

# CITY OF ELY Zup's opening pushed back Pharmacy, off-sale liquor part of market expansion

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – This community will be losing a grocery store this fall as the two Ely markets, Northland and

Zup's, merge into one in a remodeled former Shopko building. Ely's fourth off-sale liquor store, and a second pharmacy, will also open in the facility.

Jimmy Zupancich, of Zupancich See...ZUP'S pg. 9

Brothers, Inc., updated the city council Tuesday night on his family's plan of growth in Ely as construction crews began renovating the



Slabs of concrete from the floor of the former Ely Shopko building were stacked in the parking lot Tuesday morning as the Zup's Market construction project advances. photo by K. Vandervort

# SUPPORTING THE ARTS Cedar Trail inspirati

# Traveling multi-media art exhibit features 11 area artists

#### by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

**REGIONAL-** A traveling art exhibit featuring about two dozen multimedia pieces inspired by the new Ancient Cedars Trail in Tower will open in June at the Lyric First Stage Gallery. The exhibit will move in subsequent months to Ely, Hibbing, and finally Cook.

Eleven area artists, working in oil, watercolor, pen and ink,



# Judge denies attempt to scuttle mine rules review

TWIN METALS

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL-A state district court judge has denied a request by Twin Metals to dismiss an ongoing legal and administrative proceeding that could ultimately prove fatal to the company's plans to construct a copper-nickel mine near Ely.

The ruling, issued late last week in Ramsey County court by Judge Laura Nelson, could

clear the way for the Department of Natural Resources to review its current hard rock mining rules, a process that could possiblv block the state from issuing permits for the controversial project.





acrylic, fiber arts, mixed media, and woodworking are all part of the exhibit, titled Ancient Cedar Trail: An Artistic Exploration 2021.

The inspiration for the artistic group came from Joan Hunn, of Ely, who then recruited artists she knew from their work that had been on display in local galleries, as well as artists from Duluth.

"Joan had moved to Ely from Duluth last fall and discovered the trail," said Sue Rauschenfels, one of the artists in the group. "She had a vision of honoring the trail and interpreting the trail through artistic works."

Many of the artists did a group hike on the trail in January. Some had been on the trail before, but

See...ART pg. 10

The traveling art exhibit will be in Virginia, Ely, Hibbing and Cook.

Top and left: Works by area artists include Nan Stubenvoll, Jim DeVries, Margie Helstom and Nancy Ensley. submitted

The Ancient Cedars Trail, above, is located in Tower, and features old growth white cedar dating back to about 1880. photo by M. Helmberger

The Twin Metals The prooffice in Ely. file posed mine would be located

along the South Kawishiwi River, several miles upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and critics of the proposal argue that the sulfide-based ore that the mine would expose and process is highly likely to leach acids and heavy metals, potentially contaminating waters within the wilderness.

That concern formed the basis of the lawsuit that Twin Metals had hoped to have dismissed. Ely-based Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness took the legal action last June, filing a lawsuit

See...MINING pg. 9

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

# **Fire destroys Cook mobile home**

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- A man and his dog escaped injury late Saturday when a raging fire in Cook consumed the man's mobile home and an adjacent garage.

Fire destroyed a mobile home and garage Saturday night in Cook. A man and his dog escaped without injury. submitted

Cook firefighters were called out at about 10:55 p.m. to the 200 block of First Street Southeast, east of the former Gustafson Motors Company building, according to a report by Northland Firewire. Video

See...FIRE pg. 11





**New Spring Clothing, New Books, New Gifts** plus our excellent and updated selection of Canoe Camping Gear or come in today for a New Canoe or Kayak Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat. 9 - 6 Sunday 10 - 4 piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com



# **Community notices**

# Free food distributions in Cook,

# **Embarrass, Virginia and Aurora** on May 27

REGIONAL- Free food distribution will take place in several communities on Thursday, May 27 at 12:30 p.m. There will be produce, meat, dairy and 2-percent milk. Please arrive no more than 15 minutes before the event starts, stay in your vehicle and wear a mask when communicating with volunteers. Food is first come, first served until gone. Locations include North Woods School, 10248 Olson Rd. in Cook: Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd. in Embarrass; AEOA, 702 3rd Ave. S in Virginia, and Mesabi East School, 601 N 1st St. W in Aurora. This distribution is held by AEOA; check the AEOA Facebook page for updates.

## Vermilion Fairways Women's Golf League to hold FUN night. May 25

COOK- The Vermilion Fairways Women's Golf League is starting their 2021 season on Tuesday, May 25 at 5:30 p.m. It will be our FUN night. Our regular league play will start on Tuesday, June 1. Our women's league is a FUN league and it is individual play, not team play. Vermilion Fairways is located at 2407 Vermilion Dr. in Cook. All skill levels of golfers are welcome. Come join the fun!

If you have any questions, please call Carol Green at Vermilion Fairways, 218-666-2679.

## Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet June 3 at HooDoo Point

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet outdoors at the Hoodoo Point Campground pavilion at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 3. The address is 5788 Hoodoo Point Rd. in Tower. Please bring your own lawn chair. No refreshments will be served but you may bring your own. Our business meeting will prioritize future plans which include a decision on summer indoor or outdoor meeting sites and education topics. The joyful portion of the evening focuses on a grand Show and Tell of our "COVID Collections". Please bring as many of your creations as possible. Curious and quilting visitors are welcome.

## I Went Walking Story Stroll at Arrowhead Library System

MT. IRON- You're invited to a Story Stroll at Arrowhead Library System (ALS) on Thursday, May 20 from 1-4 p.m. The featured title will be I Went Walking by Sue Williams, illustrated by Julie Vivas. The Story Stroll will contain laminated big book pages attached to metal stakes placed at eight-foot intervals in a safe environment for families. This activity combines the joy of reading with the benefits of being active outdoors. Visitors are encouraged to park in the front lot and signs will be posted. Following your stroll, select free books from the ALS Little Free Bookmobile and pick up a take-andmake craft! This self-guided event is suitable for toddler and preschool-aged kids and their families. This event will take place rain or shine. Arrowhead Library System is located at 5528 Emerald Ave. in Mt. Iron.

# ALS summer programming for kids

**REGIONAL-** Arrowhead Library System invites kids and families of all ages living in Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis counties to COLOR YOUR WORLD by participating in two exciting and engaging summer programs this year. Get out your crayons, markers, pens, pencils or paint; ALS is offering a Reading Colors Your World Bookmark Design Contest. Kids of all ages are encouraged to print off the bookmark template at https://www.alslib.info/reading-programs/ and create a unique design. Entries must be submitted via mail and postmarked on or before August 27. Prizes will be awarded for the five most creative submissions. Entries can be mailed to: Arrowhead Library System Bookmark Design Contest, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768 ALS is also offering a Reading Colors Your World Summer Activity Postcard Program this year. Kids who sign up will receive four activity postcards throughout the summer months encouraging them to be creative, to explore, and to learn new things. Everyone in a household may sign up to participate as we know it's always fun to get mail! The program is geared towards kids of all ages and their family members, however anyone can participate. To sign up, visit https://tinyurl.com/2021ALSPostcards and complete the form for each participant.

# ELY ARTS AND HERITAGE CENTER

# **Summer Art Camp for kids opens June 7**



ELY - Ely Arts and Heritage Center's annual three-day Summer Children's Art Camp opens Monday, June 7 at 8:45 a.m.

Camp will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7-9 from 9 a.m. until noon at a cost of \$50 per student. Summer visitors are welcome to register and attend. Applications are available online at the Ely Arts and Heritage Center website, the What's Up Ely, MN Facebook page, and the Ely Public Library.

Begun by volunteers at Whiteside Park in 1998, Art Camp moved to Semer's Park for several years and found a permanent home at the Miners Dry in 2008. The Dry is located just below the Pioneer Mine Headframe on N Pioneer Road, at 105 Miners Lake Landing Road.

There are four class sessions each day this year and a healthy snack is included. This year's art camp features drawing,

stenciling a camp T-shirt, personalizing a walking stick, creating and painting a clay fish and stegosauras, making musical instruments, and learning rhythm and crafting spool racers.

Syverson.

610-3812.

At noon on Wednesday,

June 9, parents and friends

are invited to the Miners

Dry for an Art Show fea-

turing the works of the

students and a short musical

contact Co-Chairs Muffin

Nelson at 218-235-1912

or Sue Syverson at 319-

For more information,

instrument performance.

Students also will have guided tours of the Pioneer Mine Shaft House.

Art teachers this year include Paya and Gail deMarcken, Judy Fredrickson, Bret and Kate Dale, Lee Nelson, Nancy Hernesma and Lowell

# SISU HERITAGE Sauna Day celebration set for June 12



EMBARRASS- Join Sisu Heritage to celebrate the Finnish tradition of sauna on National Sauna Day, Saturday, June 12. The family-friendly event is outdoors, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nelimark Homestead and Museum in Embarrass.

Finnish beef mojakka will be available for lunch. Traveling saunas and Lamppa sauna stoves will be on display, along with games for kids and adults. demonstrations and door prizes. Shannon Gunderson and her son Preston will

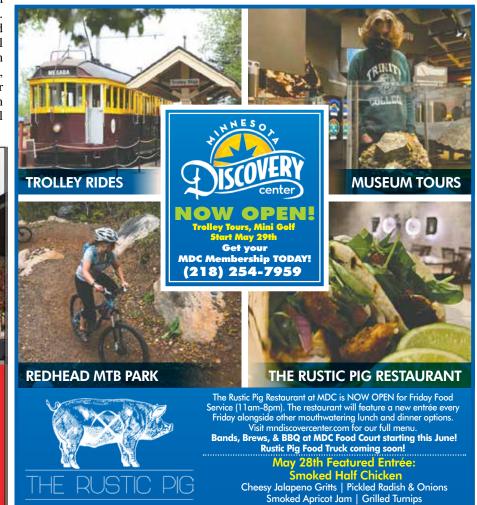
provide music from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Farmstead Artisans' gift shop will be open, offering free coffee and selling an array of handmade and homemade goodies, including pulla. The shop has aprons, notecards, T-shirts, Finnish ceramics, books, rugs and much more. Tour the museum rooms, the buildings on the grounds, including the historic sauna, and the old farm implements.

National Sauna Day is sponsored by these generous local businesses: C&CWingerConstruction,

Mealey's Gift and Sauna Shop, Wintergreen Northern Wear, Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union and Benville Service.

The Nelimark is located on Hwy. 21 at the intersection with Salo Rd., across from the fire hall.





#### ENTERTAINMENT

# Ely's State Theater ready for "epic summer season"

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – If the COVID-19 pandemic challenged anybody in Ely in the past year, the prize may well go to this city's Historic State Theater. After sitting empty for a dozen years and following an extensive renovation and restoration project by a dedicated group of volunteers, the landmark entertainment center opened its doors last June in the midst of public health concerns over the coronavirus.

With social distancing and capacity limits in place, a movie theater seemed

off limits. The non-profit Day weekend, a second theater's board of directors wondered how they would survive. Mere survival was not the plan; it was only a bump in the road.

On the cusp of a new summer season and a waning pandemic, this city's Historic State Theater marked a truly historic occasion this week with the unveiling of a bronze plaque on the exterior of the landmark, marking the placement of the theater on the National Register of Historic Places.

And on Memorial

screening room venue, the Greenstone Cinema, is set to open to the public, built in the adjacent building that once housed Salerno Land Sales, joining a new pop-up cafe and the theater's expanded concessions area that opened earlier this year.

'It is a beautiful theater, all thanks to the Ely community stepping up and saying with their dollars and their support that they want a theater to operate in this town," said David Wigdahl, chair of the EHST Board of Directors.



Citv of Elv officials and Elv Historic State Theater board members gathered Wednesday morning for an unveiling ceremony. photo by J. Greeney

"It's hard to believe we're coming up on our second summer since re-opening

the State Theater last June.'

Wigdahl referred to See **THEATER...**pg. 5

#### **CELEBRATIONS**

# Tower's Fourth of July parade set for Saturday July, 3

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- It's back! Tower's Fourth of July parade is set for Saturday, July 3, take-off time as usual at 11 a.m. The parade and related festivities were canceled last year due to the

pandemic.

About a dozen floats have already signed up for the parade, but the board still needs to hear from all businesses, families, organizations, and individuals who plan on having an entry in the parade. Everyone who wants to par-

ticipate should contact Julie Johnson at tseventsboard@ gmail.com, or by phone/ text at 218-750-7242.

The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board, which oversees planning for the event, is still working on finalizing the rest of the weekend's

activities. Fireworks will take place at dusk on July 3, from the hill north of Tower.

The committee is now fundraising on a tighter deadline than normal, raising money for parade and children's game expenses, as well as for the fireworks. Donation

cans are being set up at area businesses, and \$1 raffle tickets will be on sale soon. Donations can also be mailed to: Tower-Soudan Fourth of July, POBox 461, Tower, MN 55790.

The Vermilion 5K/10K run will also take place on Saturday, July 3. This year the race will have a professional timing system, thanks to the Range Runners group. Online race pre-registrations will be encouraged; watch for information in the next couple of weeks. Anyone

See PARADE....pg. 5



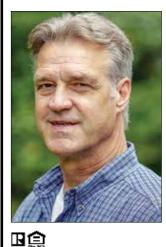
# If you are thinking of selling! Now's the time. Give us a call

www.vermilionland.com • info@vermilionland.com

Cook 218-666-6183

Tower 218-753-8985





# Edina Realty.

Virginia

## 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

#### www.TheLakeCountry.com

Ash River-\$235,000 2 BR home in Bear Ridge CIC with access to 155 ft of shared shoreline, a dock and boat slip, gazebo near lake with grill and 1/10 share of all common areas. MLS#140055

PRICE REDUCED! Orr-\$244,000 3 BR home with 2 garages on 5.45 acres. Newly remodeled, furnished and has new hot water heat boiler, water heater, electric service, and all new appliances in the last few years. MLS#141047

Ban Lake, Orr-\$115,000 21.75 wooded acres with 1,760 ft of shoreline on Ban Lake. MLS#140882

Pickerel Lake, Effie-\$84,000 3.28 acre waterfront lot with approx. 206 ft shoreline. MLS#141036





218-666-5352 info@bicrealty.com · www.bicrealty.com

TOWER Remote 80 acres with mixture of high and low land located outside of Tower. Owens Creek runs through the middle of the property. MLS #140781 \$45,000

LAKE VERMILION Large homesite with 209 ft lksh and 3.2 acres. Access via a private easement road. Build on one of MN's most desirable lakes. MLS# 132690 PRICE REDUCED! \$154,000

LAKE VERMILION 2 BR, 1 BA cabin on Canfield Bay, Pine Island. Towering pines, secluded bay view, wet boathouse, 200 ft lksh, .80 acre lot. **MLS# 141385 NEW LISTING!** 

**NOW IS THE TIME TO SELL!** We are looking for listings!! Properties are selling fast. If you've thought about selling now is the time!! We are here to help you make the right decisions and guide you through every step of the process! Free market analysis usible he advisation market analysis available. No obligation. Contact us today and let us help you with your property needs! ~ B.I.C. Realty

I MLs We sell the North! 🖻

\_ERWILLIAMS CLASSIC REALTY NORTHWEST The NorthMnLakes Group David Lanari Realtor® 218.750.8345 www.northmnlakes.com • david@northmnlakes.com Serving Lake Vermilion & Surrounding Area

# 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

# A future for We the People?

# Will changing views allow America to start investing in the future again?

America has something to prove.

