know that the only way to continue to serve the public right now is by ensuring Margaret and I are healthy, which means keeping the building closed. If we get sick, there won't be any curbside services available."

The library has a limited number of hotspots that will begin circulating on Sept. 1. Patrons must have an Arrowhead Library System card, be at least 18 years old and live in the North Woods School boundaries to be on the hotspot waitlist.

If you have any questions, please call the library at 218-666-2200 or email crystal.phillips@alslib.info.

St. Louis County Solid Waste Facility Area site hours

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

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

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

The Tower Soudan Civic Club
would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to **Karel Winkelaar and Steven Abrahamson** for watering the flowers on the bridge this summer, and also the past eight summers!
and...Thank you to all the club members who water the flowers in front of the Tower Civic Center!

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. 8 - Krista Harrington-International Wolf Center

Help fund girls writing retreat

ELY - Make a donation to the Camp Atsokan Writing Retreat and take home a T-shirt. Shirts are available at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Company, 343 East Sheridan Street. All proceeds go toward Camp Atsokan Writing Retreat for Girls, ages 13 to 17. Fundraiser ends Saturday, Sept. 12.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



social distanced birds
nature aligns with humans
thoughts on the virus

Chalk artists gather at the library

Ely-area artists gathered last month in the parking lot of the Ely Public Library to create their own chalk-art masterpieces. Artists included Zoe Lampman, right, and Andrea and Keller Strom, below.

photos by K. Vandervort

SUPPORTING THE ARTS



BIG FISH



Bruce Blackburn, of Fond du Lac, Wis., returned to the Ely area this summer for his regular fishing trip, but his plans to base camp on Wood Lake were stymied because of the full campsites, and high winds prevented him from moving on so he retreated to Fall Lake for the week. Blackburn, along with his fishing partner, John Fedorchak, of Linden, Va., enjoyed the action and landed a 20-inch smallmouth bass. "I was much relieved when I netted that fat monster because Bruce fishes with barbless hooks," Fedorchak said. submitted photo



Tracy Thibodeaux appears to be dancing on her chalk art, but she explained that she was using her shoes to smooth out the colors on her creation.



the TIMBERJAY

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

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher Marshall Helmberger
General Manager Jodi Summit
Ely Editor Keith Vandervort
Cook-Orr Editor David Colburn
Staff Writer Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager M. M. White
Graphics Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper: City of Tower, City of Orr, Townships of Bearville, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

© Copyrighted in its entirety 2020



St. Louis County Area Solid Waste Facility Site hours

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust

We are now accepting 2020 Arts Grant Applications

For Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are available online at www.gardnertrust.org

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.

Barrel racing is badass business for Orr's Julkowski

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- In life, a horse named Chrome and barrel racer extraordinaire Laura Julkowski were what many would call a perfect match. But after her beloved horse's untimely death, Julkowski found the time and drive to embark on a rewarding new path that marries Julkowski's barrel racing knowledge and experience in an online coaching and mentoring venture, Badass Rodeo Company.

Orr native Julkowski got her first show horse when she was 10 years old, but a few years later she laid eyes on a neighbor's bay mare, Nancy, that she "just had to have."

"She was more that we'd ever spent on a horse," Julkowski said. "[She] finally decided to sell her to me for a very discounted price. This horse was a superstar at barrels. We just started winning everything."

Julkowski gives the credit to Nancy.

"She taught me how to win," she said. "I feel like any top rider needs that horse that teaches them how to win. She taught me that it's possible to win at any level."

And win they did, amassing so many titles at local, state, national, and world events that Julkowski long ago lost count.

The seeds of what would eventually become Badass Rodeo Company took root in that success, as Julkowski soon had people coming to her for pointers, and conducting clinics and training horses quickly followed. Teaching suited her, but training horses did not.

"I'd train these horses and then they'd go back to their owners and they'd go back downhill," she said. "That was not only frustrating to me, but also the horses."

After graduating

from Orr High School in 2004, Julkowski attended UM-Duluth to study graphic design. As a senior design project, students had to come up with a business idea and design all of the branding for it. "So, I'm like, what do girls like?" Julkowski said. Drawing on her own experience, she concluded, "They like to be badass and they like rodeo, so it'll be Badass Rodeo Company. It was an imaginary clothing line. Another person and I did it together and designed it all."

But the company was just a concept, and it stayed on the drawing board after Julkowski graduated and returned to Cook.

In 2011, she connected online with a guy from Cook, Jeff Julkowski. They had mutual friends and acquaintances, had both graduated in 2004, but had never met.

"I was a little rodeo girl and he was a shy guy that worked at the hardware store," Laura said. "He would have never talked to me."

"I knew her dad and uncle well, but I never ever met her," Jeff said.

Laura didn't do many barrel races that first summer the couple was together, Jeff said, but she was eager to do more, and he wasn't quite prepared for what was to come.

"The next summer it was a little bit more, and then it just spiraled out of control," Jeff laughed.

The couple got married in 2013, and their first daughter, Chesney, was born five years ago. Daughter Harley Jo was born three years ago.

And then came Chrome.

"My friend had this horse named Chrome, and she wanted me to ride her in the worst way," Laura said. "She was very blown up, but she had won some major titles in her day. She was awesome, but scary at the same time. But I want a

horse that's going to scare me a little bit."

Laura learned that Chrome had been used for winning, but her owners didn't have any real relationships with her. As Laura and Chrome raced together, they bonded, and Laura bought her.

The timeline for when Laura started developing Badass Rodeo Company varies depending on her recollection of events and Jeff's, but it was an injury Chrome suffered in May 2018 that inadvertently brought Laura's interest in teaching and mentoring to the fore.

"It was our first run of the spring, and the first round she looked awesome," Laura said. "The second run she came out three-legged. She ripped a tendon on the inside of her leg, and she still ran home because she was Chrome. So that's when I had extra time and started the online coaching."

Utilizing Facebook and the internet, clients sent race videos for Laura to critique. She set up a company, Laura Julkowski Barrel Horses LLC, but thought it sounded too boring.

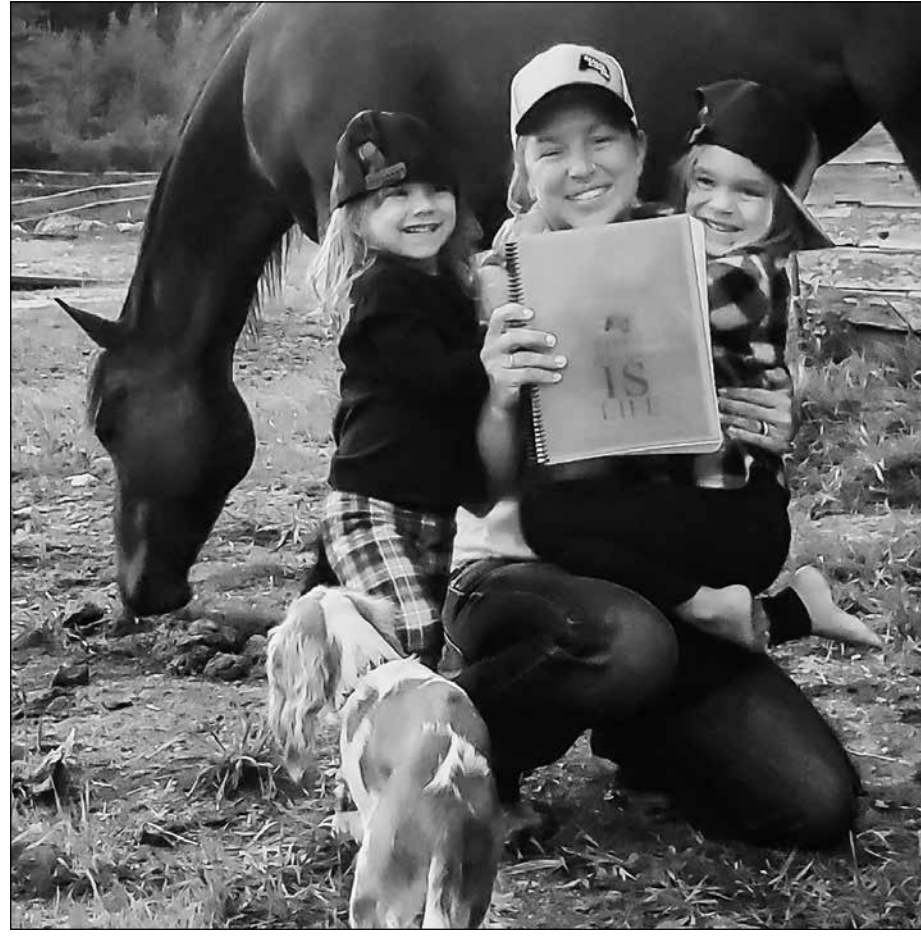
"Nobody can even say Julkowski," she laughed.

That's when she dusted off her senior project and adopted the name Badass Rodeo Company.

"It was a little awkward for the first barrel race we put on," Jeff said. "It was at a church."

But Julkowski noted that the term isn't derogatory. It signifies a confident attitude that's necessary for success.

Jeff said the original concept for Badass Rodeo Company was to stage clinics and barrel races, as well as continuing Laura's online critiques, but it morphed into a more formal online presence on Facebook through the creation of a private Facebook group facilitated by Laura that combines coaching, men-



Sporting a signature Badass Rodeo Company hat and holding a copy of her book "Barrel Racing IS Life," Laura Julkowski poses with her daughters Chesney, 5, and Harley Jo, 3.

photo by J. Julkowski

toring, and social support. Students can pay for different membership levels that come with increasing levels of coaching and support.

But another more tragic incident involving Chrome would lead to more heartbreak and more change for Badass Rodeo Company.

It was last October when Laura walked out to her barn and heard a "screech that sounded like bloody murder." At first she thought it was her daughters inside the house, but it wasn't.

"I walked outside and I couldn't find Chrome," Laura said. "She would never leave this place. She loved it here."

They started a search, and they found blood on a fence. It wasn't long before Jeff found Chrome in a patch of woods.

"Her leg was gone from the knee down," Laura said.

The Julkowskis guessed that Chrome had been attacked by a moun-

tain lion, and it was clear what they needed to do.

"A horse can't be on three legs," Laura said. "It was the most horrific thing."

Making matters worse, Chrome was pregnant, so the Julkowskis lost two horses that day.

Laura had been thinking about writing a book, and in the aftermath of Chrome's death, she knew it was time.

"That's when it felt like the universe was just kicking me in the ass to write that book," she said. "I didn't want to write it."

But write she did, taking only a month to produce "Barrel Racing IS Life," a daily riding journal with stories, instruction, and goal-setting activities to help riders succeed. A companion journal soon followed, tailored for those who have more than one horse.

The online coaching group, along with instructional videos, remain central to Badass

Rodeo Company's future, because one goal is to reach as many people as possible.

"She wanted to see how she could reach out," Jeff said. "This is something she can do anywhere."

But there's a market for the books, too, and also something else – a clothing line. Hats, shirts, and patches designed by Laura, the graphic designer who once upon a time had an imaginary clothing company called Badass Rodeo.

There's plenty of room for growth, and the Julkowskis hope the company will generate a steady income that will allow them to do some of the things on their wish lists.

And through whatever transpires with Badass Rodeo Company, Chrome will forever be a part of it.

"That's who's on my logo," Laura said. "That's Chrome."

Council advances broadband plan

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Super-fast broadband could be available in Cook by 2022 after the Cook City Council pledged \$8,000 last Thursday for a proposal presented by a Bemidji-based service provider.

Steve Howard of Paul Bunyan Communications reviewed the company's \$800,000 proposal that would bring broadband speeds of 250Mbps to residents and businesses in Cook, as well as selected areas outside the city limits.

Howard noted that the company is already expanding in the region.

"We're building Morcom Township, we're building Kabetogama and Ray – those are the one nearby that I can think of," Howard said.