Nearly a quarter of a millennium ago, our founding fathers bet on the ability of "We the People" to best chart our own future. And while the results have at times been mixed, the United States has, throughout most of that period, demonstrated a remarkable optimism about the future. It is that optimism that allowed this country to continually invest for tomorrow. We invested in education, in public health, in rural electrification, in airports and an interstate highway system. We invested in our people, providing a safety net that ensured that people and families didn't fall off a financial cliff when life threw them a curveball.

These were investments that we made, as a nation, which continued through most of the 20th Century, and they helped to position the U.S. as the most advanced country on the planet. This was the America that proved to the world that our founders, warts and all, had created a form of government that could long endure, while serving the people.

Yet as President Biden stated in his April 28 joint address to Congress, the world isn't so sure about America anymore. They've watched since the 1980s as an increasingly divided and partisan Congress has been unable to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. They've scratched their heads as so many Americans turned on their own government, having failed to recognize the degree to which the government was instrumental in so much of the country's development over two centuries.

At a time when American government seems almost paralyzed, the rest of the world isn't standing by. "We're in a competition with China and other countries to win the 21st Century," said Biden during his recent joint address. He added that Chinese President Xi Jinping was "deadly earnest" about making China the most consequential nation on Earth. And China, and other nations, have been leaving America in the dust. In fact, America isn't going to win the future, or even have much of a future as a self-governing nation, unless we can begin to think like a nation again. "There is nothing we can't do when we do it together," is one of President Biden's favorite lines. And it's more than a rhetorical flourish. Throughout America's history, we proved that when we think and act as a nation, there is no limit to what we can achieve. Throughout human history, it is only through collective action

that we have been able to make real progress.

America has always had its issues and disagreements, but we still managed to recognize that we had the ability to shape the future for the better. That began to change during the 1980s, which proved to be a pivotal decade in American history. As time has gone by, the harmful effects of the so-called Reagan Revolution have become clearer. While Reagan was an optimist, who believed America's best days were still to come, by casting government and public investment as the enemy of the people, Reagan, perhaps unwittingly, undermined the country's ability to address major issues. Reagan, like many Americans, bought into the now largely discredited theories of Milton Friedman, who believed that free markets were the solution to all of humanity's problems. In Milton Friedman's world, there was little need or room for government involvement or public investment, since the market would provide.

While markets are great at motivating self-interested action, they've proven unable to address the public good. Markets can't build a highway, create a national park, fight climate change, or establish an equitable distribution of vaccines in the midst of a pandemic.

For more than 40 years, America suffered from the delusion that some "invisible hand" could run the country. It, of course, was ridiculous. And America has been falling behind the rest of the world ever since.

If there's one worthwhile fatality of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is, perhaps, the death of the Reagan Revolution and the idea that there's no role for government to play in improving the lives of average Americans. When the chips were down, the vast majority of Americans turned to government for solutions. The "invisible hand" was nowhere to be seen. Now, America is being asked to start planning for our own future again. While President Biden's infrastructure plan comes with a hefty price tag, it's a drop in the bucket when viewed against the past four decades of underinvestment in the country. Other countries are transforming themselves in extraordinary ways, while America has fallen into disrepair and disinterest. There are those in this world who say America's promise can never be delivered. That a government of "We the People," cannot meet the demands of the 21st Century. Perhaps it's time for America to prove those critics wrong.



# Letters from Readers

## Are you proud to say no to the local cemetery?

Greenwood Township board members Carmen DeLuca and Mike Ralston, I would hang my head low for not wanting to give a

donation to the Tower Cemetery. Many former Greenwood residents are now buried in the Tower Cemetery. Over four hundred of our veterans, service men and women, who gave their lives for you, now rest in the Tower Cemetery.

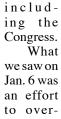
We, the Tower Cemetery Association, maintain the cemetery grounds for the many, and I stress MANY, who go to the cemetery to pay respect to their loved ones. I get many remarks on our cemetery sexton, John Zaitz, and his crew and what a fine job they do.

Leonard Stefanich **Tower Cemetery** Association

# COMMENTARY We must learn from the attack on the U.S. Capitol

With a new administrationnow in office, it is tempting to put the disturbing events of Jan. 6 behind us. But we should not dismiss - or fail to learn from - what

happened when the president of the United States incited his followers to storm the an insurrection carried Capitol and try to overturn a lawfully decided election. The event was a dark moment in our history, a crisis that showed we are living in a time of great stress for our republic. The chaos and violence may turn out to be short-lived, but the anger and rage they represent will remain, and we will have to deal with that. There is bipartisan acknowledgment that Donald Trump's incitement of violence created a threat to our country and our institutions of government. Now we must work to repair the credibility, viability, and legitimacy of our democratic institutions,



an effort to overthrow the democratic process through force. News

media shifted in real time from reporting on a protest to describing out by a mob. Watching

HAMILTON

to see a return to the business of governing: representatives making speeches, engaging in meetings, reaching agreements, and doing the people's business.

In our lifetimes, we watch and participate in many elections. The voters speak, and we may not have liked the results, but we accept them. The reaction to losing is to move on and come back another day to correct what went wrong. In the November 2020 election, President Trump claimed, falsely, that the election was "stolen." Many of his followers believed him. This is the first time I can remember that a large bloc of people did not accept the results of an election. It is obvious many people in this country do not trust the system, are willing to believe lies and misinformation, and will turn to violence and to radical ideologies. That loss of confidence in American institutions is very dangerous for a democracy. Trump is not the only cause for the violence at the Capitol, but he certainly contributed

to it. He should be held responsible through appropriate legal processes.

At the same time, our leaders need to rediscover our traditional system. We cannot solve our problems if we do not talk to each other. We need principled leaders who are pragmatic, skilled, and experienced in the arts of negotiation, compromise, and consensus building.

The world is watching. America is a beacon of freedom and a citadel of liberty, and our friends and allies have been surprised and disappointed, at the events of recent days. Our adversaries are persuaded our system is broken. This is the challenge that is ahead of us: to use our democratic institutions and processes to make the country work better for all people. The insurrection at the Capitol was a dark moment in our history. But we should see it as an opportunity to revitalize our democracy. We have done this in years past, scores if not hundreds of times. We can do it again.

the violent scenes play out on television was deeply disturbing.

I walked through the halls of Congress for decades as a member and as a visitor, and I never lost an appreciation of the Capitol itself and all that it stands for. This magnificent structure has been a symbol of our democracy for 200 years. There, I have watched hundreds if not thousands of members of Congress and staff commit their lives to making the United States a better country. But today in this era of extreme partisanship, the institution seems broken. I want to see it function again. I want

# My great Michigan vacation

Well, first things first .... time to step up to the plate and say my KETO diet temporarily went by the wayside. I went to see my doc and she said my triglycerides were going up and suggested I try a plan that was "lowfat". That was dis-

couraging. I was told by Chocolate Bunny got in



the way. Then efforts at a KETO restructure were further annihilated by the upcoming trip to Michigan with my son and his fiance. I did not undo all of my efforts, a few pounds and that's a good thing, but I can say in confidence that Upper Michigan has really superb fudge. I'd forgotten how really

exciting going on vacation can be. Like so many others, I got to Virginia several times and maybe Duluth towards the easing days of COVID precautions and after receiving my two vaccination shots. We three headed to Upper Michigan on a Wednesday afternoon following the Timberjay press deadline and were aiming for Marquette that afternoon. It had been a toss-up to travel to the Black Hills or the Upper Peninsula. We had already seen the Black Hills, so headed east to Yooperland. I hopped into the back seat with my pillow and big toothy grin. It was a new

and rare opportunity for me to be a back-seat driver for the entire trip! I did not even drive for one mile the entire distance to Mackinaw City and back.

I gave my young travel partners the chance to dump me and go on the trip by themselves but they really wanted me there and I was glad. The plan was to split expenses three ways. I had decided to try to "go with the flow" and soon discovered that millennials don't do as much planning as my generation. My son was annoyed when I had asked him if he had put figures on paper in regard to what food, hotels, gas would cost? He replied "Mom you get so uptight about everything; we are bringing tons of money.' I replied, "Good, because I'm not." Ya know, I'm not dishin' out the wad this time kids.

At home, my elderly cat had been seeking

See MICHIGAN...pg. 5

#### SCAM WATCH

# **Beware of Social Security scams**

REGIONAL- World Elder Abuse Awareness Dav is on Tuesday, June 15. On this day, and throughout the month, communities, seniors, caregivers, governments, organizations, and the private sector unite to prevent the mistreatment of and violence against older people.

Social Security imposter scams are widespread across the United States. Scammers use sophisticated tactics to deceive you into providing sensitive information or money. They target everyone-even the elderly - and their tactics continue to evolve.

Most recently, Social Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has received reports of phone scammers creating fake versions of the identification badges most federal employees use to gain access to federal buildings. The scammers may text or email photos of the fake badges to convince

potential victims of their legitimacy. These badges use government symbols. words, and even names and photos of real people, which are available on government websites or through internet searches.

If you receive a suspicious letter, text, email, or call, hang up or do not respond. You should know how to identify when it's really Social Security.

Social Security will NEVER:

>Text or email images

of an employee's official government identification. ► Suspend your Social

Security number.

► Threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee.

► Require payment by retail gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or cash by mail.

▶ Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.

► Send official letters or reports containing your

personal information via email.

Social Security will only send text messages if you have opted in to receive texts and only in limited situations, including the following:

► When you have subscribed to receive updates and notifications by text.

► As part of enhanced security when accessing your personal my Social Security account.

If you owe money, they will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights.

You are encouraged to report suspected Social Security imposter scams, and other Social Security fraud, to the OIG website at oig.ssa.gov. You may read previous Social Security fraud advisories at oig.ssa. gov/newsroom/news-release. Please share this information with your friends and family to help spread awareness about Social Security imposter scams.

# MICHIGAN...Continued from page 4

comfort on my shoulder and in my arms for months, before him it was my older female cat. So back-to-back felines cuddling, sneezing and aging faster than a movie star, had been on my shoulder for the past two years. It was past time for me to have a vacation. The kids had their ideas of places to stop and we took in some scenic views all along the way. I had been on the Upper Penninsula when I was twenty-three and remember longer stretches of woods bordering the roads. It is a bit more populated nowadays but then again I may have been napping and missed the dense forest stretches. As a young girl I had traveled that way with my parents to stay at an aunt's cabin on Lake Superior. I will always remember how big and blue and exciting it was to look at. The thoughts were altered after feeling the deep prolonged chill of its iciness. We did not go up to those towns on this trip but I plan to visit and

explore them in the future. I'm calling the whole area "my new Bayfield" because I exhausted that area with another travel partner years ago and fresh territory has now been discovered.

We shared a nice lakeside suite at a hotel in Marquette. It was very enjoyable to walk the wide boardwalk along Lake Superior's south shore and watch the seagulls and other birds roosting and carrying-on across the water on a small island. Later. the kids went to retrieve a great pizza to eat-in and I lounged while they fetched. Wine, pizza and laughter filled the first night. The next day we checked out a "Green Goods" store, a legal recreational and medical marijuana dispensary. None of us had been to one before, but in Michigan marijuana use is legal and we were curious. It was very interesting, and I was surprised as I didn't know what to expect. It was like when my second husband dragged me into a strip bar

in Gilbert after my spoken curiosity of such places over the course of time aggravated him to the point of action. Upon entering the strip joint, I couldn't look up from the floor for about fifteen minutes. It felt a bit like that going into this dispensary. I thought it might be seedy, like so many tobacco shops with poor lighting, smelling of cheap incense, with skinny patrons wearing saggy dirty pants. Not so! I thought it was like visiting an AT&T store, actually, because it was so clean and uncluttered. Under glass at the various display counters were the "buds" under domed magnifying glass for close viewing. One might expect an insect of some kind. I was thinking I should be viewing a crown jewel or something besides cannabis erectus. Under another counter were candies such as gummies and chocolate bars, or "edibles" as they are called. We learned from one of the local restaurant waiters that

at Marquette's Northern Michigan University, there is an undergraduate degree program on cannabis studies for focus on either the science or business side of the plant. It was interesting to imagine anyone trying to accomplish studying for exams after any sporty indulgence of the herb. Hey, I'm not here to judge...just sayin! After checking out the town a bit the next day and enjoying some more great food, we headed toward the five-mile Mackinac Bridge that separates Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. I filled the back seat again with my very relaxed vacationing self. We drove south and traveled along the north shore of Lake Michigan where the sand sweeps across the road every chance it gets. I was getting a bit nervous about the bridge. Tales of it "blowin' in the wind" were sketching me out.

My son started driving across the bridge and pulled over to the right lane

where I glanced over at the rolling waves below. Immediately my fear of heights forced me to zip across the seat upholstery and ride the center hump for the duration. I felt silly, as if it would make any difference if the wind blew us off the bridge...but somehow. I was more at ease. A calm matriarch is key on any family vacation. In Mackinaw City we investigated an old fort, collected lots of white lime rocks and agates from the shore, and stayed overnight. It's very much like a set for a movie rather than a real historic town with a typical city hall, churches and such. It seems something like a Main Street renovation program came in and tore all the authenticity from the place. I don't care for that. In the morning we rode the ferry over to Mackinac Island as no cars are permitted on the island. The goal was fudge and sweatshirts and we succeeded. We didn't ride bikes or hike

it was drizzling, and flowers were not in bloom. Perhaps another time. There were many charming horsedrawn carriages taking the place of all motorized vehicles. We poked around the next day and ended up staying in another hotel in Ironwood after visiting my favorite antique shop and eating a pastie, of course. If you travel Michigan's Upper Penninsula and don't have fudge and a pastie you might as well have just stayed home! We had lovely weather and I felt I could have relocated to Marquette for a fresh start and all new things. I think a good vacation should have that effect on a person. While pulling my suitcase into a hotel I was reminded again of how fun it is to travel and that I need to do it more often.

Scarlet, telling it like it is, appreciates your comments and can be reached at scarletstone60@gmail. com.

# **THEATER**...Continued from page 3-

"an epic summer experience" last week in announcing the summer lineup at the EHST.

"I'mproud to announce our summer line up," he said. "With the opening of the Greenstone Cinema on Friday, May 28, we'll use this space to screen the biggest releases of the summerontheiropeningday including 'F9' and 'Black Widow.'The State Theater, will continue to play recent films for four to six after their release, along with a family matinee." "On top of that, we're introducing two new series: Summer Classics and Stages On Screen,"Wigdahl added. "Every Tuesday and Thursday, the Summer Classics series will bring the biggest hits of old to the big screen, including Blues Brothers, Terminator, Dirty Dancing, and more. Every Wednesday and Sunday, the Stages On Screen series will bring world famous live theater performances to the big screen, including Frankenstein (starring Benedict Cumberbatch), Kinky Boots, and more."

movies, the venue will have five different movies playing every week. To share the fun and excitement with the whole community, a Summer Pass, at a cost of \$25, can be redeemed for up to eight movies. "That's a \$40 value," he said. "Grab one while you can, and we'll see you at the movies."