Paul Bunyan conducted a survey to gauge interest in the area and decided to go ahead with developing a proposal for the council to consider.

However, the project depends on Paul Bunyan receiving a Minnesota Border to Border Broadband Development Grant to match the company funds Paul Bunyan will

invest. Howard said that competition for the grants is stiff, with only 15 to 20 grants awarded among about 70 applicants in the last grant cycle.

Howard asked the council to pledge \$8,000 toward the project, making the city a partner in the grant and demonstrating community support. The funds wouldn't be payable until the start of construction, projected to be in 2022 if the grant is awarded.

The proposed sys-

tem would use underground fiber optic cables, and Howard fielded numerous questions about where and how the cables would be installed.

Some members seemed reluctant at first to commit to the project, suggesting there might be possibilities other than Paul Bunyan.

Howard reminded the council that broadband services are installed and maintained by private companies, companies that need to make profits

from their business.

"They're going to say all the good ones are taken," Howard said of other companies. "There's a reason no one else is here."

Howard said that there will likely be some small areas they won't serve if they build the system.

"There are some key locations that just don't make financial sense for us to go to," he said.

Council members approved the \$8,000 pledge.


NWFA open studio group resumes on Saturday

COOK- The popular Saturday working artists group "Open Studio Art" will resume on Saturday, Sept. 5 at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

People are welcome to bring their projects to the gallery to work with other artists from 9 a.m.

to 1 p.m. No registrations or membership are required to attend. There is enough room to mask and social distance.

Open Studio Art will be held the first Saturday of each month, with the next session coming up on Oct. 3.



the TIMBERJAY

The Cook-Orr Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950] and Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Cook/Orr, Tower/Soudan, and Ely.

Publisher Marshall Helmberger
General Manager Jodi Summit
Cook-Orr Editor David Colburn
Ely Editor Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

City of Orr, City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.



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

<p>Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Summer Hours Wed: 1pm-4pm Sat: 2:30pm-5:30pm</p>	<p>Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Summer Hours Mon. & Wed: 9am-noon Sat: 10:30am-1:30pm</p>	<p>Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 10am-4pm</p>
<p>Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am-1pm, Thu: 2pm-7pm Sat: 8am-noon, Sun: 10am-2pm</p>	<p>Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Summer Hours Mon & Tue: 2pm-6pm Thu: 10am-1pm, Sun: 3pm-6pm</p>	<p>County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Summer Hours Tue: 1-6pm, Thu: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: noon-6pm</p>
<p>Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm</p>	<p>Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm</p>	<p>St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle</p> 
<p>Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm</p>		<p>3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm</p>

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th

COVID...Continued from page 1

Monday detailing the situation in Ely.

“Last Monday a staff member presented with symptoms and was tested positive for COVID and is on self-quarantine,” Sampson said. “We tested all 45 residents. One resident tested positive for COVID, (and) remains at CFL and we continue to monitor. A second resident tested positive today.”

Sampson said the Minnesota Department of Health has been informed of the cases and that the company has implemented strict staffing and resident care protocols to “keep everyone safe.” Sampson noted that while the state has recorded almost 75,000 COVID-19 cases since the first two reported on March 2, the Ely cases are the first among the company’s 13 assisted living facilities.

“As we have for the last six months, we will continue to do all we can to keep everyone safe,” Sampson said.

The mortality rate from COVID-19 in long-term care and assisted living facilities has been of concern for health officials. Of the 1,823 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in the state as of Tuesday, 1,340, or 74 percent, have

been connected to these settings.

State health officials first revealed the extent of the pandemic’s effects on long-term care facilities in early June, after state Sen. Karin Housley, R-St. Marys Point, threatened to subpoena MDH for the information. At that time, 863 long-term care facilities had reported at least one case of COVID-19.

While the mortality rate in congregate care facilities had been high early on in the pandemic, that rate has dropped dramatically since hitting a high of 21.57 deaths per day between May 17 and May 23. According to a July 28 update from MDH, the average deaths per day in the first full week of July had fallen to 2.6.

Bois Forte cases

As of Tuesday, Aug. 25, six cases of COVID-19 had been identified on the Bois Forte Reservation at Nett Lake and Vermilion. That number more than doubled across the ensuing six days.

Bois Forte community health nurse Teri Morrison provided daily updates on the tribal website and Facebook page that revealed:

► Three cases on Aug. 26 involving a teen and two people in their

forties, all at Nett Lake.

► Three new cases on Aug. 27 involving two teens and one person in their twenties, with one at Nett Lake and two at Vermilion.

► One new case on Aug. 28, a person in their sixties at Nett Lake.

► No new cases on Aug. 29 or Aug. 30.

► One new case on Aug. 31, a person in their thirties at Nett Lake.

With the earliest cases starting to drop off of the active case list, as of this Tuesday there were eight active cases at Nett Lake and three at Vermilion.

“Rest assured that Bois Forte Health is doing everything in its power to keep the Reservation community safe while also providing support for those who have tested positive for COVID 19,” Morrison said in Tuesday’s update. “Bois Forte Health will maintain regular contact with the isolated individuals and will monitor their compliance with isolation instructions. Bois Forte Health is engaged in contact tracing and will follow up with those suspected of having recent contact with the individuals who tested positive.”

Bois Forte Health Services is collaborating with MDH to offer

free COVID-19 testing from noon to 6 p.m on Thursday, Sept. 3, with testing sites at Nett Lake and Vermilion, and while the events were planned to provide access to testing for Bois Forte members and employees, Morrison said the tests are open to anyone from nearby communities. Online reservations are encouraged by going to <https://www.primarybio.com/r/bois-forte>.

Feds express concerns

Dr. Deborah Birx, a leading health expert on the White House coronavirus task force, was in St. Paul on Sunday to meet with state officials to express concerns about the current COVID situation in Minnesota. MDH Commissioner Jan Malcom reported on those talks during a conference call on Monday.

“In her meetings with us yesterday, she repeatedly mentioned her concerns and the federal task force’s concerns about the continued high rate of community transmission we’re seeing in Minnesota and the continued high rate of cases we’ve been seeing now since early July,” Malcom said. “We have not improved, and that was Dr. Birx’s big

concern and big message to us, that the greater metropolitan area here in Minnesota stands out to the federal government as one of the few urban areas that has not seen cases decrease for a concerning number of weeks.”

Malcom expressed concern that Minnesota’s success in battling the pandemic has declined relative to other states. “Our rate of new cases per 100,000 population has been lower than the national average. As of today, it’s higher than the national average, and that’s a big change,” Malcom said.

Malcom and MDH Infectious Disease Director Kris Ehresmann both emphasized that daily case numbers have plateaued at a high level, and that community spread is driving the numbers in both urban and rural areas of the state.

“This is not just an urban issue,” Malcom said. “The rate of disease growth has absolutely affected rural communities.”

The cause, Malcom said, is a lack of attention to the basic precautions of social distancing, mask wearing, and avoiding large group events.

“People are having house parties, they’re

holding weddings and funerals without all the safeguards that they need to be mindful of. They’re not staying at home when they’re sick, or they’re not waiting at home after they’ve been tested to find out their test results,” Malcom said.

Ehresmann noted that COVID outbreaks in August were connected to nine weddings, two funerals, and 13 social gatherings and parties.

The initial cases reported by Bois Forte were linked to a large party where health protocols were not observed.

The upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend poses a real threat to ignite another spike in COVID cases, Malcom said.

“We cannot afford to have this Labor Day weekend further accelerate our community spread, because if that happens what comes next is going to be worse,” she warned. “If we don’t take these risks that we collectively face more seriously, and take the precautions very seriously, we could easily see ourselves beginning to mirror the situations we saw in states like Florida and Arizona several weeks ago.”

ELY...Continued from page 1

progress made to the dwelling despite a series of deadlines imposed to repair and improve the condition of the property, council members, clearly uncomfortable with the situation, gave Kess a 30-day window to begin improvements and show some progress on mitigating the blight.

At a council meeting last month Kess appeared disinterested in addressing the issue

“It doesn’t matter to me whether I comment on this or not,” he said. Ignoring that public forum to respond to the issue, Kess later charged that a local media representative did not give him a chance to “tell my side of the story.”

He told fellow council members in August that he “contacted well over a dozen roofing contrac-

tors” this year to begin work on the two-story structure. “The coronavirus slowed everything down,” he said, “It is difficult to promise a drop-dead date on someone else’s labor.”

With the heat turned up and perhaps realizing the gravity of the issue, Kess recently hired a roofing contractor and work on the house began last weekend.

Shingles are going on and the roof repairs are being made, according to Ely Building Official Doug Whitney as he described a series of photographs to the council Tuesday night.

“The biggest problem was the roof,” he said. “That was the issue that prompted the latest complaint. The contractor started Saturday and it looks like it could be

completed by next week.”

Mayor Chuck Novak confirmed that Whitney was recommending that no action on the blight issue was currently needed and looked to quickly move on with the meeting agenda.

Kess finally spoke publicly on the issue.

“Over the years I have put substantial time and money into that house. It doesn’t show because it was new water and electrical service, a new chimney and all the preparation for it and different (interior) things. I hope that the council appreciates the time and commitment and the continuing time I’m putting into what I consider a historic house.”

Based on an earlier report from Whitney, the council adopted a resolution on Nov. 5, 2019, ordering several steps of remediation. While

some of the blight conditions were corrected by a Jan. 1, 2020, deadline, another deadline passed last month for roof repairs.

Whitney described additional blight conditions that have surfaced this summer. Whitney said that the windows that were falling out last year were boarded over, but other windows on the dwelling are in disrepair. And loose siding on the house still exists.

Other business

In other action the council:

► Approved recommendations from the Cemetery Committee to update rules and regulations for the Ely Cemetery to include that all foundations and slabs for monuments must be approved by the city, all burials must be approved, only

human remains are to be buried, and no stakes for ceremonial tents are to be installed on blacktop surfaces in the cemetery.

► Approved a recommendation from the Heritage Preservation Commission that the Community Center be put back on the market for sale with posting only in local media. Council member Angela Campbell, who had previously submitted an offer to purchase the property, abstained from voting on the issue.

► Approved a recommendation from the Sanitation Committee to accept proposals from both G-Men Environmental Services and Northern Routes Roll-Off for commercial waste disposal contracts.

► Approved city liquor license rebates from 2019, totaling about

\$16,000, and the purchase of a first responder vehicle, for about \$38,000, under the federal CARES Act funding program.

► Rejected bids totaling almost \$200,000 for the proposed pocket park on Chapman Street and will adjust the scope of the project.

► Approved mortgage satisfactions for Ryan and Michale Callen and Mary Lobe.

► Appointed Angela Campbell to the Planning and Zoning Committee.

► Approved the transfer of an off sale liquor license from Sara Burge to Joseph Hiller, the new owner of Wildlife Liquor.

► Accepted a report and presentation from Bradley Peterson of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities.



WIN THE HARVEST BASKET!
Raffle Tickets \$1
Fridays 4-6 PM



MAILBOAT EXCURSIONS
See 80 miles of Lake Vermilion
Call for Reservations

Mon-Sat 8-6 • Sun 9-4
6143 Pike Bay Drive • 218-753-4190
www.aronsonboatworks.com










Annual Meeting:
6 to 6:30 PM • September 16
Cook’s Country Connection, Cook

Due to Covid-19, our annual meeting on Sept. 16 will be a business meeting only -

- No prizes or food and limited capacity.
- Social distancing and masks will be required.

We Appreciate Our Members!

• We will be celebrating our members that week with giveaways.
(Stay tuned for more details)

24 S River St., Cook • northstarcreditunion.org
218-666-5940



NORTHERN COMMUNITY RADIO
KAXE 91.7 FM Grand Rapids
89.9 FM Brainerd
KBXE 90.5 FM Bagley/Bemidji

Independent, nonprofit community radio serving Northern Minnesota.

NOW BROADCASTING IN ELY
103.9 FM

ISD 696

Ely schools ready for students in age of COVID-19

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – With just days before school is set to open here on the day after Labor Day, ISD 696 officials were busy this week putting the finishing touches on what can only be described as a “unique” beginning to the 2020-2021 school year.

Visitors to the campus buildings this week were greeted with posters and information sheets covering most of the entrance doors. Just inside the buildings a welcome station, complete with a gallon-sized jug of hand sanitizer, face masks, rubber gloves, instant-read thermometer, sign-in sheet, single-use pens and more posted information, was in position.

Stacks of unused equipment and downsized classroom materials were in the hallways ready to be put into storage trailers parked behind the school.

Plexiglass dividers in the school offices and library will help all staff and students maintain a safe yet social distance.

In the classrooms, desks are separated to keep students physically apart. Teachers and staff members wore face masks as they participated in Google Classroom training in the elementary media center.

Come Tuesday, Sept. 8, hundreds of Ely students will be filling the hallways and classrooms as the in-person learning scenario gets underway.



New Ely Kindergarten teacher Kara Kahle spent her first day on the job Monday setting up her classroom for her students. She replaces Megan Devine, who took a leave of absence this year. photo by K. Vandervort

The Ely school district will open with in-person learning because it falls under the COVID-19 case rate data for Greater St. Louis County, which has significantly lower incidence numbers than the Duluth area.

The Ely school district’s COVID-19 Advisory Council developed a “Restart Blueprint” that outlines health and safety protocol and procedures in place for the start of the new school year. The “Restart Blueprint” can be found on the ISD 696 website: www.ely.k12.mn.us.

Some of those guidance measures include maintaining a distance of six feet between individuals, wearing face masks or coverings, screening for COVID-19 symptoms, practicing good hygiene protocols including hand-washing, cleaning, and disinfecting, and limiting group gatherings.

Anne Oelke, K-5 principal, explained on Monday that starting on

the first day of school, students will arrive per usual and proceed directly to their first class and desk. Teachers will conduct visual inspections of students for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing/difficulty breathing, fatigue, or extreme fussiness.

“We will use non-contact thermometers to conduct temperature screening for all students,” Oelke said. If students have a temperature more than 100.4°F or any visual signs of illness, he/she will be sent to the building nurse for additional screening. Employees and visitors will self-screen, including temperature checks.

“Face coverings are required and there are few exceptions,” she said.

State executive orders require face coverings in schools. ISD 696 school board policy provides definitions, alternatives, and limited exceptions (children five and under,

medical reasons).

“Temporary removal of face coverings is allowed depending on the activity, like eating, drinking and going outdoors,” Oelke said.

The State of Minnesota is providing three masks for each student, and a limited supply of face shields will be available for students unable to wear a mask because of a documented condition.

During a “typical” school day to start the 2020-21 school year, students in the Washington building will not transition to the Memorial building as they have in the past. Breakfast and lunch will be in classrooms or other designated areas. Specialists will come to classrooms to minimize students having to be exposed to others in the building.

Students in the Memorial building will be grouped in cohorts that they remain with throughout the school day. Movement in the building will be controlled and

monitored to limit exposure. Lunch will be eaten in a variety of settings to minimize large group gatherings.

If a child is in a classroom where a case of COVID-19 is present, parents or guardians will be notified as soon as possible and a 14-day quarantine period for students and the teacher will take effect, according to administration officials. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will be contacted immediately and provide guidance on what additional steps the district must take.

If the Ely school district needs to transition to a distance learning protocol, more than 500 Chromebooks were ordered to arrive this fall for students to use at home.

In the meantime, iPads and some laptops are available that can be checked out to students.

Due to public safety concerns, no open house will be conducted prior to the start of the school year, Oelke said.

“We are looking at providing alternative options such as classroom videos or other communication for families,” she said.

New student and sixth grade orientation is being conducted in small groups by invitation.

For more information, call 218-365-6166 and choose the Washington or Memorial building extension. ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Eric can be contacted at 218-750-4564 or email him at eerie@ely.k12.mn.us.

LABOR DAY SALE

RECLINING SOFAS

\$499

Photos are representative. Actual items may vary.

RECLINERS

\$169

Photos are representative. Actual items may vary.

LA Z BOY SOFAS

\$999⁰⁰

WE HAVE THEM STOCKED AND READY FOR PICK-UP OR DELIVERY!

Photos are representative. Actual items may vary.

POWER RECLINERS

\$499

Photos are representative. Actual items may vary.

JASPER MORRISON

Jasper & Morrison Recliners

\$499

QUEEN Mattress Sets

\$299

ANDERSON FURNITURE & KITCHENS

andersonfurnitureandkitchens.com

HOURS:
M-F: 10 AM-5 PM
Sat: 10 AM-2 PM
218-741-9356

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AND LAYAWAY AVAILABLE

Dining Room Sets

\$249

MAYORS...Continued from page 1

China, along with GOP-sponsored corporate tax cuts, as factors behind what they view as the region's economic recovery.

They also took issue with Democratic candidate Joe Biden, who they argue did nothing to help the working class and has moved too far to the left. "We lost thousands of jobs, and generations of young people have left the Iron Range in order to provide for their families with good paying jobs elsewhere," the mayors wrote. Since Trump's selection four years ago, the mayors say "locals are hopeful because of this President's policies and willingness to fight for us."

The letter was a bit too rosy even for some of the signatories. Ely Mayor Chuck Novak said he was contacted by the Pete Stauber campaign to sign onto the letter, but he never saw it prior to its release. He said his signature was added to the missive electronically and he doesn't agree with everything in it. "I'm living on a Range that is not really thriving," said Novak. "Especially Ely."

Novak has been a forceful advocate for copper-nickel mining in the Ely area, which he has argued could bolster a local economy that he sees as continuing to struggle. The closure of Ely's only car dealership this year was another reminder that the local economy continues to face headwinds. "Roaring back to life?" questioned Novak. "Do you think I've gone off my rocker?"

That's a view that the representatives of United Steelworkers District 11 reiterated. "Just drive down

CLERK...

Continued from page 1

of harassment and humiliation. This has been demonstrated by the installation of surveillance cameras at my desk, Option B to eliminate my position as an elected official, and passing of ordinances directed at fining or imprisoning me for trying to follow your illegitimate data practices policy."

She wrote that her decision to resign was a direct result of the board's motion at the July meeting to convert her pay from salary to hourly, and to limit her hours to 12 per week. This action, she wrote, "left me with the inability to complete my statutory duties as clerk."

Drobac declined to give any further comment on her decision when contacted by the *Timberjay*.

Ralston said that Drobac's decision was "unfortunate."

"I don't think she should," Ralston said, "but that is her decision." The special meeting will be conducted via telephone. Meeting information was posted at the town hall, according to Ralston. But information had not been emailed out to those who request notice of all township meetings as of Wednesday, along with the information on how to join the tele-meeting. The dial-in number for the meeting is 701-802-5306, and the access code is 727019# (the same number/code as previous meetings). Participants are asked to mute themselves by pressing *6 when joining the meeting. The meeting agenda does not have any time for public input.

“Roaring back to life? Do you think I’ve gone off my rocker?”

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak

the main streets of Virginia and Eveleth and count the shutdown businesses. It hardly seems like the "roaring back to life" that these mayors describe," states their letter.

"Our nation is in the deepest crisis since the Great Depression and 74,257 people in Minnesota have tested positive for COVID-19; 1,814 have died. President Trump refused to acknowledge the threat posed by the coronavirus, mobilize resources or show leadership in the face of the global pandemic."

The union also cites layoffs throughout the steel industry including on the Iron Range. While most area mineworkers are back on the job, workers at the U.S. Steel Keetac plant remain idled. Nationally, steel production is down 20 percent and steel prices are at their lowest level since Trump took office, according to the union officials.

"He [Trump] championed tax cuts for corpo-

rations and the wealthy, increasing the federal deficit to record levels, but he's failed to deliver the infrastructure program to rebuild our nation's crumbling bridges and roads. He has worked to undermine collective bargaining, workplace safety, environmental safeguards, the Affordable Care Act, government ethics, congressional oversight and voting rights," wrote the union officials.

While the six mayors signed the letter, it's not clear that it represents the local groundswell it might suggest for the incumbent president. A number of the signatories had backed Trump in 2016, so it reflects a political change that occurred before Trump was even elected. Most mayors in the region declined to sign the letter. "I didn't want to be part of a group of mayors endorsing anybody," commented Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, who said

mayors should be focused on problem-solving in their communities rather than partisan politics.

The portrayal by the mayors suggests the degree to which impressions can be colored by political loyalties. While the mayors describe an Iron Range economy expanding under Trump, federal employment statistics paint a much more mixed picture. The mining and logging industries, which are tracked as a single job category by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, show fewer jobs today in Minnesota than when President Trump took office. By contrast, jobs in mining and logging rose from 4,300 at the height of the Great Recession, during the first few months of the Obama administration, to 6,500 in the final month of the Obama administration. In the three and a half years of the Trump administration, the sector has averaged 6,300 jobs, according to federal jobs numbers. A total of 5,100 Minnesotans were employed in the sector as of July, reflecting the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, current overall unemployment in

St. Louis County is 8.6 percent, compared to 5.5 percent in the month before Trump took office. While the bulk of the increase in unemployment was due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump's critics contend that the administration's poor handling of the pandemic has contributed significantly to the economic fallout in the U.S.

Trump did preside over a period of very low unemployment in St. Louis County. The coun-

ty's unemployment rate dipped to just 2.7 percent in October of 2018, but unemployment had risen since then. It was 4.4 percent in February of this year, the last month before the outbreak of COVID-19 in Minnesota. Unemployment in the county peaked in May of this year, at 11.3 percent, but has ticked down modestly with the partial reopening of the economy.

ACE
The helpful place.

Labor Day Sale

SAVE \$10
on gallons of Cabot® Stain



SAVE \$4
WITH ACE REWARDS CARD INSTANTLY on Kilz® Premium High Hide Stain Blocker



SAVE \$7
WITH ACE REWARDS CARD INSTANTLY on Black Jack® 7 Year Driveway Filter & Sealer, 4.75 Gal.



SAVE \$3
WITH ACE REWARDS CARD INSTANTLY on select ScotchBrite® Multi-Purpose Painter's Tape 2/Pks.



2 for \$7.00
Great Stuff® Gaps & Cracks or Big Gap Filler Foam Sealant, 12 Oz.



3 ROLL VALUE PACK ORIGINAL

SEE YOUR HELPFUL HARDWARE FOLKS

PRICES GOOD SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2020

Merhar's Ace Hardware

48 E. Chapman St., Ely • 218-365-3129

ACE stores are independently owned and operated. The prices in this advertisement are suggested by Ace Hardware Corporation, Oak Brook, IL. Individual retailer regular and sale prices may vary by store which may impact actual savings amounts in either direction. Except for Red Hot Bulk, which extends through the end of the month, and except as otherwise stated, prices advertised in this circular are valid at participating stores August 28-September 14, 2020, while supplies last. Some advertised savings items are from third parties and are not included in this advertisement. Savings are not available on select items. See local retailer for more details. Offer ends 9/30/2020. Some items may require assembly. Ace is not responsible for printing or typographical errors.

September Savings

2019 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB SHORT BOX LT 4X4

All Star Edition



CLEARANCE

MSRP \$50,470
Sale Price \$41,998 • SAVE \$8,472
Available 3.39% APR Up to 72 Months/
NO Payments Up to 120 Days**

2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD



MSRP \$35,935
Sale Price \$29,283
SAVE \$6,652
Or Choose 0% APR Financing*

2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO RST DOUBLE CAB STAND BOX 4X4



MSRP \$51,770
Sale Price \$46,279
SAVE \$5,491
Available 3.39% APR Up to 72 Months**
No Payments for 120 days**

DISCLOSURES: *On approved credit with GM Financial. 0% APR available up to 84 months. Not compatible with some other offers. **3.39% up to 72 months AND 120 day payment deferral on new vehicle purchase and approved credit. Not compatible with some other offers. Restrictions apply. See dealer for details. Take delivery from dealer stock by 9/30/2020

PREOWNED DEALS!