Cinema will allow for booking first-run newly-released movies. "To show a film on opening day, distributors require exclusive, continuous use of the screen for a minimum of two and as many as four weeks," he said. "Having a second screen provides space to meet these requirements while also freeing up the larger State Theater for live performances and special events." While the smaller 50-seat Greenstone Cinema construction was being finished, Wigdahl gave a brief tour. "Fans will love the large, comfortable, rocker-type theater seats," he said. "The cup holder arms even tilt up and away for date night. This second screening room is all part of our larger plan to turn the theater into a venue not only for movies, but concerts, shows, conferences and other events.' He credited "creative experimentation" for the options available in the new concessions area located adjacent to the State. Earlier this month, an exclusive release of the new Blueberry Borealis

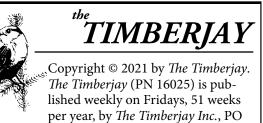
cider drew a large crowd for a pre-release party.

Beverages such as wine, beer and hard cider on tap, soda and the newly added Bubly water "first on fountain in the Arrowhead" are available, Wigdahl added.

Freshly popped popcorn, Belgian snack waffles, candy and more round out the movie-go ing experience. "We want everyone to know that the cafe is open before, during and after theater events, and not just to those attending a theater event," he said. "The general public and downtown shoppers are all welcome to come in to a family-friendly place and sample our fare.' Plans to expand the lower level, that features a unique ledge rock outcropping, are still under consideration. "We are looking at expanding bar service down there for our customers. That is part of our Phase 3 expansion," he said.

and Alley A Realty, H & Theaters of Ely." **B** Construction, Burntside Electric, and Custom

around the island because



Between the two film series and EHST's regular

The Summer Pass runs Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Ely's Historic State Theater is also equipped for live theatrical productions. Just prior to the coronavirus pandemic, The Quiltmaker's Gift played to packed houses in January 2020 and showcased local talent.

While COVID-19 raged across the world, the EHST hosted an adapted opera, 'The Medium,' with the Northern Lights Music Festival. Molly Olson and the Reflections Dance Company also conducted a mixed media event in the State Theater last summer. "We even hosted a live concert recording of Stevie Nicks last year," Wigdahl added.

The new Greenstone

Wigdahl added, "I also want to thank all of our local laborers who helped restore this historic venue, including the Tanner Ott family

**PARADE**...Continued from page 4

with questions can email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org.

Volunteers are needed to help run the children's races, which take place in the afternoon at the Tower School field. The Dostert family has been in charge of the races for many, many years, and they are willing to mentor a new group of volunteers to keep this traditional, and popular, activity going into the future. Anyone wanting to learn more about the races should call Greg Dostert at 218-248-0648.

Breitung Township will make a decision on hosting their traditional free community picnic at their next board meeting on May 27, which possibly would be held on Sunday, July 4.

The Fourth of July Committee has asked if the Tower-Soudan Community Band can play for the parade this year, because they are expecting that high school bands will not be playing. The group is recruiting some additional musicians for the group. The plan is to play a few tunes in front of Tower City Hall (including

The Star Spangled Banner) and then to ride and play on a flat-bed truck in the front of parade so band members can rejoin their families to watch the rest of the parade.

Please dig out your instrument and recruit others. If you have any questions, please text or call 218-393-2036, or email enorberg14@gmail.com.



Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

#### **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to** The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher General Manager Cook/Orr Editor Ely Editor Staff Writer Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports

Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Keith Vandervort Stephanie Ukkola M. M. White Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

#### Official Newspaper:

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: \$39 year Elsewhere: \$54 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/ AmEx. 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 and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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

#### 6 May 21, 2021

## **TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS**

# Week of May 23

## 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 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is June 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

# Clarifications

GREENWOOD TWP-Greenwood Township is designating their American Rescue Act funding for a possible broadband project match, not CARES Act funding, which was expended last year. Whether or not the township would be eligible for RDOF funding depends on whether or not LTD, the company awarded the federal funding for this region, is able to demonstrate they have adequate capital on hand to complete the required projects, as well as some other factors. This will not be known for several months.



MAIN STREET SPRUCE UP



Above: You'd be smiling too if your parents were opening up a new ice cream shop in Tower. From left: Drake, Tavery, Stone, and Kingston Bastron help paint the front of their family's new ice cream store on Tower's Main Street. South Shore Creamery hopes to open in early June. The family, which also includes one older boy and one younger girl, had originally planned to be open in late May, but the renovations on the old Hendrickson building are taking a little longer than initially planned. The boys were being supervised by their parents Brittany and Tim, who was busy painting the upper portions of the storefront.

Left: Vermilion Fuel and Food owner Terry Wagoner reinstalls the store's lettering, after repainting and repairing the storefront.

Both projects received funding from TEDA this year. Wagoner's project included roof repairs, new siding, and electrical upgrades. The Bastons used their funding for some of the equipment they needed to install in their new shop. They are two of the nine local businesses that received TEDA funding this year.

photos by J. Summit

# Memorial Day display at the old fire hall

TOWER- On Methe memory of members battle.

in battle or as a result of morial Day, we honor wounds sustained during

sung heroes from the the windows of the Old Fire Hall on Tower's Main Street.

ries. These are unsung Tower-Soudan area are heroes of the Tower-Soucurrently on display in dan area. Say their names and share their stories. This display was created by the Tower Soudan Historical Society as a tribute to our local heroes and in lieu of the traditional Memorial Day celebration, which in time we hope to enjoy once again.



of the military who died



Photos of those un-





These are familiar names representing generations of residents who fought in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Please join with us to say their names and remember. They were neighbors, relatives, grandparents, parents, and friends. Those who knew them tell their sto-

At left: Part of the photographic display honoring World War II vets who died in action.



The Town of Soudan will be flushing hydrants

# Tuesday, May 25 starting at 8 a.m.

**Residents should expect** discolored water and irregular water pressure.

Tower Cemetery Association is asking for your continued support.

# **THANK YOU**

Checks are to be made out to: **Tower Cemetery Association** PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790

> Thank you, The Tower Cemetery Board

Published in the Timberjay, May 21, 28, June 4, 18 & 25, 2021

VFW Auxiliary member Betsy Clark, from Northwoods Land Office, sold poppies in front of Zup's last Friday, a fundraiser for area Veterans programs. photo by J. Summit

## COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Men's Coffee every Thursday at the Little Church

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will be starting Men's Coffee and Conversation every Thursday from 9 - 10 a.m. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/ Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.



#### **Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board** to meet

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Friday, May 28 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days in Tower. Requests for funding should be submitted in writing to Terri Joki-Martin at Tower City Hall, or mailed to Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790. The joint powers board is funded by the city and surrounding townships. The board donates money for youth activities in the Tower-Soudan area.

## WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

# In the good ol' days: Dancing the night away

by DAVID KESS Ely-Winton Historical Society

There was a time when it was commonplace to dress up on Saturday night to go dancing at a local bar. Men wore suits, ladies were in dresses and high heels, with jewelry and elegant hairdos.

The local establishments featured live musicgood dance music-with talented local musicians. Babysitters were much in demand on these Saturday nights!

In its heyday, Ely was reported to have 31 bars but only a few had real dance floors. Among them were Dee's Bar, John's Bar, the American Legion, and the National Home. Occasionally the Moose Club and Matty Kapsch's brought in live music. Others, such as Fritz's, Phil's and Forsman's, were considered taverns that served up socialization and liquid refreshments where men, especially miners, could relax with a "beer and a bump."

Matty's and the Moose Club once stood on the corner where Canadian Waters now has canoes and flower gardens. The buildings themselves are long gone, as is the music store next door. Dee's is still here, but the building once housing John's Bar is being remodeled for the Crapola enterprise. The Forest Hotel and the Legion burned to the ground and



The Indhars and Levars played at the Vermilion Telethon. photo courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

were replaced with the Frandsen Bank building. The National Home building was repurposed, with the upstairs now the home of Cyko Arts Studios and Susan Laine's cake kitchen.

The orchestras or dance bands in those bars featured rather professional music. The musicians played the piano, organ, trumpet, French horn, saxophone, bass, violin, accordion, drums, along with vocals.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Hugo Kleemola, Ernie Anderson, Herbie Rosenbloom, Johnnie Smrekar, and Lloyd Carlson played in a group called the Five Aces. Kitten and the Keys-anyone remember

them? Elmer Ronka played a mean saxophone and Audie Graves the clarinet in a group whose name has somehow disappeared.

Sometime later Ina and Floyd Dunstan, John Smrekar, Pete Moroni, Katherine Merhar, and Charley Lassey entertained at John's Bar. Ann Chrep not only kept an immaculate bar but she was just as fussy about the musicians she hired. Her husband John Chrep dutifully oversaw the operation. The bar had a spacious well-waxed dance floor. The Shepel sisters, Josephine and Frances, and their brother Frank often performed there and in other establishments as

well.

Remember these tunes? Barney Google, Silver Threads Among The Gold, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Unchained Melody, Autumn Leaves, Fascination, Harbor Lights, Dear Heart, Love Is A Many Splendored Thing, Everybody Loves Somebody, That's Amore ...

The Melodaires included Floyd "Floppy" Dunstan, Jim Strang, Phil Godec, Katherine Merhar, Josephine Luthanen. Not to be forgotten are the Barich Brothers and their sister Sophie. Big Bands' swing and jazz music were all the rage from about 1933 to 1947 with some of the

aforementioned groups still making music on into the 1960s.

In 1959 the Bopcats organized with Ed Steklasa, Joe Palcher, Mike Weinzerl, John Salo, and Ronan James. Their music was different from the earlier dance bands. It was a new era. They were followed by the Electras with Earl and Bill Bulinski, Tim Elving, Jerry Fink, Gary Omerza, and Harvey Korkki. Players changed but both groups remained popular for years.

Saturday evenings provided much listening enjoyment too, but dancing still was an occasion to "go out" on a Saturday night. Dancing often followed wedding receptions held in the Community Center or in church basements. Back in the day, jukeboxes took the place of live bands.

A sobering realization for me has been to find the almost complete absence now of "old timers" to whom I could turn for information. At 77, I am an old timer now. Scary to think I have so few "sources." Should you find errors or additions to the groups and names mentioned here, please do not hesitate to call me at 218-365-3928 or the historical society at 218-365-3226. The office email is ewhsmuseum@gmail. com. Pictures and old sheet music are featured in the society's lobby at VCC on until the first week of July.

245

≻7th Avenue East-Washington Street

"Construction on these projects

includes road closure of 7th Avenue

between Washington and Miner's Drive,

temporary water installation and remov-

als on West Shagawa Road, and erosion

control and grading operations at Semer's

Park Beach Area and Trezona Trail,"

roadway and trail closures. We apologize

for any inconvenience and appreciate your

patience as we complete these needed

improvements to the streets and infra-

"Please watch for signage and

For more information, call Langowski

# Higher Ed

## Mann honored at **MSU-Moorhead**

ELY - Logan Mann, of Ely, along with 770 other students, received a degree at Minnesota State University-Moorhead, at a graduation ceremony last weekend.

Mann earned a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production.

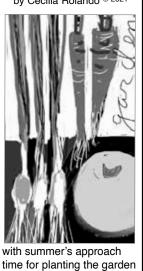
## **Omerza honored** at **MSCTC**

ELY - Eric Omerza, of Ely, was among the 700 Spring Semester 2021 graduates of Minnesota State Community and Technical College, with campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena.

He received an Electrical Line Worker Diploma.

## **Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



by august there's food

# ibraries

#### 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: 827-3	345

## Support groups

AA - Alcoholics



The Ely Winter Festival Board of Directors recently donated \$581 to the

OUR COMMUNITY



The Ely and Babbitt fire departments were dispatched last Tuesday afternoon for a garage fire in Ely in the 200 block of West Chapman Street. According to Ely Fire Chief David Marshall, Ely firefighters found a single-car garage fully involved in flames, and were able to quickly knock down the blaze. The garage and a vintage MG British sports car inside the structure were destroyed. "The cause was determined to be a mechanical problem with the car," Marshall said. No injuries were reported. Because the garage was determined to be structurally unsafe, it was demolished by the Ely Public Works Department. Other agencies assisting at the scene included the Ely Police Department, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, and the U.S. Border Patrol. Photo courtesy of Ely Fire Department

#### Studio North Dance Recital

ELY - The annual Studio North Dance Recital, celebrating 22 years, will be held on Saturday, June 5 at Whiteside Park. Two shows for "Shall We Dance" will Ely Rotary Club be held, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Tickets are available now at Studio North. Children 2 and under get free admission. Adults - \$10 in advance/\$11 at gate. Students - \$8 in advance/ \$9 at gate.

Bring your chair and join us for a fun, festive day of dancing in the park," said Studio North owner Nicole Boitz. "Our dancers have been working hard throughout the year and are ready to hit the stage. Enjoy a variety of dance styles, bright costumes and upbeat music.'

Concessions will be available throughout the event. Wilderness Wood Fire Pizza will be available, along with popcorn, snow cones and more.

The gates will open at 10 a.m. for the first show at 11 a.m. A lunch break will be held from noon to 1 p.m. The second show begins at 1 p.m. Tickets purchased will be valid for one or both shows.

Ely Schools' STEAM Program, (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Instructor and coordinator Molly Olson accepted the check. Since 2018 the Ely Winter Festival has donated \$1 to an Ely Schools' arts program for each festival pin sold. Other programs that received their support are the art program, the band program, and the choral program. Including this donation, \$2,450 has been donated to the Ely Schools. Recipient Molly Olson is joined by Ely Winter Festival board members Carol Orban, Diane Thomson and Debbie Cook. submitted photo

# City of Ely gets early start on summer projects

construction.

to Miner's Drive.

Langowski said.

structure," he added

ELY – With the early spring the 2021 infrastructure projects in the city of Ely are underway.

City officials will be providing weekly updates on the website, www.ely.mn.us, and also sharing on Facebook, according to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

The work under contract for 2021 includes:

► West Chapman Street from 1st Avenue West to 3rd Avenue West.

► West Shagawa Road-Pioneer Road to Bridge- House numbers 1-60.

Semer's Park Beach Paved Trailfrom the water plant area to the pavilion.

► Trezona Trail- Pave remaining gravel segment-North side Miner's Lake.

Hidden Valley Mountain Bike Trail

# marks 100 years

ELY - The Ely Rotary Club will celebrate its 100th year of service with an outdoor celebration at Whiteside Park on Saturday, Aug, 14.

The community-wide celebration includes an auction, live music, and plenty of food, topped off with a drawing for \$10,000 in cash prizes.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. and the auction will start mid-afternoon. A silent auction will start online days beforehand and migrate to the park that Saturday. There will be door prizes, special items, and more.

Food vendors will be open for lunch and throughout the day. There will be a "Big Top" tent with plenty of shade for the auction and seating, plus a beer/ beverage tent.

The Ely Rotary has been holding its annual fundraising auction for

more than 30 years, using the proceeds to serve the needs of the Ely area. Items in the auction are donated by area businesses whose support through the years has been paramount. Projects include park furniture, scholarships, and support for the library and youth groups, sponsoring foreign exchange students and more.