2019 CHEVY IMPALA LT.....Lease return savings.....	\$19,990
2019 NISSAN SENTRA SR.....Sporty and fun!.....	\$15,990
2019 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD.....Cajun red!.....	\$23,990
2018 DODGE JOURNEY GT AWD....3RD row seating!.....	\$23,990
2018 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD.....GM Certified.....	\$21,990
2017 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT AWD.....Fun and sporty.....	\$18,990
2017 CHEVY SILVERADO DBLE CAB LS 4X4.....	
Only 17K miles.....	\$28,990
2017 BUICK ENVISION PRERERRED AWD...GM Certified!.....	\$25,990
2017 CHEVY CRUZE LT.....Sunroof.....	\$15,990
2017 FORD F-150 XLT W/WESTERN PLOW PKG.....	
Ready for winter!.....	\$34,990
2015 CHEVY IMPALA LTD.....Only 11K miles!.....	\$14,990
2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE....Just Arrived!.....	\$10,990

WASCHKE FAMILY
CHEVROLET • COOK







HOURS: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN • 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545




Arrowhead Transit Customer Satisfaction Survey

We need your feedback to continue to best serve you and your community. To complete the survey, either:
Visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AEOACustomerSatisfaction> or fill out and mail the survey below to:

Arrowhead Transit
Attention: Marketing/PR
702 3rd Ave. S
Virginia, MN 55792

Deadline is:
Wednesday, Sept. 30

CLIP-N-MAIL ✂

Who Assisted You?	Employment & Training	Head Start	Housing	Reception Desk	Senior Services	Transit
	Circle Choice			I am interested in...		
1. I felt welcomed	Yes	No	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Being an AEOA Board Member	
2. I was treated with respect	Yes	No	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Focus Groups/Future Surveys	
3. The facility was clean/accessible	Yes	No	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharing my story	
4. I was helped in a timely manner	Yes	No	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteering	
5. I got the information/services I needed	Yes	No	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	
6. I was referred to community programs if AEOA could not help me	Yes	No	N/A	Name _____		
7. I was informed about other AEOA services	Yes	No	N/A	Email _____		
8. I would recommend AEOA to friends or family	Yes	No	N/A	Phone _____		
Would you like to recognize an AEOA staff person? List staff's name here _____						
Comments: _____						

CLIP-N-MAIL ✂

Questions? 1-800-662-5711 ext. 6831 or planning@aEOA.org

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

'Perfect storm' fuels real estate boom around Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – More and more people seem to have discovered the North Country can be more than just a getaway to soak their canoe paddles or wet a fishing line during the summer tourist season this year. Lodge and resort bookings and camping permits are at an all-time high. Outfitters are clamoring to keep up as summer turns to fall.

With increasing public health concerns of the coronavirus in large cities to the south, historically low mortgage rates, and relatively low prices for existing homes and vacant lands, many people are making permanent moves to the great outdoors.

A local realtor and resort owner said he sees a "perfect storm" going on right now in the real estate market around the Ely area.

"Low interest rates, a loosening up of the mortgage market and some flight from larger cities are all happening at the same," said Kerry Davis of Canoe Capital Realty. He admitted that recent months have been a sort of "catch-up time period" as the market and sales recover from spring and early summer when sales slowed as a result of coronavirus pandemic worries and shelter-in-place guidelines.

"Our in-town residential (inventory) is still reasonably priced compared to areas like Minneapolis and Duluth. Some of the sales I have experienced have been investors looking to flip or rent. Others have been individuals that have found they can work remotely," Davis said.

Davis related that he has recently seen some higher-priced sales, \$500,000-plus, occurring that were pretty slow for a long time.

"I had multiple inquiries about a \$1.3-million lake home only to be beat to the punch," he said. "It went sale pending, and I could not even get a showing. Inventory is still low and nice upgraded homes are selling fast, many not even hitting the MLS (multiple listing service)."

The Ely area continues to suffer from a lack of jobs for new younger families, and problems with poor internet service around most of the area, both factors that could improve the market even more if they were rectified. Steps are being taken by the city of Ely and private entrepreneurs to improve internet service.

"If that happens, we would be getting a bigger influx of full-time residents," Davis added.

Phil Hyde, of Bear Island Land Co., has been in the real estate business for 29 years and stated

Folk School welcomes newcomers to Ely area

ELY - A special event for new cabin and home owners, and Ely old-timers, too, will be held at the Ely Folk School and also online via Zoom on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 5 to 6 p.m.

"We're pleased so many of you have discovered our Northwoods paradise," said Paul Schurke, chair of the EFS board of directors. "We consider the surge of home and cabin purchases here this summer our 'silver lining' of the virus crisis. We're happy to have you with us. To seize this moment ourselves, EFS is hosting an event to formally welcome all these newcomers and to engage them with our community."

The EFS hopes to answer basic

questions a newcomer might have.

Perhaps you're wondering:

▶Where are the best places to bike or birdwatch?

▶Where can we get firewood?

▶Where can we rent pontoon boats or snowmobiles?

▶Are handypersons available to look after our place or do repairs?

▶How can I find out where to fish?

▶Where is Finn Hill and why do they call it that?

▶How do we drain our pipes to prevent winter freeze-ups?

▶Why is there an old gas station pump on the Angleworm Trail?

"Let us know your questions and we'll include them in this

program that will feature a panel of local experts," Schurke said. "This event will also identify topics for future targeted programs for folks interested in specific area resources. We look forward to welcoming you to Ely and providing you a jumpstart on getting to know your new 'end-of-the-road' community."

Register for this free event and submit questions at www.elyfolkschool.org.

"We'll have a gift bag for those who can join us at our downtown Ely school (limited socially-distanced seating) and we'll provide a link for those joining us online," he added.

simply, "I've never seen anything like this before," when asked about the local real estate boom.

He said that business for his eight real estate agents picked up in spring like every year, but this summer has been unprecedented.

"By the sheer number of transactions, we are doing twice what we do in a typical summer," Hyde said.

"For whatever reason, everyone seems to have the same idea that this is a good time to make a change into something bigger or something smaller, especially for houses in town," he said. "I've noticed all summer that a decent house is not on the market

very long, maybe a day or two. There are multiple offers and they are moving pretty quickly."

Sales of vacant land in the Ely area seem to have picked up this summer along with existing house sales.

"In the last five or six years, vacant land did not sell as quickly," Hyde said, "but all the different real estate categories have really bumped up this summer. It seems like all our agents are just exhausted. They are running, running, running. We have an excellent team here."

Hyde attributed the recent real estate sales boom in Ely in part to the coronavirus.

"I believe a lot of

people are looking at the Ely area as a relatively safe place to be," he said. "I think many (recent house buyers) have always had it in their plans to move here at some point in time and COVID accelerated that. Put that together with the low interest rates and the fact that many more people can work from home - all those factors have come together."

Paul Schurke, owner of Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge on White Iron Lake, said the property sales boom is somewhat beneath the area real estate market radar screen.

"The two backlots adjoining our place on White Iron have been for sale for over 15 years and

both got snapped up in early July," he said.

He estimates that several hundred new residents could soon join the Ely area once the dust settles on this current real estate boom.

"Anecdotally, I'm finding that about half of these buyers are year-rounders who are seizing the moment to ditch the office scene for quality of life and telecommute," he said. "I think this all bodes very well for the Ely (and Lake Vermilion) area. The many newcomers I've met all seem progressive, engaged folks, very excited to be here, and very excited to advocate for our region's famed quality of life features."

TRAILS...Continued from page 1

Steve Koch weren't at all satisfied with the ATV riding opportunities in and around Crane Lake and Elephant Lake.

"Looking at the U.S. Forest Service map and the St. Louis County map, I would say there were some disconnected trails," Beste said. "You couldn't get to them without a truck and trailer. So, what we did is come together and looked at those maps and drew what we felt could be a system rather than just a bunch of disjointed in-and-out dead end roads."

The pair floated their idea to the Forest Service, the Department of Natural Resources, and two big landowners, and it was well received. But legislation required an ATV trail system to have a sponsoring club, and so Voyageur Country ATV Club was born. They picked the name Voyageur Country because they felt they could attract more members from a broader area that way, and big dreams needed a big club to pull them off.

As luck would have it, at about the same time the project got a boost from an unexpected source. Beste was presenting the trail plan at a hunting shack owners association meeting, and he arrived early to prepare.

"A guy came in and he asked me, 'What have you got here?' It's like 20 minutes before the meeting," Beste said. "So, I went through the thing and the guy said 'We've got to do this.' I asked if he had a hunting shack up there, and he said, 'No, I'm county commissioner Pete Stauber.'"

Beste chuckled. "I didn't want to practice on a county commissioner," he said.

Stauber pulled in a couple of other commis-



The Pelican River Overlook is actually a massive viewing platform large enough for groups to enjoy a picnic meal together. photo by D. Colburn

sioners who were attending the meeting and had Beste deliver the pitch again. The ATV trail system fit well with the commissioners' desire to pass an ordinance to promote ATVs, part of which would be granting driving privileges on county roads. That, in turn, played right into the Voyageur Country plan, which needed to use some county roads to connect some of the disjointed trails.

Boosted by the commissioners' enthusiasm, the club was off and running on a public relations and political adventure, meeting with agencies, delivering presentations, garnering the support of cities on the proposed routes, and working to get the abandoned Forest Service roads open.

But the key to making the whole system work was to build a bridge over the Vermilion River, no small task, and for that, another chance encounter paved the way.

Beste said he was snowmobiling at Namakan Lake in 2016 when a group of people recognized him as "the guy who's trying to get this ATV thing going." As they talked,

Beste described the club's vision for the bridge.

"They started asking me questions and they thought, 'You know, this guy's a little bit of a lunatic,'" Beste said.

But one of the men, his face obscured by his helmet face shield, latched on to the idea and told Beste they needed to meet. When Beste asked who he was, it turned out to be state Sen. Tom Bakk. And when 300 people gathered last September to celebrate the million-dollar bridge, Bakk was the person they asked to cut the ribbon.

"He's been awesome for us," Beste said. "A very big supporter, and he's been very helpful."

Mark Anderson, chairman of the club's trails committee and owner of Anderson Canoe Outfitters in Crane Lake, agrees.

"We've got trails pending now from here to Kabetogama and from Buyck to Cook," he said. "Those will be open in the near future, hopefully sooner rather than later."

Thanks in part to the access provided by the Vermilion River bridge, the ATV trail system currently totals over 250 miles. A jaunt from

Anderson's store to the bridge and then on to another club construction project, the Pelican River Overlook near Elephant Lake, illustrates the patchwork combinations that have gone into creating the system. Starting on paved highway, the trail turns onto a county gravel road, traverses a Forest Service road, leads down a section of abandoned railroad bed, and utilizes a brand new trail section constructed by club members before winding up on another gravel road to arrive at the overlook.

The Pelican River Overlook isn't simply an

observation tower. It's a massive viewing platform large enough for groups to enjoy a picnic meal together, and it also has a heavy-duty barbecue grill.

Voyageur Country ATV Club has built other trail enhancements, such as a picnic area at the Vermilion River bridge site, and plans more overlooks. Beste said the goal is to make the trails friendly for the wide variety of riders they see using it.

Anderson noted that many of the improvements are handicapped-accessible, and he described an encounter this past summer with a family with a disabled child that they took on a ride deep into the wilderness, something the family had never done before. The ATV trails, he said, make the backcountry accessible for people who would otherwise never experience it.

"We want everybody to get up here and enjoy these beautiful public lands," Anderson said. The trails have already been a boost for tourism in the region, Anderson said, and as they become better known, he expects to see a steady flow of people coming to Crane Lake to use them.

Trail development has been funded through a

variety of state grants and donations, and the current bonding bill pending before the Legislature contains another \$950,000 to continue development. But Beste said the club will need more to complete all three phases of the plan.

"Right now, phase two is going to connect Cook, Orr, Ash River, and Kabetogama," he said. "Phase three will connect Littlefork and International Falls. And then phase three will also interconnect with two other ATV trail systems, Quad Cities and Prospector."

But in the spirit of that informal club motto, the future holds even bigger possibilities.

"The bigger plan is you can start in Grand Rapids and end up in Grand Marais," Beste said. "The goal is connecting Grand Rapids to Virginia to International Falls, Ely, Silver Bay, and Grand Marais, an interconnected destination ride. And that entire system would be about 2,000 miles."

For a trail map, information about the system, and membership information, visit the Voyageur Country ATV Club website at <http://www.voyageurcountryatv.com>.

ELY FLOWER & SEED



See our selection of pet supplies

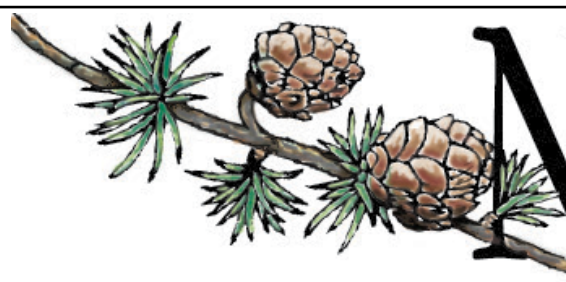
MUMS
Fall Planters and Fall Decorations

Don't miss out on our 20% OFF SALE on Trees & Shrubs!




OPEN: M-Sat 9-5:30, Sunday 11-3
145 W. Camp St, Ely • 365-6555

CLOSED LABOR DAY



NorthCountry

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989

COUNTY ROADS

County right-of-way clearing plan scaled back

CARES Act funds won't go as far as originally thought

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Residents along hundreds of miles of wooded backroads throughout St. Louis County have received letters from the county's public works department in recent days, notifying them of a plan to significantly expand the clear zone along their roads.

The right-of-way clearing program is being funded by \$750,000 in proceeds from the CARES Act, the federal legislation

passed earlier this year to address costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. County commissioners have been looking for ways to help area loggers who have been impacted by the shutdown of the Verso paper mill in Duluth, along with a number of temporary shut-downs at other mills in the region.

About 300 miles of county road were scheduled in the initial plan, which included hiring out-of-work loggers to do the roadway clearing, with contracts ranging from \$10,000 to as much as \$50,000.

But county officials say the budget didn't go as far as they had hoped and that many of the miles of road right-of-way that had been slated for clearing won't get done, at least not anytime soon.

"A number of roads that we originally planned to get done under the CARES act funding which had notification letters sent out will not get done," stated Jim Foldesi, director of St. Louis County Public Works. "We will be notifying the

See **CLEARING**...pg. 2B



County Commissioner Paul McDonald visits with Holter Road resident Steve Lotz in morning rain this week to discuss concerns about the clearing plans. Holter Road is among a number of county roads that won't be cleared, at least for now. photo by M. HelMBERGER

MINING

Suit alleges improper intervention over Twin Metals leases

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A coalition of northeastern Minnesota businesses and environmental groups are alleging that two Minnesota congressmen unduly influenced the U.S. Forest Service to violate federal law when it agreed, under apparent political pressure, to waive its statutory right to approve or deny future mineral lease renewals in the Superior National Forest.

Those allegations, which cite Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber and Sixth District Congressman Tom Emmer, are part of an amended lawsuit challenging the renewal of mineral leases for the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine near Ely. Plaintiffs filed the latest complaint in federal court on Aug. 27 as part of an ongoing effort to reverse a Trump administration decision to grant Chilean copper giant Antofagasta perpetual rights to minerals located along the Kawishiwi River, just upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The Obama administration had rejected the renewal request by Twin Metals back in 2016 after the Forest Service concluded that the proposed mine would pose an unacceptable risk of irreversible damage to the 1.1 million-acre wilderness. A federal statute dating back more than half a century gives the Forest Service the authority to approve or deny any mineral leasing proposal on the Superior National Forest.

The original draft lease renewal put out by the Trump administration in 2017 maintained the Forest Service's authority under federal law, which meant that the Forest Service could have denied future lease renewals every ten years, when the lease was supposed to come up for renewal. Given the Forest Service's previous conclusions about the dangers posed by the proposed sulfide-based mine, there was every reason to believe the agency could deny lease renewal in the future.

See **LAWSUIT**...pg. 2B



TEAM PENNING

Riders versus cattle

Embarrass's annual riding skills competition draws plenty of participants

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook-Orr Editor

EMBARRASS- The task confronting horseback riders at the inaugural Danny Theel Memorial Team Penning and Ranch Sorting Event at the Embarrass Region Fairgrounds on Friday seemed relatively straightforward.

Working in teams of three, riders were to separate a few cattle wearing the same number from a big group of numbered cattle at one end of the arena and herd them into a pen at the other end.

Simple, right?
Wrong.

The spunky calves were predictably unpredictable and noncompliant as targeted animals often refused to be separated from their comrades, while others ran willy nilly all over the arena, befuddling the efforts of cowboys and cowgirls alike. More often than not, it was the cattle who came out on top Friday night, and they got a good workout doing so. Fresh calves periodically replaced tired ones to keep the challenge level for riders high.

While a team could compete only once, riders took multiple bids at success by mixing up to make new trios, 55 in all. In the spirit of fun that permeated the evening, teams took on colorful names: Wild Child, Flying Free, Lady Cadets, Outback, and Rednecks, to name a few.

As country music blared from loudspeakers, riders employed various strategies to cull their targets while keeping the rest of the beef battalion corralled. If too many rogue cattle got past them, the run didn't count. If they didn't herd selected cattle into the pen, the run didn't count.

See **PENNING**...pg. 2B



Top: Matt Schultz raises his arm as he tries to direct a herd of cattle during the team penning competition in Embarrass this past weekend.

Above: Donna Schwartz pulls hard on the reins to redirect her horse.

Left: Taya Weitalla keeps her eyes on the prize as she wheels her horse.

all photos by D. Colburn

PENNING...Continued from page 1B

There were plenty of those kinds of runs.

But some teams indeed found success, determined by the number of cattle they got into the pen and the amount of time it took them to do it. For the best, buckles and cash awards awaited, so during a brief rain shower, out came the brightly-colored plastic ponchos and competition rolled on.

Social distancing for spectators wasn't an issue, as cattle and riders seemingly outnumbered the fans scattered about the stands at any given



Left: Doug Mattson works the lever on a gate panel during the team penning competition.

photo by D. Colburn

time. Many spectators scurried to take a seat in the stands to watch their favorite riders and then retreated to cookouts going on among all the trucks, horse trailers, and campers encircling the arena.

For those who didn't want to cook, a short stroll to the Doghouse Grill provided tasty standard cowboy fare like ham-

burgers and pulled pork, or more esoteric choices such as California burgers and New York sauerkraut dogs, as long as you didn't mind waiting ten to 15 minutes for the "slow man at work" to prep your order.

Those who didn't find success on Friday had another shot at team penning glory on Saturday. Sunday's event, ranch sorting, was for teams of two and involved sorting ten head of cattle in numerical order from one pen to another.

The weekend event was dedicated to the

memory of Danny Theel, who passed away last April. Theel was an active volunteer for the Babbitt Ambulance and Fire Department and volunteered many years with the St. Louis County Rescue Squad. He was the vice-chairman of the Embarrass Region Fair Board and was also active in competitive ranch sorting and team penning.

CLEARING...Continued from page 1B

property owners on those roads," he added.

While county officials did receive one or two phone calls in response to the notification letter, Foldesi said the program hasn't proven controversial in most cases. "The great majority of folks are happy to hear that the right-of-way is getting cleared to help with roadside safety, deer visibility, and snow and ice control. Occasionally there are

concerns about certain mature trees or screening in front of homes that we address on a case-by-case basis."

County Commissioner Paul McDonald, who visited with residents along the Holter Road in Vermilion Lake Township on Monday to discuss the clearing program, noted that some county roads have serious problems with deer strikes and those areas are likely

to be a focus of the effort. He said the county is also trying to coordinate the work with planned broadband expansions in places like Wuori and Sandy townships, where clearing might help crews who later install fiber optic cable along county roads in that area. Under the program, the standard 66-foot rights-of-way would be cleared of most vegetation. In some cases that would push the clear zone back 10-15 feet

past the outside edges of ditches on both sides of the road.

County officials who proposed the clearing program argue that it will improve public safety and will provide a prepared route for any future broadband expansion into the affected areas.

"We have been doing clearing in house with our own maintenance staff and equipment with some contracting as well," noted

Foldesi. "The CARES Act program will help us accelerate some of that planned work by our maintenance districts, which is great."

Foldesi noted that right-of-way clearing has taken a back seat to other priorities such as pavement maintenance, culvert replacements, roadside ditching and other activities over the years and he said it is beginning to show across the county's road network. "Starting

about three years ago we have increased our efforts in this area by purchasing equipment to make us more efficient at clearing. During lower snow years we are able to focus on clearing when we are not plowing in the winter. The goal is to create a cyclical "clearing plan" for each maintenance district that will keep our rights-of-way clear from year to year."

LAWSUIT...Continued from page 1B

That possibility was causing Antofagasta representatives heartburn, according to Andrew Morley, an aide to Congressman Pete Stauber. "The company is getting increasingly concerned about the stipulations put forward by the Forest Service on the up or down vote they require for mineral lease renewals every ten years," states Morley in a March 1, 2019, email to Robert MacGregor, a senior advisor in the Department of Agriculture, or USDA. The Forest Service is part of the USDA.

"Both Reps. Emmer and Stauber are increasingly concerned that these

stipulations could deter Twin Metals from making further investment in the area and slow down economic development in turn," Morley continued. "Do you mind setting up a quick call next week where we can recenter and get on the same page?" Other emails indicate that Congressman Emmer was also involved in the lobbying effort.

Plaintiffs in the case acknowledge that it's hardly unusual for members of Congress to lobby officials throughout the executive branch. "What is unusual for a member of Congress is asking the Forest Service, in this case, to waive

their authority forever, in violation of the law," said Becky Rom, of Ely, who represents the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. Rom says the fact that Stauber and Emmer were pressuring the Forest Service to give up the authority demonstrates that they understood the law, which was enacted by an earlier Congress. Rather than changing the law, the plaintiffs argue that Stauber and Emmer unduly pressured the agency to give up powers granted to it decades ago. Neither Stauber nor Emmer is named as legally liable in the suit, which focuses on the obligations of both the Forest

Service and the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees federal mineral leasing.

Among the concerns cited by plaintiffs is that the Forest Service has yet to provide any public statements explaining how the agency could have gone from denying renewal of the leases over serious environmental concerns, to agreeing to waive its legal authority to approve or deny leases in the future. "Between the draft and final there was a surrender of statutory authority without an explanation," said Rom.

"Federal agencies are required by law to make reasoned decisions

based on the merits—the facts, science, and the law, and this perversion of agency decision-making corrupts that process," said Tom Landwehr, Executive Director of Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness and the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "Time after time we have seen the Trump administration bend to the will of the rich, elite, and politically connected when it comes to the fate of America's most popular wilderness. The administration has canceled important studies and hidden critical scientific information, it has short-circuited environmental review, and it has

jumped every time this foreign mining company says, "hop".

In waiving its rights, the Forest Service never withdrew its previous conclusions that the proposed mine posed an unacceptable risk to the BWCAW. That makes the agency's reversal "arbitrary and capricious," argue the plaintiffs, which is the legal standard that requires the courts to overturn agency decisions.