Raffle tickets are now available from any Rotary member, and only 400 will be sold at \$50 each.

Anonymous **OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely. **ELY WOMEN'S OPEN** AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 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., at Woodland Presbyterian. **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. Call 218-365-3359 218-827-3232, or

1-800-662-5711. **CAREGIVER SUPPORT** GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

# A fire chief's son gives to rural department Buyck truck conversion aided by \$1,500 donation from Cook agent

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

BUYCK- Cook State Farm Insurance Agent Tim Johnson has good reason to reserve a place in his heart for firefighters. His father was the fire chief in the "really small town" he grew up in.

So, when Johnson found himself in a conversation with Buyck Volunteer Fire Department Chief Kathy Weiand, he also found a perfect candidate for his agency's Quotes for Good program.

For the months of March and April, quotes Johnson made for insurance generated donations from his agency toward the Buyck department, and Weiand made sure there were plenty of quotes.

"She jumped on board right away, and they actually promoted it to people," Johnson said. "It was fun, and it's been fun to actually learn more about the department."

And it was even more fun when Johnson drove to Buyck on May 10 to present a \$1,500 check to Weiand and seven members of the department. They accepted the donation in front of a railroad fire truck they purchased last fall that will be reconfigured as part brush truck, part EMS truck.

"We need to furnish this because we don't want to take stuff off of our other trucks, and that's what this money is going to go

toward," Weiand said. It's an important combination, as in a typical year the 12-member department makes three times more EMS runs than fire calls.

"We have three or four fire calls a year, but we have like 13 EMS calls a year, so we go on a lot more of those," Weiand said. "And we even do rescue stuff. We work with St. Louis County Sheriff's rescue, and each year we do more and more training. So then, of course, it seems like we need more and more equipment."

Like many volunteer departments, the Buyck crew skews older in age, ranging from 46 on the young side to a well-seasoned 79 on the top end, but that hasn't dampened their enthusiasm for making improvements. In addition to the two pumpers and the new brush/EMS truck, the department bought a snowmobile sled to do snowmobile rescues.

"We work closely with Orr, but it's still a distance, and if we can get to them first, we can help them as much as we can before we can get them out," Weiand said.

And for those times when a critically injured patient needs to be transported by air ambulance, the crew recently worked together to create a designated landing zone near the station for a medevac helicopter. "We keep moving forward



Members of the Buyck Volunteer Fire Department look on as Fire Chief Kathy Weiand receives a \$1,500 donation from Cook State Farm Insurance Agent Tim Johnson. The department will use the money to convert the former railroad fire truck in the background into a combination brush truck and EMS unit. photo by D. Colburn

to keep making it easier for us to get help for everybody and all the residents here," Weiand said.

The independent volunteer department has been operating since 1976, and while it gets some state fire aid funding, fundraisers have been essential to keeping it going and growing. The signature event, the Pork/Corn Feed and Auction, has already been scheduled for Aug. 7. Three types of barbecued meat, sides brought by townsfolk, and auction items from businesses and individuals will be all be ready for the anticipated crowd.

"We've been doing that for over 40 years, Weiand said. "People just have a great time. They love it."

Later in the fall will be the annual gun raffle, and those who don't win the gun will likely be happy winning one of the consolation prizes, which Weiand said they change from year to year. They're also looking at the possibility of doing another fundraiser in conjunction

with an ATV or snowmobile club.

And if all that isn't quite enough for a dozen dedicated volunteers to do, there's yet another big project on the drawing board. Weiand gestured to a vacant church next door to the fire station.

"We own that church over there, and the property," she said. "Our plan is eventually to build some more garages off of there, and we'll use that for our training hall. We'll still hang on to (the station building) because then

we'll have more of our EMS stuff in here. Eventually, we hope to get a side-by-side to do ATV rescues with, so we'll have that equipment in here and have the bigger

trucks in the new garage." Weiand said that she and all of the department members were grateful to Johnson and everyone who called in asking for quotes.

"This community is so supportive," she said. "They'll do anything they can to help us, and apparently they did so."

# Summertime is celebration time in Cook and Orr Anticipation is growing for return of traditional community festivals

COOK/ORR-With Gov. Tim Walz saying for several weeks that Minnesotans would see a "return to normal" this summer, it's full steam ahead for Cook's Annual Timber Days festival and Orr's July 3rd Fun Day.

With planning for Timber Days commencing months ago, uncertainties

back some of the activities, such as the softball tournament, that wouldn't work within the state's COVID-19 guidelines.

But festival-goers can expect Friday, June 11, Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13 to have a full slate of activities and vendors to celebrate summer's return.

place, including a bean bag tournament and the firefighters' challenge on Friday, a car show, pet show, magic show, and Elvis show on Saturday, and lawnmower races, the parade and raffle drawing on Sunday. A fireworks display will be at dusk on Saturday at the community center park.

Days page on Facebook to keep up with the latest developments and learn more about activities and vendors.

## **Fun Day**

July 3rd Fun Day in Orr also will likely be scaled down from past celebrations, but still promises most of the reliable mainstays, organizer Sandy Wardas said.

"We're going to do the 5K walk/run for sure, and we're going to do the kiddie parade, tractor show, bean bag tournament, street dance, and the fireworks," she said.

What remains uncertain is what will become of the kids' games, crafters and vendors, and other entertainment and activ-

"I was kind of retiring before last year, and we're still looking for somebody to help, so that's why we're not going full bore this year," Wardas said. "I've advertised for some people to take over. We're just going to go with the flow. It's more than last year."

To keep all of the fun

then regarding the coronavirus pandemic forced the committee to scale

River Street and the

This is a partial list city park will be where of activities. Go to the most of the action takes Cook's Annual Timber ities. The challenge isn't COVID-19, it's finding volunteers.

in "fun day," Wardas invites volunteers to give her a call at 218-410-3532.

# COOK PUBLIC LIBRARY **Browsing is back with new** express visit option at library

COOK-The hours will be limited and COVID-19 safeguards will still be in place, but the Cook Public Library is welcoming patrons back inside the building this week.

Fifteen-minute "Express Visits" restore the chance to browse the collection that so many patrons love about the library experience. They will be offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m., and will also offer computer use, copying and faxing, as well as checkouts.

Masks are required, hand sanitizer is available, a limited number of people will be allowed in the building at one time, and social distance guidelines are in place. If you feel sick, please visit another day.

Bathrooms, meeting rooms and seating areas will not be available during express visits. Also unavailable will be in-person programs, newspapers, headphones, children's toys, games and puzzles.



Cook Public Library patrons who check out books during "Express Visits" won't have to go any farther than the library's pergola for a comfortable space to read, sitting in new furniture donated by the Friends of the Library.

The library will continue to offer lobby pick up, Monday – Thursday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For updates on library hours and services, visit www.cookpubliclibrary. org, call 218-666-2210, or email crystal.phillips@ alslib.info.

# THE ARTS Summer arts classes for kids coming to NWFA gallery

COOK-As the "Finding Light" photo contest exhibit continues through the end of the month, Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook is gearing up to offer four free arts classes for kids of all ages on selected Thursdays in June and July.

Alberta Whitenack and Kris Musto will be conducting the classes, which will take place at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook.

Kicking off the series on June 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be "Kris on Color," an exploration of colors taught by Musto.

The June 24 session, also from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., will encourage children to dive in and explore the "Elements of Art with Kris Musto."

Alberta Whitenack will lead the two sessions in July, beginning on July 8 with "Notan: Positive and Negative Art." The July 22 class will delve into the creative use of single point perspective. Both classes will run from 10 a.m. to noon.

Contact Alberta at 218-666-2153 for information or to register for a class.

#### Vote in the NWFA **Photo Contest**

Stop by the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery to view the "Finding Light" photo contest and cast your votes for your favorites by May 29. Many of the photos are available to buy, although they should remain in the gallery until the exhibit closes.

The photo contest entries are sharing space in the gallery's Wolfe Den with the Schroeder Quilt Exhibit, the featured display for the month.

Located next to Dream Weaver Salon at 210 S River Street, the gallery is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NWFA is a non-profit arts organization which sponsors concerts and classes, encouraging artists and the arts in the region of Cook. More information is available online at nwfamn.org and on the organization's Facebook page.



# **Read us online at** www.timberjay.com check out our e-edition

#### HUMAN SERVICES

# Wanted: Numerous daycare providers in Ely by KEITH VANDERVORT Community action committee continues to explore options

Ely Editor

ELY-Anewly-formed community committee, spearheaded by former mayor Ross Petersen, is looking to bulldoze through the economic development roadblock here to address the severe davcare shortage.

With upcoming deadlines for possible federal and state funding, local daycare advocates met twice last week and again on Monday night to formulate a plan to present to officials. "We want to hear from anybody and everybody interested in starting a daycare operation in town," Petersen said.

Petersen was empowered by the Ely Economic Development Authority to form a wide-ranging exploration of potential solutions to the continuing dilemma of attracting a vounger, vibrant workforce to the area with a need for daycare providers. "Ely lost over 40 percent of its daycare (providers) during the whole COVID thing. We didn't have enough (daycare services) before COVID hit. Now there is a huge need for it and it is a huge problem," he said. Petersen said financial

assistance from federal, state and county agencies could be in the works and listed the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, Northland Foundation, and others. "This is a matter of trying to figure out what we need and what would work for us and get a plan together," he said.

Recent conversations with Northland Foundation officials, including President Tony Sertich and Vice President/KIDS PLUS Director Lynn Haglin revealed the organization has recently focused efforts on providing answers to the daycare dilemma in the region. "They are working with other organizations and have some real assets for us," Petersen said.

A "SWAT Team" approach by the Northland Foundation, according to Petersen, is available to help a specific community figure out the daycare need and possible solutions, such as funding."We hope to get those resources working for us," he said.

Several potential ideas that have already been utilized around northeastern Minnesota emerged from the local meetings last week:

► Funding for certification and other daycare startup costs,

► Additional funding for daycare operations from government sources,

► Building or renovating an existing facility that could be government-owned and leased to a qualifying daycare provider,

≻Other start-up financial assistance including free land, free utility hookups, or low-interest loans,

➤ Converting the \$300 weekly supplemental unemployment to subsidize daycare for people who go back to work.

'It all comes down to the fact that we need people to provide daycare in our community,"Petersen said. He highlighted the government funds available for starting and maintaining daycare centers. "There is money for (community daycare) centers. There is money for people who want to start a home daycare. If we don't have anybody who is available to run them, there is no sense in building something."

Two potential Ely-area daycare providers, Nick Holtz and Jane Dandron, attended an earlier daycare brainstorming session. "Last week, we talked about the potential for a daycare center in Ely, but they have since indicated that such an operation would be too big for them," Petersen said.

Mandy Petersen, Ross's daughter-in-law who works for the Wilder Foundation and continues to explore challenges and opportunities related to day- care, said, "There are things that licensers will be flexible about, and things they won't, but that remains a big hurdle (for any daycare operation)."

Daycare centers are typically set up to handle as many as 25 children, including infants, toddler, and preschool-age, and to provide all of the services associated with childcare.

According to Heidi Omerza, Ely Economic Development Authority president, the Ely community has just three daycare providers in operation, able to handle up to 14 children each."The (daycare) deficit is much bigger than we thought it was at first," she said. "We need to reach out to the current davcare providers and let them know we are not here to step on anybody's toes. We are here to help everyone."

She welcomed the Northland Foundation's daycare "SWAT Team" to provide immediate help to the Ely area. "We need to make sure that for anyone who is interested (in providing daycare services), we are here. And whatever people want to do, the answer is 'yes.' We are to assist people to do what they want to do," she said.

St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald added, "If you add in the Tower and Babbitt areas, we need facilities to service as many as 100 children. That gap of being able to meet people's needs is getting worse. On any main street, the 'help wanted' sign is the most popular. We want to make sure that we are looking at the big picture. We have to look at Tower's needs, Babbitt's needs, etc. For a lot of those people, there is nothing there. The idea of a daycare center would be able to accommodate more people and more staff. With the timing of the resources out there, now is when we have to look at this."

McDonald related conversations on Monday with the offices of Sens. Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar. "They highly recommend that we put in requests for budget earmark funding,' he said. "They will help us in any way they can. That deadline is May 21."

#### **Plans for adventure** school for kids

A local couple is making an effort to at least fill an immediate need for child care and education this summer with the Elv Adventure School.

Benjamin Perry

tal protection standards in place are designed to protect Minnesota's environment and all of its watersheds. We expect the regulatory review of the project to continue as this case proceeds."

The entire process for NMW's MERA lawsuit could take several years, although there is no guarantee that the end-result would yield stricter state rules. But NMW officials point to several scientific studies that indicate that the area is particularly vulnerable to the type of pollution such a mine could generate and they are hopeful that once

"Sunshine" Gardner and Anna Brauch said they have "the will and the drive" to lead a program for kids in the Ely area this summer. "While not licensed for providing daycare services, the couple have education degrees and doing post-graduate work. "We are working with the Parent Aware accreditation system that gives parents a resource for child care and early education," Gardner said.

"We enjoy outdoor education and find that works really well with young kids, ages three and up," he said. "Perhaps we can enhance another daycare operation, even starting this summer. An outdoor education center would be easy to establish."

He likened his vision to the Hartley Nature Center in Duluth. "They have a variety of class offerings, even afterschool programs and nature preschool programs," he said. "The staffing issue is something we worry about."

The committe will meet on Monday, May 24 in Ely City Hall.

For more information, go to www.parentaware. org. Contact Gardner and Brauch at elyadventureschool@gmail.com.

those studies are included

**MINING**...Continued from page 1

under Section 10 of the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA) contending that existing state rules for non-ferrous mining were not adequate to protect the Boundary Waters from pollution from the mine. The state law, which dates back to the 1970s, gives anyone the right to sue if they believe a state law, rule, or permit fails to protect the environment.

MERA also sets forth a process to address such cases. If a court finds that the environmental plaintiffs have presented sufficient evidence that a state rule or permit is inadequate to protect the environment, it can remand the issue back to the state agency that created the rule or permit for further analysis.

The evidentiary bar for a remand is relatively low, however, and DNR officials acknowledged that NMW likely had sufficient evidence to require a remand. So, the agency and the group reached an agreement last November that the agency would agree to review its rules rather than argue against that initial step.

Twin Metals opposed that agreement and sought to

wilderness."

block it in court, but the decision this past week denied the company's attempt to derail the agreement. Critics of the proposal celebrated the decision, arguing that the Twin Metals project, owned primarily by Chilean mining giant Antofagasta threatens the "clean water, robust local economy, and worldclass recreational value of our country's most visited

"With the ruling today, Minnesotans will have the opportunity to demonstrate that the state's rules regulating where it is appropriate to conduct risky mining are not sufficient to protect the Boundary Waters and all that it provides our great state and nation," said Tom Landwehr, the former DNR Commissioner, who now serves as executive director of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

Twin Metals now has the option to appeal or to argue its case as part of the DNR's review of the non-ferrous mining rules.

"TwinMetalsMinnesota is reviewing the decision to determine next steps," said spokesperson Kathy Graul. "The rigorous state and federal environmen-

in a record of decision on the matter, they would lay the groundwork for rules that could well eliminate sulfide-based mining in the entire Rainy River watershed. Much of the lower reaches of the Rainy River watershed are already protected, either through the protections afforded by federal wilderness legislation or the creation of Voyageurs National Park. But a portion of the headwaters of the watershed lie to the south of the wilderness boundary and outside those wilderness protections.

# **ZUP's**...Continued from page 1 -

nearly 30,000-square-foot retail space this week.

Zupancich said Ely shoppers will likely have to wait a bit longer to enter the new store this fall, as estimates of a Labor Day grand opening have been pushed back to October.

The Northland Market, purchased by Zupancich Brothers last fall, will be closed and vacated, as will the current Zup's Market. Employees of both operations will be combined, and Zupancich estimates that as many as 90 workers will be employed in the new store.

"The old concrete on the floor is being pulled out to allow for new drain work for all the freezers and refrigeration units," he said. "We've been working with the city to address the electrical needs for the new store. The grocery and dry goods area will be twice as big as our existing store."

When Shopko closed, so did half of Ely's pharmacy services. The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital hired more pharmacists and renovated their operation in the Essentia Clinic to try to pick up the slack.

A new pharmacy, with drive-up service, could be returning to the community this fall.

"We are about 15 days away from a contract being signed with a major pharmaceutical company with plans to go into the building," Zupancich said. "Our fingers are crossed."

The DBS Group, of Onalaska, Wis., is the general contractor for the construction project."They went after local contractors first," he said. "Some are doing work for us and others felt the job was too big."

Zupancich said the contractor is hoping to turn the keys over to the owners by Labor Day. "But the shelving supplier right now is 26 weeks out for delivery," he said."That puts us almost to Christmas, but hopefully we can get a jump on it."

'Our goal is to open by the second week of October, and possibly by the end of September." After the meeting, he admitted that numerous construction projects, including the \$20 million Ely school renovation, squeezed the construction labor market this year.

"We don't know how long this will take, but we are committed, and we'll find a way."

Zupancich said his family is excited about the new project.

"We've been working on this for several years and finally everything just melded together," he said. In terms of rumored

clothing and dry goods availability in the new Zup's Market, he could not add

much more information.

"We are still working on that. We have some limited supplies coming in. With COVID, all those buying shows in March were canceled. We will start with some odd items in there, but eventually we hope to have a bigger selection in the store besides the groceries," he said.

#### **Off-sale liquor store**

To make the project work, Zupancich admitted the necessity of adding a fourth off-sale liquor operation in the Ely community. The new liquor retail space, estimated at about 6,000 square feet, will be located on the east end of the building. A separate entrance from the grocery store is required.

"Shoppers won't be able to buy their groceries and alcohol at the same time without exiting the market and then entering the offsale facility," he said. "That is state law."

He revealed that the Zupancich family had considered adding liquor sales to their existing store for a decade.

"We looked at purchasing the house next door and knocking it down to make room for liquor sales," he said.

"To make this all work, with our financing, this is what we have to do," he said. "We talked to two

of the three liquor store owners here and they are aware of it."

Council member Al Forsman noted that Minnesota is the only state that limits grocery stores to selling 3.2 beer in stores.

Council members voted 6-1 to approve the off-sale liquor license for the new Zup's Market. Before that action, Forsman introduced a resolution in support of existing local liquor store operators by recommending that the city attorney draft an ordinance limiting the number of licenses for exclusive offsale liquor establishments to one store per 900 residents, with the minimum number of available licenses at four, which the city now has.

The proposal came on the heels of the council's approval of an off-sale liquor license transfer application by Eric St. Martin, owner of Ely Liquor (formerly Lakeshore Liquor), who is planning to move his Sheridan Street operation to the former Family Dollar store, practically in the shadow of the new Zup's Market. St. Martin voiced concerns that another liquor store in town will dilute his sales

"It is important to have competition to maintain fair prices," Forsman wrote in his proposal, "but allowing additional operators will

flood our limited market. This would make it impossible for any of the existing businesses to survive. These businesses have no ability to re-invent themselves because they are only allowed, by statute, to sell alcohol and specific alcohol-related items. It is our responsibility to help maintain a fair retail field for them.'

Forsman's motion failed to move forward for lack of support. Forsman was the lone dissenter in the vote granting the liquor license to Zup's.

Discussion of the city's off-sale liquor license issue continued at the end of the council meeting during open forum. St. Martin claimed that other Minnesota cities that he investigated had strict liquor license caps.

"I'm all for competition, but you are just watering it down," he told council members.

Interim Mayor Chuck Novak resonded, "We have no legal basis to deny that license (for Zup's). If we deny that license request, we are sure to have a lawsuit, and the taxpayers will have to pay the legal costs to defend a lawsuit the city can't win."



#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# Business loans, unemployment benefits won't be taxed by state

Budget compromise leaves heavy lifting to legislature

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

R E G I O N A L -Demonstrating that money is potent grease for the wheels of bipartisanship, Gov. Tim Walz, Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, and House Majority Leader Melissa Hortman used a joint press conference on Monday to reveal an agreement on a \$52 million two-year budget outline.

Republicans and DFLers were at odds from the outset of the legislative session, as Walz proposed major tax hikes on the wealthiest Minnesotans to fund his expanded agenda for education and social programs in the next biennium, while Gazelka and others adamantly vowed to block any attempt to raise taxes.

But then came the news last week that the state would be getting \$2.8 billion in cash from President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP). After a week of closed-door bargaining the trio of politicians crafted what they termed a "winwin" compromise as the constitutional clock was ticking down on reaching a solution.

"We are required to send a big thank you to the federal government, President Joe Biden and the Democratic members of Congress who voted for the American Rescue Plan," Hortman said. "It made this agreement possible today where we were able to do pretty much everything everybody wanted, with some compromises."

Gazelka also acknowledged the role of the federal money in the compromise, as it allowed the GOP to keep their no-tax-hike pledge while including an agreement on how to spend ARP money that satisfies a concern of the GOP that goes back to last spring — that lawmakers have a role in spending the federal funds, not just Walz. Under the agreement, Walz will have \$500 million to respond to pandemic-related costs, with the balance to be used by the Legislature to make up for lost revenue and for general budget purposes.

"This year has been a battle," Walz said. "We made the commitment together that this budget would be about recovering from COVID, it would be about investing in families, their children and education, it would be about

providing relief for families in the form of tax cuts." **Tax relief** 

The most immediate consequence from the compromise will be tax relief for businesses that

received federal Paycheck Protection Program loans and those who received additional \$600 and \$300 weekly federal unemployment benefits.

Forgivable PPP loans were a boon to employers of all sizes, allowing them to keep workers on the payroll and cover other specific expenses as the pandemic-induced recession deepened. However, under the tax code, once the loans were forgiven they became taxable income. With the additional ARP funding, the path was clear for Walz, Gazelka, and Hortman to agree that no Minnesota taxes would be levied against the PPP loans.

Record numbers of Minnesotans filed for unemployment benefits during the pandemic, and many were likely not aware that payments are taxed just like other kinds of income. Another complicating factor is that in order to get payments out as quickly as possible, Minnesota didn't withhold taxes from the extra \$600 and \$300 weekly payments, further inflating the potential tax bills for recipients.

Under the compromise, \$10,200 of unemployment benefits are not exempted from state income taxes.

Both changes bring Minnesota in alignment with the tax adjustments made at the federal level.

The announcement came on the final day for Minnesotans to file their 2020 income tax returns, and Revenue CommissionerRobertDoty said that the department would try to accommodate the changes as best it can.

"We will try to adjust as many of those returns as we can automatically," Doty said, "but there will be a significant number of those that we will not be able to adjust automatically and, quite frankly, that will depend on the complexity of the returns."

If automatic adjustments can't be made, taxpayers will be notified to file an amended return.

Policy disagreements remain

Monday's final hours agreement wasn't the end of

the budget process, but only the beginning, Gazelka said. While the agreement sets overall financial targets for each of the 12 omnibus spending bills, legislative conference committees must still hammer out how the money will be spent by June 4. A special legislative session to pass the bills into law must occur by June 14.

A deeply-divided Legislature will have to wrestle with a host of policy differences ranging from police accountability to environmental issues, and no bill is guaranteed to be approved. Placing the responsibility for resolution in the hands of the conference committee chairs, Walz, Hortman, and Gazelka each expressed guarded optimism agreements could be reached.

However, when it comes to environmental spending, Senate Republicansrefusetobudge from their demand that "Clean Cars" regulations developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency be delayed by two years. If the emissions rules aren't delayed, conference committee co-chair Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen has vowed to stop the bill from being brought to a vote.

That would force state parks to shut down after June 30 and threaten a plethora of environmental programs and state agency work.

The committee is so divided over the issue that Senate Republicans and Sen. David Tomassoni, DFL-Chisholm, didn't bother to attend a virtual meeting of the committee last Saturday, leaving House members to discuss and vote on purely symbolic revisions to the bill.

"We do not have a quorum today because none of the Senate members of the conference committee have made the choice to participate today," co-chair Rep. Rick Hansen said. "It is unfortunate that we are moving towards adjournment without progress. I'm realistic but hopeful that we should be able to come to some agreement so that we won't be facing a government shutdown. I've been through that before, and it's not pleasant for any of the employees of the state and the contractors they work with."

"We're coming out of COVID and just opening up, and now we have the threat of shutting down again because of the disagreement over policy."

# **ART**...Continued from page 1 —

for others it was a new experience.

The trail system was built last spring and summer and includes about two miles of looping paths that wind through a large area of old growth upland white cedar, some of which date back to the 1880s, along with many large pines. The route starts with a 500-foot-long boardwalk through a swampy area, then moves up and around large rock formations that offer views of both Lake Vermilion and the city itself. The trail is located off the Mesabi Trail, a short walk from Tower's train depot, and has become a popular hiking destination.

"This fit really well into what I do with my painting," said Wendy Rouse. Rouse and her husband moved to Ely about five years ago. The couple worked in the restaurant industry, but Rouse studied art and painting in college, and she often taught painting over the years.

She and her husband were married 40 years ago, and they spent their honeymoon in the Boundary Waters.

"I get a lot of inspiration from the boreal forest," she said. Rouse grew up in Duluth, but once married lived on both the east and

. west coasts.

"Every time I left Minnesota, I ended up coming back again," she said. "We love this area and its little towns."

Now retired, she has more time to devote to her painting, focusing on still life paintings in oil. "I paint realistic renderings in unrealistic settings," she said. "I am really interested in how man and nature interact in the woods."

She often brings home small natural items she finds in the woods to paint, alongside other found objects, including a small toy moose included in one of her paintings in the show. She sells her work at Lizzards Art Gallery in Duluth, as well as through smaller shows in other northeastern galleries. Her arrangement with Lizzards Gallery is "an artist's dream come true," she said. The gallery will take any paintings she brings in, an unusual agreement. Other galleries, she said, want works that they feel will sell, in certain sizes and price ranges. Rouse first hiked on the trails last summer, after reading about it in the Timberjay. When asked to participate in this show, she said it was a natural for her and she quickly agreed. Rauschenfels took over the task of organizing the logistics of the show. While the artists wanted to host an exhibit site in Tower, there wasn't a suitable venue that could offer enough space or staffing to handle sales. Each artist committed to creating two works to display in the show, as well as one piece to hold in reserve if one of their pieces is sold. Anyone purchasing artwork from



## SAVE BIG! Buy Local! We Buy Clean, Used Vehicles 2021 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT AWD

MSRP \$27,760

Customer Cash -\$1,388 Sale Price \$26,372



SAVE \$1,388 and GET 2.49% APR AND NO PAYMENTS FOR 120 DAYS!!\*

#### 2021 CHEVROLET BLAZER LT AWD

MSRP \$43,340

Customer Cash -\$4,334 Sale Price \$39,006



SAVE \$4,334 and GET 2.49% APR AND NO PAYMENTS FOR 120 DAYS!!\*

DISCLOSURES... \*120 Day payment deferral AND 2.49% APR up to 72 months with GM Financial on approved credit. Not compatible with some other incentives, offers and vehicles. See dealer for details. Tax and title extra. Must take delivery from dealer stock by 06/01/2021.

## **PREOWNED VALUES!**

2018Chevrolet Silverado LT 4x4 CrewWell Equipped!\$30,9902018Chevrolet Equinox LT AWDFresh Trade-In!\$18,9902018Ford Edge SEL AWDJust Arrived!\$26,9902018RAM 15002018RAM 15002017Ford Escape Titanium AWDOnly 23K Miles!\$32,9902017Ford Escape Titanium AWDOnly 19K Miles!\$17,9902016Chevrolet Impala LTFresh Trade-In!!\$14,9902015GMC Terrain SLEGreat Value!\$10,9902015Chevrolet Cruze LTGreat Gas Mileage!\$11,9902014Ford CMax HybridFresh Trade-In!\$10,9902013GMC Sierra SLT 4x4 Short Box6.2 V8!\$22,9902012Chevrolet Malibu LTVery Clean Trade-In!\$8,990	2020 Chevrolet Malibu LTGM Certified! 2020 RAM 2500 HD 4x4 w/8' 2" BOSS V Plow Only 1,100 Miles!	
	2018 Chevrolet Silverado LT 4x4 Crew       Well Equipped!         2018 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD       Fresh Trade-In!         2018 Ford Edge SEL AWD       Just Arrived!         2018 RAM 1500 Quad Cab 4x4       Only 23K Miles!         2017 Ford Escape Titanium AWD       Only 19K Miles!         2017 Mitsubishi Outlander AWD       Only 24K Miles!         2015 GMC Terrain SLE       Great Value!         2015 Chevrolet Cruze LT       Great Gas Mileage!         2014 Ford CMax Hybrid       Fresh Trade-In!         2013 GMC Sierra SLT 4x4 Short Box       6.2 V8!	\$18,990 \$26,990 \$32,990 \$22,990 \$17,990 \$14,990 \$10,990 \$10,990 \$10,990 \$29,990 \$22,990





HOURS: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN • 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545 Art by Wendy Rouse, of Ely, is part of the multi-media traveling art exhibit this summer, in support of preserving and protecting critical habitat within the Ancient Cedars Trail in Tower. submitted

the sale has the option of taking it right away or letting it remain in the show and receiving it when the final show is over at the end of September. If an artist's piece is sold and removed, their reserved piece will go on display.

Eventually, some pieces might end up on display in Tower once the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center gallery space is completed. Additionally, each artist in the exhibit has created an eight-byten-inch piece of original artwork that is being mounted into a concertina-style book. The book will be on display with the exhibit at each of the four galleries. Plans are to then donate the book to the LVCC for permanent display.

Jim DeVries, from Britt, comes to his art with his training as a naturalist. He was also familiar with



the cedar trail, having visited it last year.

"It was an easy yes," he said, "especially after walking the trail. It's such a beautiful trail with lots of inspiration."

DeVries saw a porcupine in a large white pine on two different walks on the trail. He took photographs with his phone, and then he created a pen-and-ink drawing that is part of the exhibit. He also has entered an acrylic-on-canvas painting of a scene from the trails "blue loop," of one of the many moss-covered rock outcroppings that can be viewed on the trail.