At the same time, plaintiffs argue that the Forest Service had an obligation to ensure that the environment was protected by placing stipulations into the lease agreement that would have addressed concerns the agency had previously expressed. The plaintiffs argue no such protections were added by the Forest Service, making its actions contrary to its previous conclusions, in 2016, that it was obligated to deny lease renewal for the proposed mine because it posed unacceptable risks.

The complaint further alleges that the Bureau of Land Management violated the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, when it reissued the Twin Metals leases without conducting an Environmental Impact Statement.

For now, Twin Metals isn't saying much about the amended complaint. "Twin Metals received a copy of the amended complaint yesterday and is currently reviewing its contents," said spokesperson Kathy Graul. "Our answer to the amended complaint is due on Sept. 10, and we will file accordingly," she added.



Memories of the Early Days

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

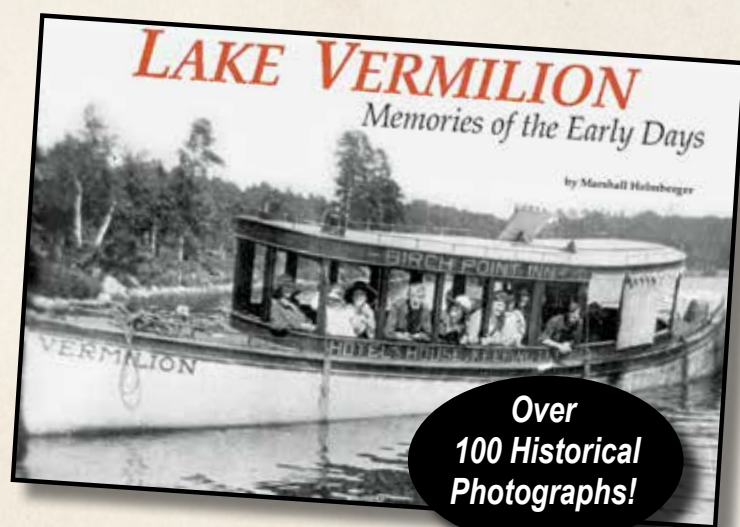
Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

A Regional Favorite

STOP IN TODAY OR CALL...

Just \$29.95 + Tax

Don't miss your chance to own Lake Vermilion's most definitive history!



Over 100 Historical Photographs!

Pick up book(s) at Timberjay office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each.

The Timberjay
P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St
Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950

BOOK ORDER FORM

Quantity of Books _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____ Tel.# _____

Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER

Exp. Date ____/____/____ CVV _____

Billing address if different from above _____

Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16)

Book Total - Mail \$39.95

Total charged to credit card \$ _____ Paid by check \$ _____ Check # _____

Pick Up Mail

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Vermilion Country School welcomes back students

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Vermilion Country School welcomed back its students on Tuesday, Sept. 1. But the day before, the community welcomed back teachers and staff with a special assembly.

“Ten years ago, the impetus for VCS got started,” said school administrator Frank Zobitz. “This is our eighth year.”

Zobitz thanked the community members who worked for several years to get the school up and running. Teachers heard from VCS board members, TEDA Executive Director Marshall Helmberger (on improvements planned for the building), and a welcome from Mayor Orlyn Kringstad.

“I still remember my first day at school,” said Kringstad. “Back then you got a pair of new jeans. The jeans were so stiff it was hard to sit down. And they were way too long because my mother was sure I was going to grow.”

Kringstad thanked the school staff for being essential frontline workers.

Zobitz then introduced school staff, noting how many years they had been working at the school. School custodian Doug Workman is the longest serving, having been at the school for all eight years. The roll call continued with teacher Karin Schmidt and kitchen manager Cindy Pettinelli both starting their seventh year. Paraprofessional Mandy Northrup checked in for her sixth year. The recognition continued for teachers Paula Herbranson, six years, Al White, four years, office manager Jolene Herberg, four years, para/teacher Michael Joint, three years, and teacher Brad Neyens and admin Zobitz with two.

The keynote speaker for the back-to-school staff kickoff event was St. Louis County Commissioner and former Tower-Soudan High School teacher Paul McDonald, who spent 35 years in education before retiring and running for county commissioner.

“This is usually an exciting time for teachers,” he said. “But this year it is also an uneasy time.”

The pandemic, he said, took a challenging job and turned it into a “challenge and a half.”

McDonald said teachers want to start the school year all prepared, but this year they cannot do that because of the uncertainty of the pandemic. “You are in the frontline,” he said. He reminded teachers that as students return, teachers have to be empathetic to all they have gone through since they left school on short notice last March.

“This may be the students’ safe place to be,” he said. “We know some of them walking through these doors are going to be hurting.”

He noted that while distance learning last year was overwhelming for most teachers, it was even more so for the students. He talked about the importance of broadband internet, comparing it to a basic utility, not a fringe item like cable television.

On the bright side, McDonald noted that teaching does keep you young, because you get to be a kid.

“These kids are the future of our society,” he said. “Show them you care... Never underestimate the difference you can have in a kid’s life.”

As students entered the building on Tuesday, they quickly got used to the new safety protocols. Masks, hand-sanitiz-

ing stations, and socially-distanced seating were all in place. Hot breakfast and lunch are still being served, but students no longer walk through a buffet line. Instead, meals are pre-portioned and then served.

Students spent the first morning decorating the new wooden sitting stools that will be used during outdoor environmental education and other outdoor learning times.

Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 charter school located in Tower that attracts students from a 30-mile radius.



Above: Paraprofessional Michelle Maki talks with Alliyah Zapata, who is decorating the wood that will be used to build her bench.

Below: Members of the Class of 2021.

Bottom: Environmental ed teacher Mike Joint helps build the new outdoor learning benches. photos by J. Summit



Above: Hunter Jackson tries out his new outdoor learning bench.

Below: Emily Wojcik decorates her bench.



Obituaries and Death Notices



Caroline E. Story

Caroline Elizabeth Story, 73, of Tower, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020, at her home. A celebration of life was held on Wednesday, Sept. 2 at the Mini Park next to the Tower Civic Center. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Caroline was born on July 11, 1947, in Roseau, to Albert and Yvonne (Brisson) Story. She loved her pasties and potica, berry-picking, baking and canning. Caroline liked to socialize at Good Ol’ Days Bar & Grill in Tower.

Caroline is survived by her son, David (Alissa) Berg of Arizona; daughters, Marie Arnett of Arizona and Connie Tamte of Eveleth; sisters, Edna Friesner, Jessie Jessop and Rose Story; brother, William Story; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and ten siblings.



Elma Nelson

Elma Nelson, 86, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020, at the South Campus Care Center in Leesburg, Fla. Interment will be at Carpenter Cemetery in Bear River, Minn. Services for immediate family will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Fla.

Elma was born on May 28, 1934, to Lacy and Bessie Arnold in Sugar Lands, West Virginia. After the death of their mother, Elma moved to Massachusetts in 1946 with her sister Jean, to live with their older sister and brother-in-law. Elma graduated from Holliston High School in Holliston, Mass.,

in 1952. Elma traveled to Minnesota in 1953 where she met her future husband, Robin Nelson. Elma and Robin were married in 1954 in Chisholm.

Throughout the years in Minnesota, Elma was active in various jobs and activities, including sewing, knitting, making porcelain dolls, and gardening. She taught sewing classes for the 4-H club in Mahanomen, as well as working as a smoke chaser for the Minnesota DNR at Link Lake Ranger Station near Bigfork.

Elma realized her dream of going to beauty school in the later 1960s. She owned and operated a beauty shop, boutique, and tuxedo rental while living in Orr, as well as running a small business out of her home making and decorating cakes. She donated her time and cosmetology skills to the Look Good Feel Better program for women diagnosed with cancer.

Elma and Robin moved to Florida after retiring. While in Florida, Elma was an active member of the Red Hats.

She also continued her love of flower gardening, especially roses. She took music lessons while working at a local music store in Clermont and enjoyed playing favorite songs on her organ.

Elma is survived by her children, Diana (David) Baraga, Steven Nelson and Christopher (Pamela) Nelson; three step-grandchildren, Illiandra Burney, Xain Burney and David Burney; and sister, Jean Blanche.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robin Nelson; parents, Lacy and Bessie Arnold; and siblings, Ray Arnold, Roy Arnold, Theodore Arnold, Donald Arnold, Geraldine Travis and Delmer Arnold.



ART GALLERY

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

Local arts and crafts for viewing and sales

210 S River St, Cook MN 55723
Open: Thur-Fri: 10 AM-4 PM, Sat: 9 AM-1 PM
nwfamn.org@gmail.com • www.nwfamn.org

Scenic Rivers Clinics

COVID-19 Testing Available

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

Testing will not be completed without an appointment.

Scenic Rivers will not bill patients for testing.

Insurance coverage will be processed when available.

Cook Medical and Behavioral Health
20 5th St SE
Open Monday - Saturday
(218) 666-5941

Cook Dental
12 S River Street
Open Monday - Friday
(218) 666-5958

Tower Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health
415 N 2nd St, Suite 2
Former High School Building
Open Monday - Friday
Medical/BH: (218) 753-2405
Dental: (218) 753-6061

Nelson's Resort
Dining Room Open Daily 6:30 AM to 9:30 PM
Call 218-993-2295 for RESERVATIONS
SMORGASBORD CANCELED • DUE TO COVID-19
August 1949
SERVING Walleye Dinners Prime Rib on Weekends Nightly Specials
7632 County Road 424 Crane Lake, MN 55725 www.nelsonsresort.com



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

INVASIVE SPECIES

Be on the lookout for Asian “jumping worms”

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— As if you didn't already have enough to worry about, a new species of earthworm is wreaking havoc in parts of Minnesota and may be headed to the North Country.

The Department of Natural Resources is cautioning anglers, gardeners and others to be on the lookout for invasive jumping worms, which can quickly degrade soils and damage garden plants and lawns.

“Jumping worms are a relatively new invasive species in Minnesota and they are a threat to gardens and forests,” said Laura Van Riper, DNR terrestrial invasive species coordinator. “They make rich soil more like coffee grounds. They eat plant roots, damaging garden plants and sod.”

Jumping worms are a type of earthworm that looks similar to other common earthworms such as night-crawlers. They are called “jumping worms” because they wiggle intensely when disturbed and sometimes appear

Right: Asian jumping worms are the latest invasive species to become established in Minnesota. They look similar to other earthworms, but writhe aggressively when touched.

courtesy MNDNR

to be jumping. The worms are native to Asia, but have managed to spread throughout much of North America, apparently by people moving fishing bait, potted plants, and compost.

See **WORMS...**pg. 5B



PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

On geese, ticks and COVID-19

With the pandemic, we share a responsibility to take care of others

by PETER M. LESCHAK
Contributing Writer

Last spring I heard geese coming. The volume of yodeling ratched up until an undulating wedge of four dozen burst over the tree line to the south, robustly flapping and aimed north. They sounded joyful. These were not indolent metropolitan birds, accustomed to year-round lounging in manicured parks and defecating on sidewalks. These geese were bound for Manitoba. In six months they'd be resolutely steering back south, snorting sleet and weathering shotgun flak. I admired their nobility.

That evening I engaged with a different family of wildlife. Using two mirrors in an awkward pantomime of hygiene, I inspected every square inch of my skin for ticks. In these woods, tick-borne illness is endemic, and I know neighbors and colleagues who've been grievously afflicted – incapacitated and/or hospitalized with one of the maladies. Being old, I'm more or less convinced of my mortality and inevitable

decline, but I'd be particularly resentful of being taken down by a tick.

Sure enough, I found one on my inner thigh, bored in and feeding. I removed it, crushed it, and flicked it into the toilet bowl. Ignoble, but I plead self-defense. Since I perform a thorough inspection at least once a day, and understand that a tick must be attached for twenty-four to forty-eight hours to transmit disease,

I wasn't concerned, but did feel assaulted. I am prey.