DeVries visited the trail again with his family on Mother's Day weekend and was pleasantly surprised to see several other families out hiking.

DeVries, a naturalist at the Laurentian Environmental Center, has had more time to devote to his art after the center shut down temporarily due to the pandemic. While he had studied art in college, he was discouraged by a professor who claimed he wasn't talented. Taking up drawing and painting about five years ago, he discovered his talents, and has displayed his work at Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook and the Lyric

in Virginia.

### If you want to go

Where to see the exhibit:

In June, the exhibit will be at the Lyric First Stage Gallery, 510 Chestnut St., Virginia. Gallery hours: Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

In July, at The Art Corner, 301 W Sheridan St., Ely. Gallery hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 10 a.m.-6p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m.-1p.m. Hours July 7 - 12 are 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

In August, at the Borealis Art Guild, 214 E Howard St., Hibbing. Gallery hours: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In September, at Northwoods Friends of the Arts, 210 S River St., Cook. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Participating artists: Jim DeVries, of Britt; Wendy Rouse, Pamela Davis, Jordan Gawboy, of Tower; Nancy Ensley, of Ely;LouiseLaaksoLundin, Jeff Argir, of Hibbing; and Linda Glisson, Margie Helstrom, Nan Stubenvoll, Sue Rauschenfels, of Duluth.

#### FISHING SEASON

# Cook dad and daughter make opener a tradition Only one scores big, but both enjoy the day together by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- It's a family tradition Mimi Babiracki, of Cook, has known almost all of her life, spending the early morning hours of the fishing opener out on Lake Vermilion with her dad, John. And if recent success is any guide, seasoned anglers may want to pay attention to what the 13-year-old is tossing out there.

John took her out for the first time when Mimi was only four.

'She's always said yes every time I've asked her if she wants to go out in the morning," John said. "This time I said how about we go out at 5:45, and she said how about we go out at 4:45. I said no, 5:45 is early enough for your dad. But it's been every year and we've had a great time with it."

Their excursions don't last long - as manager of the family-owned Head-O-Lakes Resort on the west end of the lake, John has to be back to open up at 8 a.m. But Mimi seems to have developed a knack for getting the most out of their time together.

Two years ago, she hauled in the catch of the day, using a mustard-colored jig to haul in a 27-1/2" walleye.

"That's her opening morning tradition, using that mustard-colored jig," John said. After Saturday, that part of

the tradition may never change.

Only on the water about 20 minutes, Mimi used the same jig to pull an even bigger walleye out of Woody's Cove. This one measured 28-1/4".

"Two years ago, I told her she might never top that," John said. "I've got friends who have fished religiously their whole lives and they haven't gotten to that 28-inch wall."

The catch might not have happened, though, if not for some quick action by John.

"The line snapped before she got it to the top, but the fish didn't realize it, so it wasn't fighting," John said. "So, I reached that net down as far as I could reach into the water, up to my elbow, and got underneath it and we got it."

It was a big fish, to be sure, but not quite big enough to wrest the family record away from John.

"The conversation on Saturday was, 'What's your biggest walleye, Dad?"" John said, noting that his biggest was 28-1/2". "She was like, we could have squeezed more out of it, but I said no, you still have exactly a quarter-inch to beat your daddy. She wants to take me down."

The walleye that Mimi caught two years ago is mounted and hanging on a wall, but the pair agreed at the time that the next fish to become a trophy would have to be over 30 inches, something John had to remind Mimi of on Saturday.

"She asked if we were going to mount it and I said no. it's almost there, but let's put it back and maybe next year it'll be that 30-inch walleye you're looking for."

And while it was "mission accomplished" for Mimi, John didn't fare as well.

"I caught a little perch, but I didn't catch a single walleye," he said."About ten minutes after she caught it, she was like, 'We can go home whenever you like, Dad.' She got her satisfaction from this, and she's like 'I'm good.' It was a successful day."

And now that the cute little four-year-old has grown up to become a successful angling teen, John has another conundrum, one he'll resolve all in his good time, not Mimi's.

"She keeps bugging me to let her take a boat out on her own and go fishing - I haven't gotten to that point yet," he laughed.

Mimi Babiracki, 13, of Cook, has been fishing the opener with her dad, John, since she was four years old. photo by D. Colburn



# CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC COVID in the North Country, by the numbers

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** While last weekend's fishing opener brought with it a sense of the "return to normal" in the North Country, there's clear evidence that the coronavirus is not yet done with the region.

With seven new cases reported last week, the Tower zip code's cumulative case count has now jumped 28 percent since April 1, from 98 to 126. New cases were also reported last week in Ely, Orr, and Soudan zip codes. And Bois Forte Public Health identified three new cases among teenagers, one at Nett Lake and two at Vermilion. "The pandemic isn't going away because the mask mandate went away," said St. Louis County Public Health Division Director Amy Westbrook. "There's still people who are at risk, and there's still the possibility of mutations. I'm cautiously optimistic, but it is a pandemic, it's a new virus, so there's certainly still cause for concern. The pandemic isn't over.' Vaccinations have been a key factor as St. Louis County's test positivity rate has fallen to 2.8, well below the welcome news that the statewide rate is down to 5.0. Fiftytwo percent of the county's population has received at least one dose of vaccine, slightly higher than the 49 percent reported for the state, according to data posted Tuesday on the state's vaccine dashboard. Zip-code specific data requested by the Timberjay covers vaccinations through April 29, but even without the additional two weeks, four of the six North Country zips had vaccination rates consistent with those countywide. The highest, 55.1 percent, was in Ely, which had additional community vaccination clinics in response to a significant spike of cases in March.

Cook had the second-highest rate of people with at least one vaccination at 53.4 percent, followed by Tower, 52.5 percent, and Soudan at 51.7 percent.

Vaccine uptake lagged well behind in Orr, 38.4 percent, and Embarrass, 38.8 percent.

However, in a sign that vaccinations have been slowing down here as they have been throughout the state, between 85 and 90 percent of the 6,967 people who had received vaccinations in the North Country were completely vaccinated, leaving only 880 people who were waiting for their second doses. Total doses administered as of April 29 ranged from 3,246 in Ely to 248 in Soudan. "We know that there are areas of the county that have lower vaccination rates, and I am concerned that we don't have that ideal coverage yet," Westbrook said. "All we can do is just continue to encourage people to get vaccinated, and if they're not vaccinated that they would choose to wear masks.'

found in the state's COVID update on Tuesday. Of the 14 deaths reported in the state, none were associated with LTCFs. It's a dramatic reversal from the early days of the pandemic when the effects of COVID-19 were most severely felt among the elderly in long-term care

The county provided data on four North Country facilities hit by the pandemic, and Carefree Living Ely took the biggest blow. Seventeen residents there contracted COVID-19 and nine of them died of it, according to the primary cause of death listed on their death certificates. Thirteen staff members and/or visiting health providers also tested positive for COVID-19. Cook Care Center was the other facility that reported a resident death, and that was also the only resident to contract COVID-19. The six other confirmed cases at the facility were among staff members. Only one resident and three staff members at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely tested positive for COVID-19, while Carefree Living Cook had only one case, a staff member.

Country caused by COVID-19 haven't been restricted to those living in long-term care. Six people living in the community at-large also died, for a total of 16 deaths in the region.

The youngest death was a person in the 45-49 age group, and a total of three were under 60 years of age. The other deaths involved three people in their seventies, six people in their eighties, and four people in their nineties, with the oldest in the 95-99 age group.

Four communities felt the losses, including Ely with 12, Cook with two, and Tower and Orr with one each. Since the start of the pandemic, 781 cases of COVID-19 have been identified in the six zip code region, representing approximately eight percent of the total population.



A mobile home and garage were total losses following a fire Saturay night in Cook. photo by D. Colburn

# FIRE...Continued from page 1

#### Long-term care

An indication that the strategy to vaccinate residents and staff in long-term care facilities, or LTCFs, is paying dividends can be



#### **Deaths and cases**

Deaths in the North

Cumulativecasecounts in each of the six zip codes as of May 13 include Cook, 178; Ely, 273; Embarrass, taken at the scene and posted online showed flames shooting out of both sides of the trailer home on the west end and thick smoke pouring out of the east end as firefighters tried to contain the blaze.

The trailer and garage were both total losses.

According to property tax records, the 1992 three-bedroom trailer was owned by Cecelia and Zigmond Rutchasky Jr., of Bigfork, and Joseph Rutchasky, of Cook, who was the occupant. The estimated market value of the trailer was \$16,400.

A family member has set up a GoFundMe page for Rutchasky to "raise money to help him get back on his feet." The link for donations is https://gofund. me/7633b31a.



# **COVID-19** Vaccine **Appointments Available**

Scenic Rivers is now scheduling appointments for individuals to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at our medical locations following state eligibility guidelines. Supply is limited and call volumes are high, so we appreciate your patience. If you believe you meet the MN state vaccine eligiblity requirements, please call the number below to schedule an appointment.





1-877-541-2817 www.ScenicRiversHealth.org 24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

# Youth learn trail safety at ATV class

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

Prospector Loop Alliance ATV Club certifies new riders

WINTON - Nearly two dozen area youth qualified for their ATV safety certificate last weekend after completing classroom training and field testing by members of the Prospector Loop Alliance ATV Club.

Classes and field work were held at the Ely/Winton Rod and Gun Club Longbranch Event Center.

"Prior to attending the in-person classroom training, the kids were required to do an on-line educational tutorial through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and provide a voucher as proof of passing," said club organizer Mike Banovetz.

"Training attendees learned about safe riding techniques, understanding their skill level and respecting ATV capabilities, rules and regulations, environmental responsibility, do's and don'ts of trail etiquette, and being good stewards of the sport," he said. "Conservation officer Sean Williams clarified confusion and reasons for various laws and regulations."

ATV students attending the class were from Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass, Hibbing and Mountain Iron

Those who earned their safety certificate included Stig Majerus, Gavin Marshall, Aubree Minier, Carter Musel, Trevor Ranistate, Tracy Thibodeaux, Robert Towley, Molly Ventos, Julia Bergstedt, Nolan Anderson, Chance Wavrin, Brody Hren, Wyatt Hemmila, John Haburn,



Ely-area youth participated in a recent ATV safety certification class at the Longbranch in Winton, sponsored by the Prospector Loop Alliance ATV Club. photos by K. Vandervort

Annika Easthan, Wyatt Devine, Michael Berini, Steven Bergstedt, Jean Hren, Jace Huntbatch, Ann Hutar, John Leeson, and Evan Leeson, all qualifying to ride Class 1 ATVs.

Ely Police Department officer Christian Deinhammer highlighted various aspects of city rules and ordinances pertaining to the use of ATVs within city limits.

"Riding ATVs in alleys is discouraged for safety reasons," he said. "Sheridan Street is part of Hwy. 169 and not legal for ATVs. The safety certificate attendees are not qualified to ride ATVs within city limits and must be at least 16 years old for this privilege.'

Officer Deinhammer continued, "ATV riding is not a right but a privilege granted by the city, private landowners, the county, townships, and state authorities and responsible riding is required to keep trails available for use."

The Prospector ATV Club recently installed directional signing from the new trailhead area at the east entrance to Ely, through the city to the baseball field area where trail #8 begins, Banovetz said. The trail continues to the Kawishiwi River and beyond to the North Shore.

An in-city trail also continues on Pioneer Road past the Grand Ely Lodge, to Grant McMahan Blvd., County Road 88, to get to the Echo Trail, which takes riders to the Crane Lake area trail system.

"The signing is to help people who come to Ely to easily find the trail systems even though ATV use is allowed throughout the city," he said.

Youth safety class

instructors included Banovetz, Hudson Ledeen, and David Marshall with volunteers Cory Keen, Greg Mosher, Kelly Helget, Gene Wright, and Milton Beyer.

For all ATV riders. anyone born after July 1, 1987, must complete the online safety certificate tutorial. Youth ages 11 to 15 are required to do the online tutorial and pass the in-person class and field testing, allowing them to ride on Class 1 ATVs which are 50" or less in width, according to Banovetz.

"There are very specific limitations and privileges, with increases in privileges as riders get older. Class 2 ATVs (side by side) are only allowed to be operated by someone at least 15 years old to ride trails and be at least 18 years old with a driver's license to ride within city limits and



on county roads," he said.

"Regulations and ordinances can vary from state to state, county to county, and within cities and townships, and people need to contact local authorities and the DNR for specifics in areas they intend to ride outside of areas they are familiar with riding.'

A grand opening ceremony is planned for Thursday, Sept. 16 for the new Ely trailhead building and parking area. The event will coincide with the statewide ATV Minnesota Ride and Rally event. This event will include an ATV Big Air Show in Babbitt, a VIP

ride from the Embarrass Timber Hall, guided trail rides, and a banquet. The Prospector ATV club represents volunteers from Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass, and Tower in developing 250 miles of trails.

"If there is enough demand for additional training classes, the Prospector ATV club is willing to conduct another class later this summer or early fall,' Banovetz said.

Messages can be left on the Prospectors Facebook page, or contact one of the club members.



# Affordable Education **Close to Home**

**Veterinary Science** Liberal Arts Natural Resources and Water Management **Business** Law Enforcement/ **Emergency Services Outdoor Recreation and Wilderness** 

# St. Louis County Scholarship

up to \$1500 for local students!

**Apply Today** vcc.edu 218-235-2191

# ion The Boundary Waters College

**SPORTS** Serving northern St. Louis County since 1989

### GOLF

# NW boys and girls lead the course

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods golfers were more than the competition could handle last week, as both the boys and girls teams claimed tournament championships and had top medalists on the same day.

The girls notched their first top honors of the season on Thursday, May 13 at Babbitt. Morgan Burnett led the way for the Grizzlies with the lowest score in the field, a 39.

Haley Bogdan shot a 49, Tori Olson carded a 51, and Lauren Burnett came in with a 54. Madison Dantes and Abbi Shuster scored 55 and 60, respectively.

The Grizzlies beat powerhouse Mesabi East, an odds-on favorite in this year's league, by a single stroke.

"It was our first day back as a complete team," Head Coach Kandi Olson said. "I think the excitement of having everyone together just spurred everyone on to play some of their top rounds

Right: North Woods girls golfers (I-r) Abbigail Shuster, Haley Bogdan, Lauren Burnett, Tori Olson, Morgan Burnett, Madison Dantes.

submitted photo

of the year. We had a little time to work on our short game and we noticed it on the course. To have a medalist and take first as a team, that was an exciting moment for everyone."







BASEBALL

# Big innings plaguing Ely Fall to Eveleth-Gilbert 21-0; go 2-2 during weekend's Veterans Showcase

# SOFTBALL Ely doubles up Spartans

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

NASHWAUK- Ely improved to 7-6 on the season here on Monday after they doubled up the Spartans with a 6-3 victory. The young Timberwolves squad showed skill as they managed to extricate themselves from a series of tough innings that could have proved costly.

"I was impressed with the team in their improving ability to battle out of tight situations," said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. "We had three separate innings with runners on second and third and less than two outs, and we didn't give up a run. We were able to get out of the inning."

Ely junior Charly Flom went threefor-four with a double, while classmate Katrina Seliskar went two-for-four at the plate. She allowed just three hits and struck out four from the mound. Sophomore Madeline Kallberg also went two-for-four.

The Wolves showed little mercy in a 28-11 Friday afternoon rout in Floodwood. The Wolves' offense took charge as they racked up 22 runs in the first two innings to put the game out of reach.

"The biggest thing with a score like nat is to stay focused, and we did a good

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY— The Timberwolves suffered their toughest outing of the season here on Monday as Eveleth-Gilbert racked up ten runs in the top of the third inning en route to a 21-0 rout.

That big third inning has been part of a pattern of late for the Wolves, according to Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "Our inability to stop our opponents'

big innings is still plagu-ing us," said Ivancich. "We just cannot seem to stop those c r o o k e d innings, which have put us in a hole in many of our games.'

There was no salvaging Monday's outing, as Golden Bears pitcher Brandon Lind hurled four innings of no-hit ball. Ely eighth-grader Jack Mathias connected for Ely's only hit in the fifth inning.

The Bears knocked out Ely starter Will Davies in the third inning, but his relief didn't fare much better as Eveleth-Gilbert racked up 11 more runs in the fourth frame. The Bears earned most of those runs, with a total of 19 hits on the afternoon.

The Wolves had more success over the weekend as they hosted the two-day

Veterans Memorial Showcase. Saturday provided the bright spots as the Wolves topped Cook County 12-5 in the opening matchup and staged a late rally to top International Falls 10-9.

In the opening act, Jacob Towley led the Wolves with three hits and three runs scored in addition to picking up the win from the mound. Towley allowed just four hits in five innings worked, allowing three runs, while notching two strike-

outs and issuing five walks. We just can't Eddie Prijatel and Will Davies tallied two hits and two runs those crooked scored apiece. Erron Anderson posted three RBIs, while Chase Sandberg added two.

# **Coach Frank Ivancich**

seem to stop

innings.

The Wolves pulled the rabbit from the hat in the day's second contest, as they rallied from a 9-0 deficit after three innings to top the Broncos. Erron Anderson's walk-off hit with two outs in the bottom of the seventh made the difference as he drove in Logan Loe from second on an opposite field shot. Loe, who went 3-4 on the afternoon, had led off the inning with a base hit. Davies followed with a hit of his own to put runners on first and second. A fly-out and a strikeout left it up to Anderson, who broke a 9-9 tie to deliver

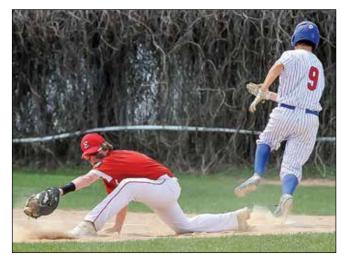
See WOLVES...pg. 2B

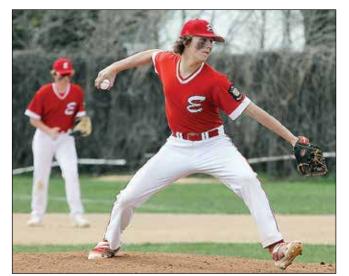
Above: Ely third baseman Lane Anderson puts the tag, too late, on a Carlton baserunner amid a cloud of dust.

Below: Ely first baseman Erron Anderson stretches for the out at first base.

Bottom: Ely pitcher Logan Loe winds to deliver to a Carlton batter. The Bulldogs wound up winning the contest 11-6.

photos by K. Vandervort





See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B

# Grizzlies romp over Vikings, fall to Broncos

#### by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- In a season where the North Woods softball team has seen both feast and famine, they got a taste of each last week in games against Cook County and International Falls.

The road trip on Thursday to take on Cook County was akin to a Thanksgiving feast for the Grizzlies as they pounded out 22 hits and drew 10 walks in a 20-10 thrashing of the Vikings.

Two runners were on base when Brynn Simpson smacked a first-inning double to put North Woods up 1-0. Nevada Gauthier singled to drive home another run, Simpson scored stealing home, and the Grizzlies added one more run to go up 4-0.

North Woods was up 8-3 going into the top of the fifth, and the Grizzlies blew the game wide open with an eight-run inning. North Woods erupted for four singles, two doubles, a triple, and a two-run homer by Evelyn Brodeen to go up 16-3.

The Vikings responded with five runs in the bottom half of the inning to avoid a run-shortened game, but it gave the Grizzlies two more turns at bat to score more runs. After scoring one in the sixth, Addy Burkhardt opened the

See NW SOFTBALL..pg. 2B

#### **GOLF...**Continued from page 1B

The girls played in the familiar surroundings of Vermilion Fairways in Cook the next day, and this time the final results were reversed, with the Grizzlies finishing second behind Mesabi East. Only three strokes separated the top four North Woods golfers, with Morgan Burnett again low with a 53. Haley Bogdan scored a 54, Tori Olson notched a 55, and Madison Dantes had a round of 56. Abbi Shuster shot a 65 and Lauren Burnett was one stroke behind her at 66.

"It was an incredibly windy day, so the kids had to battle a new element they really hadn't had to deal with this season," Olson said.

TheGrizzlieswereback

at it again on Monday, this time with Class AAAGrand Rapids in the field for the Hibbing Golf Invitational at Mesaba Country Club. North Woods placed third, just six strokes back of Grand Rapids, and both well behind winner Mesabi East.

Scores for the Grizzlies in the 18-hole event included Morgan Burnett, 96, Tori Olson, 98, Haley Bogdan, 103, Abbi Shuster, 117, and Madison Dantes, 122.

#### **Boys results**

On the same day the girls were scorching the links at Babbitt, the boys were zeroed in on the pins against six other squads playing in the Virginia Invitational at the Virginia Golf Course.

North Woods got a

double dose of lightning from Sam Frazee and David Kleppe, as the pair finished first and second in the standings. Frazee was two under par heading into the final hole, and although a bogey knocked him back to 70, he was top medalist by six strokes over Kleppe's 76. Eli Smith shot an 83, Ian Olson scored an 87, Ty Fabish had a 94, and Jonah Burnett scored 113.

Head Coach Will Kleppe took added satisfaction that the team win came against all Class AA competition, including perennial powerhouse Hermantown.

"In my 25 years of coaching golf, I don't think we've ever come close to Hermantown," Kleppe said. "I know they've got



The North Woods boys golf team includes (I-r) Ian Olson, Sam Frazee, Davis Kleppe, Eli Smith, Ty Fabish, and Jonah Burnett.

a young team, but to go in there and get the win against them is kind of special. Sam had a fantastic day. Overall, the team kind

of carried each other. It was exciting for the kids."

Both the boys and girls were scheduled to compete in the ERC league

championship tourney on Wednesday at the Quarry at Giants Ridge.

# ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

job on that," Lassi said.

Ely seventh-grader Zoe Mackenzie made her varsity debut on the mound against the Polar Bears, pitching two solid innings before running into trouble in the third. Through the first two frames, Mackenzie allowed just one hit and struck out four. She struggled at times to find the strike zone, issuing nine walks."But overall she did great," said Lassi."That's a lot of pressure for a seventh grader to get her first start in varsity.'

Flom went two-fortwo in the game, added two RBIs and scored four runs. Sophomore Rachel Coughlin went three-forthree, while senior Sydni Richards went two-forfour and scored four runs. Sophomore Kate Coughlin went two-for-two and added four RBIs. Seliskar,

**Right: You make the** call: Safe or Out? Ely's Madeline Kallberg reaches out as the ball touches her glove just as the baserunner's foot is poised to hit first base. Which goes to show the umpire's job is never easy. photo by K. Vandervort

who finished up in relief on the mound, added a triple for the day.

In a mid-afternoon matchup last Wednesday in Ely, the Wolves struggled against Littlefork-Big Falls, losing 16-6.

Ely managed just six hits against the Vikings. Seliskar went two-for-four at the plate with three RBIs, but gave up 14 hits from the mound, including two doubles and a triple. She struck out four batters and



issued eight walks. Flom added two runs for the Timberwolves, while Sydni Richards, Kate Coughlin, and Mackenzie each had a hit.

The Timberwolves

were on the road again Wednesday this week with a game at Mt. Iron-Buhl, and were scheduled to host Cherry on Friday, with a 2:30 p.m. start. A Thursday matchup with Northeast

Range was rescheduled due to lack of umpires. That game will now be played Wednesday, May 26.

Ely finishes the regular season on the road against Deer River on Tuesday, May 25, and Two Harbors on Thursday, May 27. Playoff action begins June 1.

### **NW SOFTBALL...**Continued from page 1B

final stanza with a triple, and the Grizzlies were off and running for three more runs. The Vikings scored twice in their final at-bat to account for the 20-10 final.

Nevada Gauthier led the Grizzlies' hit parade by going four-of-six at the plate with two RBIs. Ivy Chaulklin, Brynn Simpson, Evelyn Brodeen,

giving up 14 hits.

have wished they could have banked some of those hits and runs to use the next

day on the road against International Falls. It was a day of slim pickings for North Woods, as they lost 7-0. Game stats were not available as of press time. WOLVES...

Continued from page 1B

the win.

Anderson connected for three hits in the game along with two RBIs, while Mason Davis added three hits and scored twice. Prijatel added two hits.

Gunnar Hart came on in relief for Ely, tossing two scoreless innings to notch his first varsity win.

The Wolves struggled on the opening day of the

and Hannah Cheney each collected three hits in the slugfest. Ivy Chaulklin picked

up the win on the mound for the Grizzlies, recording

seven strikeouts while

The Grizzlies may



Vitter by Mouch all Halmehangen a Dublich ad by the Timber
Vritten by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay
<text><text></text></text>
rjay office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each.
BOOK ORDER FORM Quantity of Books
StateZIP Code Tel.#
SA MC DISCOVER

showcase, slipping 11-6 to Carlton and 10-3 to Silver Bay. Ely jumped out to a 3-0 lead against the Mariners, but Silver Bay battled back in the top of the fourth with six runs on five hits to take a 6-3 lead. Ely threatened in the fifth, as they loaded the bases but couldn't get a runner in. The Mariners added four more in the top of the sixth to put the game out of reach. Lane Anderson led Ely with three hits while Prijatel and Davies added two hits apiece.

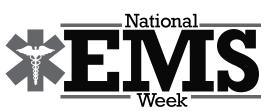
In the opening matchup, Carlton took advantage of Ely miscues to score seven runs in the first two innings. Ely pitching allowed five walks and the defense committed two errors in the early-going to give the Bulldogs the advantage.

Ely trimmed the lead to 7-3 after plating three runs on three hits in the third, but Carlton responded with two more runs in the fourth and fifth innings. Loe took the loss for Ely, while Davies and Joey Bianco led with two hits apiece.

The Wolves are set to wrap up their season on the road, with games set for Thursday at Nashwauk, Tuesday in Littlefork, and the regular season finale on Thursday in Two Harbors.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

# **Tower Ambulance celebrates Emergency Medical Service Week**



TOWER- Each year the third week of May is designated as EMS Week and the Tower Area Ambulance Service would like to thank our employees as well as our local First Responder groups and area residents for helping to make our community EMS service area strong.

The TAAS employee roster boasts over 100 years of combined EMS experience, and the service is proud of every single member.

The service strives to provide a great EMS experience for our patients and truly are kind and loving individuals in our communities.

TAAS staff includes EMT's Jim Battin, Dana Blaeser, Dani Boettcher, Tammie Dowden, Will Fischer, Steven Freshour, Hunter Gilbert, Lisa Hanover, Amy Heglin, Teresa Lanyk, Kim Jacobson-Mattila, Peggy Nelson, Ari Picard, Jake Schmidt, Sarah Schmidt, Dena Suihkonen, Taunya Teska-Erickson and Matt Tuchel.

TAAS EMRs include Steve Burgess, Bobbie Dicasmirro, Terri Joki-Martin, Jason Picard, Mandy Northrup, Steve Peterson, Karen Schultz, Kristal Strong, and Olivia Suihkonen.

The service just finished hosting an EMR class and will have eight new EMRs joining our service including Shawn Gawboy, John Harju, Jessie Hinkel, Christina Nelson, Hemi Ranua, Victoria Ranua, Gabby Suihkonen, and April Wamhoff.



## PREVENTING HUNGER

# Second Harvest reports 41-percent increase in seniors receiving food assistance

REGIONAL – Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank reports that 41-percent more seniors have received food assistance in NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin this spring compared to last year. This report includes 3,798 additional Northland seniors who have received food assistance at regional food shelves as well as Second Harvest's own direct service programs.

"Pre-COVID, we weren't seeing as many seniors at our region's hunger-relief programs," said Shaye Moris, Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank's Executive Director. "Since spring of last year, the number of seniors accessing food has increased dramatically and has stayed at a high level."

In an effort to ensure seniors are able to access the nutritious food they need, Second Harvest has launched a campaign this week as part of Older Americans Month. This campaign will include promotion of its NE Minnesota Nutrition Launches new campaign this month to promoting food access for seniors



may not have sought assistance."

The Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) operates in NE Minnesota and provides a monthly supply of food to income-eligible seniors. Mobile Food Pantries, food shelves, and other safety net programs are also those receiving assistance are over age 60. She stated that regional food shelves often see much lower access among seniors with only 11-percent seeking food assistance there. She stated that now that food shelves have operated in a low-contact, drive-through format for nearly a year, maybe more seniors find it easier to access resources. She also stated that new, no-barrier programs like the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) have also reached more seniors.

Over the last year, Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank and its network of agency partners have ensured more than 1.3 million meals for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin seniors.

For more information about Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank, how to help, or receive food assistance, contact Second

# Lake Country Power scholarships help 30 high school students pursue higher education

REGIONAL – Lake Country Power recently announced that 30 local high school seniors from 30 different schools have been awarded the Lake Country Power 2021 Les Beach Memorial Scholarship. The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship honors a former co-op employee and recognizes student commitment and contribution to local communities.

The \$4,000 scholarships are issued at \$500 per semester for four years. Scholarship winners from our area included:

➤ Julia Schwinghamer, Ely-Memorial High School

➤ Brynn Simpson, North Woods School.

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is available to local students

cation process for high school seniors will open again on Jan. 1, 2022, when qualifying high school seniors may apply for next year's scholarships. The online application will be available from the cooperative's website at www.lakecountrypower.coop.

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is made possible through unclaimed capital credits. The State of Minnesota permits electric cooperatives like Lake Country Power to use unclaimed funds for charitable purposes, such as scholarships.

Lake Country Power also offers \$1,000 scholarships to five area community college foundations and three Minnesota line

Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) as well as other regional programs available to seniors.

"We want seniors to know that nutritious food is available in every corner of our region," Moris shared. "We hope this campaign assists seniors who prior to now available to assist Northland seniors.

Moris shared that their Mobile Food Pantry Programs, a drive through program in rural communities, has always been popular with seniors and typically one-third of

Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank at 218-727-5653, info@northernlakesfoodbank.org, or visit www. northernlakesfoodbank.org. from more than 35 area high schools. Qualified students must be co-op members through their parents or legal guardians who receive electricity services from Lake Country Power.

worker schools to support students in trade schools and community/technical college programs. Applications for these scholarships are available directly through the colleges.