I live and work in the woods, as do the ticks, and my vigilance cannot be relaxed until winter. It's a seasonal behavior, and I begin my examinations about the time the first geese

migrate in and through. We're fortunate that Lyme disease and anaplasmosis are not communicable. They are a special gift from a tick to you, and your misery cannot be shared. If Lyme disease were infectious, no one around here would have any friends, and the State Department would issue a travel advisory for Deer Tick Nation. I'm bemused by the fact that your dog can be administered an apparently



effective Lyme vaccine, but you cannot.

Actually, two decades ago I was vaccinated for Lyme. We were cautioned the shot might be only 70-percent effective and it was experimental, but given my exposure, I went for it, as did one of my colleagues. A few years later he acquired a case of Lyme that landed him in the hospital. Still, it was worth a try. Vaccines are a boon to civilization. Every day of the snow-free seasons I'm aware of being hunted by little predators that are difficult to see. It would be so much easier – and perhaps entertaining – if ticks were the size of squirrels, and tasty. We could just hunt them.

In any case, the ticks are your business. How much angst and effort you invest in protecting yourself is totally up to you.

However, in the time since the first geese arrived and the ticks reappeared, we've been faced by a new, highly

infectious, predator: COVID-19. I work as a wildland firefighter for the Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry, and the agency appropriately had concerns about fire crews and fire operations. Neither easily lend themselves to strict social distancing or masking up. But since firefighters and firefighting are deemed essential, we had to go to work. A solid written protocol was developed and ran to several pages. I won't afflict you with details, but the bottom line is worth imparting because it applies to every citizen.

After the document explained all aspects of what we were expected to do (and not do), the conclusion acknowledged two basic facts: 1) we'd be taking a risk, and 2) we needed to trust our team mates – needed to have confidence that all were maintaining the necessary personal

See **COVID...**pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
WILDMINT



Look for **Wild Mint**, *Mentha arvensis*, in a variety of moist habitats. Sunny edges of lakes, streams, and wetlands are good places to find this aromatic mint.

It is easily recognized as a mint by its square stem, opposite leaves, and the cluster of lavender flowers growing in the leaf axils. Crushing the aromatic leaves would also remind you of mint. Toss a sprig in your ice tea for a little extra flavor and scent.

There are similar species of mint, some with whitish flowers, but those species don't have the strong scent of wild mint.

Outdoors in brief

You can provide input on deer and elk farm rules

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Board of Animal Health is asking for public participation as it goes through the process of changing its rules for farmed cervidae (commonly called deer and elk) to help the agency better prevent and control diseases like CWD.

The public can participate in the process in several ways including by tuning in to one of several listening sessions for the public and by providing written comments about the proposed rule changes at any time through Sept. 14. The public will have a second opportunity to comment on the rules after the board publishes its Notice of Intent toward the end of 2020. Upcoming listening sessions will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6-8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17, 4-6 p.m.

Details on how to join these sessions, either by virtual meeting or by phone, are listed on the board's public rule-making webpage, under “Current rulemaking.”

You can find the Board of Animal Health online at www.bah.state.mn.us.

See us at
timberjay.com

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing has been steadily improving as water temps fall into the 60s. Anglers are reporting that they are finding wall-eyes either out deep in 20-30 feet of water, around sunken islands, or in water 10 feet or less on main lake points. Regardless where anglers are catching them, minnows have been out-producing all other baits as of late. Best way to catch walleyes has been with jig and minnow or trolling spinner rigs, during the first two hours of daylight or last two hours of daylight. Trolling deep diving crankbaits during the evening hours is also worth noting.

Smallmouth fishing has been very easy for anglers targeting them. As water temps fall smallies have been aggressively hitting large minnows and deep diving crankbaits fished over sunken islands. Shoreline bite still continues, but has begun

to slow. Here, whopper ploppers and hulla ploppers remain effective during the early morning hours. As the sun gets up, spinnerbaits become more effective. Large shallow flats, down trees and current areas have been the area to look for this shallow water bite.

Both crappie and sunfish fishing was excellent this last week, but anglers fishing shallow weedbeds have noted that large crappies were largely absent from the weedbeds. Bigger gills are now being found inside weedbeds again and have been hitting beetle spins, wax worms or small angle worms fished under a bobber. Crappies, too, are being found shallow inside weedbeds, but mainly during early mornings and evenings. Small hair jigs, jig and twisters and jig and minnow fished under a bobber has been effective.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors in Ely.

WORMS...Continued from page 4B

Jumping worms cannot be legally introduced into the environment in Minnesota and are also a poor choice for bait because they break into segments when handled.

"The good news is, jumping worms are not well established in Minnesota and there are actions people can take to prevent their spread. We need gardeners and anglers to be vigilant and to contact the DNR when they think they've found jumping worms," Van Riper said.

Other steps that help:
 > Don't buy worms advertised as jumping worms, "snake worms," "Alabama jumpers" or "crazy worms" for any purpose.

> Anglers should dispose of any unwanted bait worms in the trash.

> Gardeners should inspect incoming mulch or plants for jumping worms and if swapping plants

with friends, wash off the soil and share the plants as bare root plants.

> Recreationists should brush the mud off their boots and equipment.

If people think they've found jumping worms, they should take high resolution photos showing the ring around the worm's body in relation to its head and report jumping earthworms using www.eddmaps.org, or contact the DNR Information Center at 888-646-6367 or info.dnr@state.mn.us.

Videos and more information about jumping worms and other terrestrial invasive species are available on the DNR website.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
62 43				67 49				65 44				57 41				54 37			
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.
08/24	82	62	0.00	08/24	81	61	0.00	08/24	78	65	0.00	08/24	81	55	0.08	08/24	80	63	0.00
08/25	82	47	0.00	08/25	80	46	0.00	08/25	78	56	0.00	08/25	77	48	0.00	08/25	80	47	0.00
08/26	82	47	0.04	08/26	82	45	0.10	08/26	80	58	0.07	08/26	75	61	0.01	08/26	81	49	0.09
08/27	79	56	0.00	08/27	79	53	0.03	08/27	76	59	0.00	08/27	75	57	0.00	08/27	77	58	0.03
08/28	79	56	0.02	08/28	76	52	0.02	08/28	74	59	0.02	08/28	72	57	0.02	08/28	76	58	0.00
08/29	74	52	0.05	08/29	76	52	0.03	08/29	72	53	0.20	08/29	70	48	0.00	08/29	73	50	0.11
08/30	70	41	0.00	08/30	70	39	0.00	08/30	67	49	0.00	08/30	70	45	0.00	08/30	69	40	0.00
Total 13.46				YTD Total 14.11				YTD Total 20.24				YTD Total NA				YTD Total 15.88			

COVID...Continued from page 4B

behaviors to keep themselves virus-free when off-duty. Our rigorous protocols would mean nothing if they weren't also adhered to outside of work. We had a responsibility across the board, no matter where we were or what we were doing. For example, early in the fire season one of our local firefighters encountered a domestic life change that put him at greater risk of infection, and he was sent home for a specified period of time until we were reassured he was still healthy.

My point is that our fire crews

are a microcosm of the larger society. Unlike a personal tick protection strategy, we need to universally care and trust. COVID-19 is a community predator, and the community encompasses the entire nation (and the world). But it's not only a threat, it's also an opportunity – to offer service for the common good.

Webster's defines "patriotism" as "love and loyal or zealous support of one's own country." A way to demonstrate that love and loyalty in these times is to take on responsibility in the battle against COVID-19.

The simplest, most effective means to that worthy end is to wear a mask in public indoor spaces. It's about consideration, courtesy, and trust. A patriot wears a mask.

Soon the geese will be passing through again, and we're still struggling with the pandemic. How long the siege will last depends upon what we zealously do. As other nations have demonstrated, we do have some control over the virus.

Peter M. Leschak is an author and wildland firefighter. He lives in Side Lake.

Donald G.

Gardner Humanities Trust

Enriching Life in Ely for 32 Years!

www.gardnertrust.org

RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS

In-store jewelry & watch repair

Cash for Gold & Silver

218-827-2515
 33 Central Blvd. Suite 200
 Babbitt Shopping Center

Ritchie Automatic

Livestock Waterers and Parts

HIBBING FEED and SEED

262-3049

PETERSEN DRILLING

Since 1948
 Wells Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
 Spring Park Rd.
 Mt. Iron, MN 55768

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

- ✓ Boats, trailers, and gear
- ✓ Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

DRAIN

- ✓ Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- ✓ 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

EMPLOYMENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

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



Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Apply by 09/10/20

Electronic Systems Technician

Apply by 09/14/20

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 9/4

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools 3rd Grade Long-Term Substitute Teacher – 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is looking for a 3rd Grade long term substitute teacher starting approximately November 30, 2020 through December 22, 2020. Salary and fringes as per the Master Agreement between ISD #696 and the Ely Education Association and School Board policy. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:
 > Current Minnesota teaching license in K-6 Elementary Education
 > Previous teaching experience preferred
 > Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

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
 > 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent Erik Erie, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Washington Elementary Principal Anne Oelke at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1724 or aoelke@ely.k12.mn.us with any questions.

Start date: November 30, 2020

Application review to begin: September 10, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 4, 2020

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

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

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

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Application
 > Resume
 > College Transcripts
 > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: September 16, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 4 & 11, 2020

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

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. 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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Temporary Full-Time Custodian

Qualifications include:
 > High school diploma, with post-secondary training in facility maintenance preferred
 > Ability to read basic operating instructions and write reports
 > Demonstrate aptitude for successful completion of the tasks assigned
 > Such alternatives to the above qualifications as the supervisor, administration, and board finds appropriate and acceptable
 > Prior work experience demonstrating positive and effective interpersonal skills in the work place
 > Demonstrated ability to perform assigned tasks without direct supervision

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONAL CAPACITIES:
 > Ability to lift a minimum of 50 pounds
 > Ability to climb ladders (at least 10 feet)
 > Ability to withstand heights (up to 30 feet)
 > Ability to climb 3 flights of stairs in 1 minute
 > Pass physical exam per doctor's statement
 > Visual and auditory acuity, corrected or non-corrected, at standard levels as established by appropriate medical standards
 > Any other qualifications as deemed appropriate by the school board

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Application
 > Resume
 > College Transcripts
 > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$19.63/hour

Hours: 8 hours per day/40 hours per week

Application review to begin: September 11, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 4 & 11, 2020

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 and for a job description please send resume and three references to: Josh Gillson, 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

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.

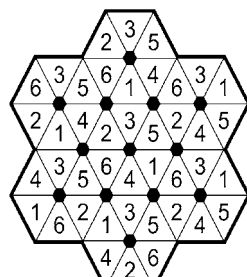
Apply to Indeed:
 HVAC/Maintenance Technician
 Edwards Oil and Propane

Otherwise email resume to rskalko@eoctrimark.com

9/18

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950

SNOWFLAKES solution



Answers

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

Call about our affordable Display Classified & Real Estate Rates 218-753-2950

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

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).

BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC

"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"

Superior Quality
• Plank Paneling
• Trim
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
• Industrial Lumber
218-744-1788
8825 Hwy 101, Orr, MN 55751

LICENSE BUREAU

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

WANTED

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

FOR RENT

STOREFRONT/OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT- Great location. \$400/month includes utilities. Aurora, MN. 320-703-8424. 9/11p

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.

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

MARINE

Handberg's MARINA
ALUMINUM • POLYESTER • YAMAHA
Evinrude • Polaris • Godfrey
**Sales • Service
Rentals
General Store**
218-993-2214
www.handbergs.com

Grubens MARINA & VILLAGE
The Heart of Lake Vermilion
• Boat launch, rental, store & repair
• Cabins for a great, fun vacation
See us at: www.grubens.com
Call us at: 218.753.5000
4296 Arrowhead Point Rd, Tower MN 55790

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE
4655 Moccasin Point Rd
Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319
Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com
YAMAHA

MERCURY OUTBOARDS
Frank's Marine
Sales & Service. Orr, MN 55771
Mercury Outboards, MerCruiser, Crestliner Lund, Spartan Trailers, Ercoc Pontoon.
Call 218-757-3150

ARONSON BOAT WORKS
LAKE VERMILION, TOWER
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169
Hours:
Mon-Sat: 8:30 AM-5:30 PM
Sun: 9 AM-3 PM
MERCURY LUND HONDA
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

GARAGE SALE
Storage Locker Sale - Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 4-6. Fri & Sat 8-4, Sun 10-2. 77 Storage by the Vermilion Club (and old Wayside Café). Furniture, crafts, primitives, dishes, housewares, fabric, crafts, all must go. Units 77/78.
VIRGINIA- HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE- 304 6th St S (across from AEOA, westside). Thurs/Fri, Sept 10 & 11, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Shop before you go to work! 9/11

MARINE



Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage
Lease or Purchase Options
Marina • Mechanic on Duty
Convenience Store
24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457
www.shamrocklanding.com

TIMBUKTU MARINA
ON LAKE VERMILION
218-666-2131
7401 Oak Narrows Rd • Cook MN
Cabin rentals
Year round boat storage and dockage
Boat and pontoon rental
Convenience store
Gas, bait & liquor
timbuktumarina.com

TIMBUKTU MARINE
LAKE VERMILION
218-666-2276
2475 Vermilion Dr • Cook MN
Ranger Premier
Boats Weeres
Boats MERCURY
SUZUKI YAMAHA
Sales, service, storage, boat lifts, docks, trailers and accessories
timbuktumarine.com

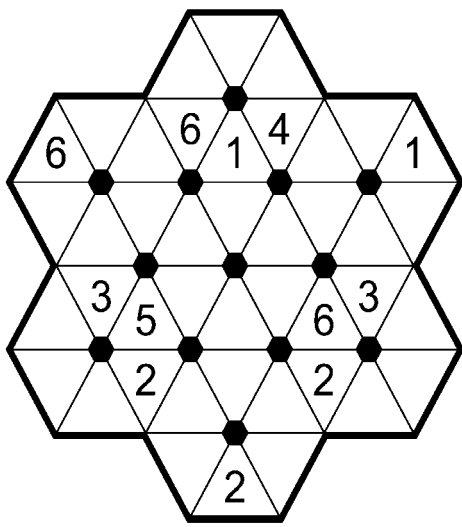
Super Crossword

THE END IS IN SIGHT

ACROSS
1 Rum brand
8 River of D.C.
15 Winger of Hollywood
20 Qom native
21 Great Plains tribe
22 "Sk8er Boi" singer
23 Method of making customers' mixed drinks?
25 Surrender
26 Dairy farm machine
27 Mai —
28 Slithery creature
29 Metal deposit
31 Added a coward as a Facebook connection?
37 "Unto the Sons" author
41 Apple center
42 Arles article
43 Prosecuting attorney's statement about his last-ever client?
51 Bewildered
52 Dentist's filler
53 On the — (in hiding)
55 Gift add-ons
58 Nice smell
62 "A mouse!"
63 Popular pain reliever
65 Golf rarity
66 Noted U.S. lithographer
70 One nosing around
72 R&B singer with the 2003 hit
73 Exemplars
74 Forebode
77 Vail, for one
79 Chianti?
79 Giant ball holder
80 Black — cattle
81 Wide foot spec
82 Yule tunes
83 Bunks, e.g.
84 TV "Science Guy"
85 Garb
87 Bellybutton variety
90 Email a large image file in error?
99 Color tone
100 Vivacity
101 Nasty type
102 Funds given to a certain soccer player?
110 IM giggle
111 Lift up
112 Teeny-tiny holding
113 Seer's site
117 Estate in the country
118 Trumpeting beast wins someone's affection?
125 Ashley or Mary-Kate
126 Monte Carlo locale
127 Must have
129 Get more precipitous
130 Climbed monkey-style
DOWN
1 Baby's tie-on
2 Football coach
3 Tony's wife on "The Sopranos"
4 Voting "nay"
5 Cambodian money unit
6 Like a cold, damp cellar
7 Like the article "a" or "an": Abbr.
8 Golf average
9 Hosp. scrubs sites
10 Longest river in Scotland
11 Photo finish?
12 Photo finish
13 In advance
14 Waggish sort
15 Hotel chain with a sun logo
16 Showed plainly
17 Rest period
18 Poet Rainer Maria —
19 Mayflower man John
24 Make a gaffe
29 Giant Mel
30 Yell of cheer
32 Here, in Haiti
33 Long period
34 Gun org.
35 Salami seller
36 Rock's Lewis
38 JFK data
39 JFK jet, once
40 Lifesaving team, in brief
44 2018 is one
45 TV's Jamie
46 Lacking in variety
47 Absconded
48 Counterfeit
49 Lift up
50 Untangled
54 Untidy states
55 New York's — Zee
56 "AWOL" or "FAQ," e.g.
57 1714-27 king of England
59 Most unctuous
60 Lo — (Chinese dish)
61 Songwriter Harold
63 Totals (up)
64 Falsification
66 Middle marks
67 Large vase
68 Retort to "Are not!"
69 Author Anaïs
71 Letters on an AC
75 Actor Bruce
76 Yard intruder
77 Bump on —
78 "The jig —!"
83 Test version
85 Action
86 Old New York ballpark
88 Robbins of "Short Cuts"
89 Hard water
91 Forked (out)
92 Many beach mementos
93 TV Tarzan player Ron
94 "Thwack!"
95 Ending for serpent
96 Get rid of, as a bad habit
97 — de Oro
98 Slithery creature
102 — Rex (cat variety)
103 Force out of the country
104 Counterfeit
105 Water jugs
106 Ignited anew
107 Irk
108 "Just joking!"
109 Hair lock
114 Egyptian sacred cross
115 Twice CCI
116 Slant
119 Bakery buy
120 With it, man
121 Exist
122 "The Muggler" actress
123 R&B singer
124 Bummed out

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

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

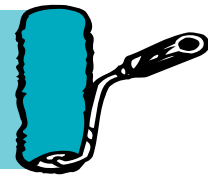
Answer

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

Sell It HERE



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



ALUMACRAFT

Check Out Our New Products!

Quality & reliable marine sales & service

Duane's Marine

YAMAHA

EVIRIDE

Open: Mon-Fri, 9-5
Sat. 9-Noon
8327 Unity Dr., Virginia / Mt. Iron
218-741-8532

DOCKS-WHEELS-DAKA

Custom made by DOW
Building Heavy Duty Docks
in Ely for 42 years

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!

Quality Shorefront Products

Factory Dealer of
DAKA & Shoremaster Products
www.docksandwheels.com

2195 Twin Lakes Road
5 miles west of Ely
on Hwy 169

218.365.6210 Call Bob for a FREE ESTIMATE

Excavating Licensed Septic Design & Installation

- ◆ Complete Site & Building Preparation
- ◆ Road Building, Land Clearing, Basement, Demolition
- ◆ Digging, Dozing, Hauling
- ◆ Sand, Gravel, Crushed Rock, Black Dirt

Call for an estimate • 218-365-4220
2408 Hwy. 169, PO Box 608, Ely, MN 55731
jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com

NORTHEAST TITLE COMPANY

Real Estate Closing Services, Title Insurance & Abstracting

Northeast Title Company has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Customers can expect quality services and products along with a professional staff that takes pride in every closing. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

ELY OFFICE
545 E Sheridan St • Ely, MN 55731
Phone (218)365-5256
Angie Mikulich
Licensed Closing Agent

VIRGINIA OFFICE
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792
Phone (218)741-1515
Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Licensed Closing Agent

COOK/SURROUNDING AREAS
Phone (218)666-3174
Sharon Maronick
Licensed Closing Agent

www.netitle.com

YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt
Well-drilling Equipment
Propane Delivery

Carl Anderson
Anderson Barging, Inc.
Cell 218-780-4955
www.andersonbarging.com

Covering all of Lake Vermilion

GREENSTONE
NURSERY & LANDSCAPING
We grow oxygen!

In Business Since 1979

Call Now To Schedule Your FALL Work!

It's a great time to be outdoors!

"Fetch us" for your fall projects!

Landscaping Services, Patios, Garden Design, Retaining Walls, Yard Restoration

(218) 365-6037 • 2331 Old Hwy. 169, Ely
1/4 mi. east of 88 & 169 • greenstonenursery.com

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete Septic Tanks

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers, Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand, Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel, Different Types of Concrete Blocks. **FREE ESTIMATES** for site development, roads, fill and excavations.

Celebrating Over 47 Years! From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS

1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731
office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030
fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197

BEAR RIVER ELECTRIC

12896 Hwy. 1, Cook, MN Lic EA756990
Shawn & Diane 507-272-3882

For all your **HEATING, PLUMBING** and **AIR CONDITIONING** needs...

HEISEL BROS.
PLUMBING & HEATING

We're the Professionals!

Heisel Bros.
PLUMBING & HEATING
Northgate Plaza • Virginia
218-741-8381 • www.heiselbros.com

HOURS: M-F 8 AM-5 PM
Sat 8 AM-Noon
Master Plumber PC644131

\$10 MAIL IN REBATE Form
CLOSED MONDAY LABOR DAY Sept. 4-13

ALL CABOT® EXTERIOR STAIN MAIL-IN REBATE

\$10 REBATE on Cabot Deck Stain & Timber Oil

Get \$10 back per gallon, \$40 back per 5-gallon.

MONEY BACK BY MAIL- Offer valid on purchases with dated sales receipt Sept. 4-13, 2020. Valid on submissions postmarked on or before October 13, 2020. Offer valid only at independent Cabot retailers. See coupon for complete details.

valspar

Get Up to \$80 Back on Your Favorite Valspar Paint!

\$10 REBATE on Pristine & Medallion per gal. \$40 per 5-gal. container

\$7 REBATE on Supreme per gal.

\$5 REBATE on True Basics per gal.

MONEY BACK BY MAIL- Offer valid on purchases with dated sales receipt between Sept. 4-13, 2020. Valid on submissions postmarked on or before October 13, 2020. Limit \$80. See rebate coupon for details.

VERMILION LUMBER
HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS
218-753-2230
302 Main St., Tower, MN
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon

POWERFUL SAVINGS WITH GENERAC

- FREE estimates
- Financing available
- AFFORDABLE backup power
- Delivery, Installation and Service
- Family and locally owned and operated

7-Year Warranty!

GENERAC Automatic Standby Generator

CLEARBROOK ELECTRIC
SALES AND "SERVICE"
Randy Wetenkamp
218-776-3995 • 218-556-5981 **Serving ALL of Northern Minnesota**

WHILE THEY LAST...

2x4 - 8' **ECONOMY STUDS**

\$3.69 each while supplies last

FROM CABINS TO CASTLES
COOK BUILDING CENTER

Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
eric@cookbuildingcenter.com

833-314-1217

BOGO 40% OFF

Renewal by Andersen
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company
The Better Way to a Better Window

American Standard
150 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

SAVE \$1000+ DISCOUNTS ONLY

ENJOYING A NEW SHOWER IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

CALL TODAY
newshowerdeal.com/mn | 888-525-0482

FALL • HOME & CABIN • REFRESHERS

CLOSED SATURDAY-MONDAY
Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

We Are Your Complete Remodeling Headquarters!
We've Got It All!

- ✓ **Sauna Stoves & Accessories**
- ✓ **Tile**
- ✓ **Fire Rings**
- ✓ **Flooring**
- ✓ **Carpet & Rugs**
- ✓ **Storage Systems**
- ✓ **Countertops**
- ✓ **Bathrooms**
- ✓ **Cabinets**
- ✓ **AND More!**

Sauna Accessories

Cabinets

Remnants Galore!

Subscribe Today
(218) 753-2950

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You

FLOOR to CEILING
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) •741-6690

Master Card VISA DISCOVER

HOURS: 8-5:30 M-F

Find us on facebook.