# **Online each week at www.timberjay.com**



## **WILDFIRE**

# **Lightning sparks BW blaze**

## Fire near Bezhik Lake in Trout Lake portion of the wilderness

Managing Editor

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST-A lightning strike fire west of Big Moose Lake, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, continued to burn as of Wednesday as Forest Service fire officials tried to contain the spreading blaze with aerial water drops. Fire officials estimated that the growing

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER fire had torched 950 acres by late Tuesday, as dry conditions, moderate winds, and low humidity helped fan the fire. That estimate was down somewhat from an initial Forest Service report of 1,635 acres.

The blaze was first spotted on Monday and was estimated at about ten acres at that time, but low humidity and southerly winds prompted substantial growth in the fire on **Right: Smoke was visible** Monday from the Bezhik Fire, located east of Trout Lake in the BWCAW.

photo courtesy USFS

Tuesday.

Fire officials believe the blaze, located in a remote area far from canoe travel routes, was started by a lightning strike this past Sunday, as a line of thun-

See FIRE...pg. 5B







# Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower **WOODANEMONE** 



You'll find Wood Anemone, Anemone quinquefolia, blooming throughout the North Country from mid-May through early June.

It's usually found in small patches, where its light green, three-lobed leaves are among the earliest to appear in the woods in spring. These are somewhat unusual among wildflowers, in that the flowers can have anywhere from four-toeight petals. Most wildflowers have a consistent number of parts.

While the flowers are generally white, it's not uncommon to find blooms with a pinkish hue as well.

It's a member of the Buttercup family.

# Abundant year classes fuel big numbers, but bigger ones were tough to find

AKE VERMILION-To keep or not to keep? That was the question for many anglers, who were out in force here during last Saturday's fishing opener.

The Department of Natural Resources' test-netting from last fall had indicated big numbers of little walleye on Lake Vermilion, the result of strong back-toback year classes in 2018 and 2019. And that was the story as many anglers

found action but had to make do with fish that they might normally toss back.

"I like to go 14 inches and bigger," said longtime Lake Vermilion fishing guide Dave Schaeffer. "But the guys are struggling for size right now. I haven't heard of a lot of big fish being caught.'

There were exceptions, of course. One of Schaeffer's clients landed an eight-pounder over the weekend, but that seemed to be the exception to the rule. Schaeffer said he caught most of his fish in 28-32 feet of water, using jigs and minnows, lindy rigs, or "bottom-bouncers."

I was out myself with a friend and learned early on to adjust my expectations if I wanted to bring home a

Above and right: Anglers pull in small walleye on Lake Vermilion on opener.

Lower right: And, of course, there were dogs along ready to lend an assist as needed.

#### photos by M. Helmberger

fish dinner."You might have wanted to keep that one," said Rob Bryers, a longtime fishing guide as I tossed my first walleye, which looked to be about a 12-incher, back in the



water early on Saturday. We were working one of Rob's honey holes on the north side of Pine Island and we had no shortage of action, but the bite was tentative. We had already missed about a half-dozen

strikes when I finally sunk the hook in one. When Rob heard the

soft "kerplunk," as I tossed the fish back in the water, he gave me the low-down. Turns out, sending one back to grow a little didn't prove a problem, as we had plenty to replace it. We kept the ones that seemed a smidge bigger than the others until we had enough for a nice

See OPENER..pg. 5B





# **DNR seeking** comment on four area lakes

REGIONAL -The Department of Natural Resources is seeking comment on management plans for several lakes through Thursday, June 17.

Fisheries information and management plans are being updated for Clear Lake in Koochiching County, and Echo, Elephant and Little Vermilion lakes in St. Louis County.

The DNR uses fisheries management plans to identify specific management activities planned for designated lakes over the next five to 20 years. The plans include background information such as water chemistry characteristics, water temperature information, species presence, stocking, regulations, and catch rates from previous fisheries surveys.

Comments and suggestions from the public are important for planning and evaluating the success of activities laid out in management plans.

People can contact the International Falls area fisheries office by calling 218-286-5220 or emailing interfalls.fisheries@state.mn.us to receive an electronic copy of the draft plans for Clear, Echo, Elephant, and Little Vermilion lakes.

Comments for managing other lakes and streams in the International Falls work area are welcome at any time and will be considered when those plans are up for review.

## THE TIMBERJAY

## **OPENER...**Continued from page 4B -

meal, then started tossing more back. In the end, we tossed at least as many as we kept, although it was mostly in an effort to conserve the resource. By the end of summer, many of those we tossed back will be just right for the frying pan.

For us, the action was best right away in the morning, in just over 20 feet of water. We left the dock at 6:30 and were fishing before 7:00, using our standard jigs and minnows. As usual, the morning light on Vermilion was spectacular, with the backdrop of the budding aspen, which added their pastel green wash to a landscape previously dominated by the dark greens of the pines and fir. Whether the fish were biting or not, it would have been a remarkable morning on the lake.

By 8:30, however, the fish appeared to have moved out, but boats full of fishermen just kept coming so we left to check out a couple other usually reliable early season locations, without much success. Boats were out in large numbers wherever we went. In fact, at one point on Saturday, DNR officials conducting flights over the lake counted 730 fishing boats, according to DNR large lake specialist Matt Hennen, based in Tower.

When we hit the old reliable spot off the northern tip of Birch Point, it was wall-to-wall anglers. "Reminds me of years ago," commented Rob. "It's been a long time since I saw this many boats." By A slew of boats float off the tip of Brich Point on Lake Vermillion.

that point in the morning, the bite had slowed and despite the large number of boats, we saw few fish reaching boats.

While the large number of boats on the lake suggested opener, the weather was reminiscent of late June, with mild temperatures, light winds, and just a hint of welcome humidity after the desert-dry air that has sat for weeks over the North Country. I normally approach an opener morning out on Vermilion as I would a January trip to the Arctic, but this time my bag of winter gear, which I packed reflexively, sat unused on the floor of the boat.

This year's early ice-out and recent warm temperatures appear to have somewhat scrambled the usual rules for opening day fishing, as it appeared many of the larger fish had already moved on from their early season haunts to points unknown.

"I'm not even marking

## FIRE...Continued from page 4B-

derstorms moved through the area in the afternoon. Only spotty and limited rainfall was associated with the storms.

A very dry first half of May has increased the fire danger across the area, although the forecast of rain over the latter part of the week and the upcoming weekend could dampen that risk and aid firefighters in getting the blaze, dubbed the Bezhik Lake Fire, under control.

The fire presents a balancing act for fire officials. "It's a tricky spot because it's hard to get to," said Tim Engrav, with the LaCroix Ranger District in Cook. The fire isn't close to any travel routes, so putting firefighters at the scene is both challenging and risky. "You have to have a plan before you send in people," said Engrav. At the same time, the location is only a couple miles into the wilderness, and a private holding just north of the wilderness boundary could be impacted were the blaze to head that direction. As of Monday, Forest Service officials were considering whether to allow the fire to play its natural role. The fire had been confined to the ground, with two-to-four-foot flame lengths, mostly burning in mature red and white pine. "This is a fire ecosystem and this could provide an opportunity for some natural activity," Engrav added. At the same time, fire officials remember the fallout from the Pagami Creek Fire, which started from a lightning strike back in August 2011 and burned slowly for more than three weeks before exploding into a massive wildfire that scorched nearly 100,000 acres, making it the largest wildfire in modern Minnesota history. "You can't say it doesn't come into the mindset," acknowledged Engrav.

have considerable resources on hand currently, since fire officials had been using the dry weather as an opportunity to make progress on prescribed burning plans in the Ely area. A 20-person hotshot crew from Montana and a ten-person crew from the southern U.S. have been stationed on the west end of the forest for the past few weeks to help with that effort. fish here," Rob noted as we sat off the tip of Birch Point among the flotilla of other anglers, a spot that normally holds reliable numbers of walleye on opener.

It was much the same at another location on the south side of Pine Island, where he's fished many times in the past on opener.

Anglers will likely have to scratch their early season methods and start thinking summer tactics if they're going to be out looking for walleye over the next couple weeks.



Bill Herzog caught and released this monster northern pike from the dock at Silver Rapids Lodge on Saturday. It measured 45 inches and weighed 20.5 lbs. submitted photo

L	LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST												from NOAA weather										
	F	rida	iy	:	Sa	turd	lay		<b>Sunday</b>					•	M	ond	ay		: Tuesday				
			4										•				8						
	<b>75 58</b>		: <b>75 48</b>				<b>58 45</b>				•	69	]	50		•	6	5	49				
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.
05/03	75	40	0.03	05/10	48	27	0.00		05/10	48	30	0.00		05/10	50	30	0.00		05/10	47	30	0.00	
05/04	50	33	0.01	05/11	51	18	0.00		05/11	49	19	0.00		05/11	61	21	0.00		05/11	49	19	0.00	
05/05	52	24	0.00	05/12	59	18	0.00		05/12	58	28	0.00		05/12	70	36	0.00		05/12	58	28	0.00	
05/06	53 54	21 25	0.00	05/13	68	28	0.00		05/13	67	34	0.00		05/13	72	45	0.00		05/13 05/14	67 68	34 38	0.00	
05/07	54 52	23	0.02	05/14 05/15	69 69	37 35	0.00		05/14	68 70	38 38	0.00		05/14	73	46	0.00		05/14	70	38	0.00	
05/08	60	25	0.00	05/15	67	38	0.00		05/15	67	36	0.00		05/15 05/16	68 77	43 45	0.00		05/16	67	36	0.00	
Total	50	20	5.26 69.9"	YTD To	•••	50	4.95	50.1	YTD To		00	4.51	69.3".	YTD To		40	4.57	NA	YTD To		50	5.75	55.0"

## Fishing reports

#### Ely area

Opener was excellent for some, tough for many. Sunny, calm and warmer then usual water temps meant walleyes were not going to be located in their usual opener locations and anglers who confined their search there were disappointed. Successful anglers found walleyes in locations they normally would find them around Memorial Day. Most found walleye in 15-20 feet of water during the day. Quarter ounce jigs tipped with a minnow have been the best producing technique for successful anglers.

Pike anglers have been catching good numbers of very large pike so far. Anglers fishing large suckers under a bobber, over large shallow flats/weedbeds, have been reporting excellent catches. Anglers fishing off the dock have also been experiencing this excellent bite.

Smallmouth anglers have been finding bass up in shallow water, later in the day when the water temps warm up. These smallies have been hitting suspending jerk baits or tube baits fished slow. Bass are being found near downed trees, or shallow sand flats, where they are looking to spawn soon.

Courtesy Arrowhead Outdoors, in Ely.



The Superior does

# CLEAN

Soats, PWCs, trailers, and gear

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

# DRAIN

 Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders.
 PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

🥝 Trash unused bait

# DRY

Everything at least five days before going to other waters

O(r) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

## STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!

#### LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAINDRY.ORG







## **Obituaries and Death Notices**

#### Leslie F. Holappa

Leslie Frank Holappa, 68, of Embarrass, passed away on Sunday, May 16, 2021, at Essentia Health-St. Mary's in Duluth. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 22 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia with Pastor Brian Birk officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home of Virginia and Hibbing.

He is survived by his wife, Candace Holappa; three children, Shelley (Mark) Curtiss, Kari (Dennis) Beaulieu and Leslie "L.J." Holappa; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

#### William Pucelj

William "Willy" Pucelj, 98, a lifelong resident of Balkan Township, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 22 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the

service.

He is survived by his grandchildren, Julie (Kevin) Leecy of Tower, Robert Pucelj of Chisholm and Katie (Jason) Lorenzen of Burnsville: great-grandchildren, Alexis Munter, Brennan Pucelj, Daphne and Cale Lorenzen; nieces, Charlotte (Jim) Russ, Jean Taramelli and Janis (David) Bartholomay; and nephew, William (Shirley) Taramelli.

#### **Frances Isham**

Frances "Cisco" Isham, 71, of Nett Lake, passed away on Thursday, May 13, 2021. A wake was held on Monday, May 17 at the Nett Lake Government and Services Center. A Traditional Service was held on Tuesday, May 18, also at the center. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

#### Betty J. Johnson

Betty Jane Dahlin Johnson went to join her heavenly family and her Lord on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9, 2021. A celebration of life was held on Thursday, May

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

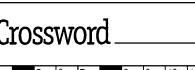
20 at First Baptist Church in Cook. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

#### Lois M. Asleson

Lois Marie VanDeHey Asleson, 86, of Embarrass, died on Friday, May 7, 2021, in the Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center in Sheboygan, Wis. A graveside service was held on Friday, May 14 at the Waasa Cemetery with Bill Bauman as the officiant. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

She is survived by her children, Ronald (Linda) Asleson of Embarrass, Debra (Ben) Jeziorski of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., and Sharon (Mark) Weise of Plymouth, Wis.; siblings, Mary Ann (Curtis) Jesme, Marvin VanDeHey, Donald (Norma) VanDeHey and Betty (Tim) Lund; 13 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

# King Crossword



THE TIMBERJAY

ACROSS			T -				T		1					
1 Green shade	1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	1	0	11
5 Police officer	12					13	1			14		+		
8 Achy														
12 Last writes?	15				16					17	·			
13 Coach	18			┨─┤				19	20			+		<u> </u>
Parseghian								13	20					
14 Bard's river				21				22						
15 Besides										+		_		
17 Hatchling's	23	24	25		26		27		28			2	9	30
home	31			32		33		34		35		+		
18 Bagel choice														
19 Aquarium	36				37		38		39		4C			
favorites			41			42		43	-	44				
21 Weir			41			42		43		44				
22 Mediocre	45	46						47			48	4	9	50
23 Fan's cry		_					-			+		+		
26 '60s war zone	51					52	53							
28 Entrap	54					55	1			56	;	╉		
31 Coup d' —														
33 "The Voice"	57					58				59				
network														
35 "My Way"		- 0					balls			37	Shc	e v	vidt	:h
composer		Sailc	or				tivist			39	Mal	aria	a sy	/mp-
36 Event location	59	Grit			11	Tol	kien	crea			tom			
38 "Eureka!"						tur				42	Map	o w	ithi	n a
40 Speck		WN					iscat		nd		map	)		
41 Zwei follower		May				Ov	erhe	ad		44	Lon			
43 Literary rep		Bass				tra					new			
45 Move fast	3	Rour		able			eed				Hav			
47 Wiped out		titles					vour				Ten			
51 Teen fave		Lieu					od-l				Asta			der
52 Oliver Twist's		Near					0's				Irela			
request		Raw					p Ha	at" s	tu-	50			oly	r
54 Margarita gar-	- 7	Med	icare	e sec		dio card								
nish		tion					ow c		ו	53	Egg	S		
nish 55 Leading lady?		"Evil		/S"		Sw	/imm	ning	l	53	Egg	S		
nish 55 Leading lady? 56 Buffalo's lake	8	"Evil banc	1		32	Sw rep	/imm otiles	ning		53	Egg	S		
nish 55 Leading lady?	8	"Evil banc Type	d of v		32 34	Sw rep Srr	vimm otiles nooth	ning n talk		53	Egg	S		

# **GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed to help with a neighborhood survey to determine interest in affordable broadband internet.

Information will then be used by potential internet providers to upgrade service in our township.

FROM THIS...

#### TO THIS!



To volunteer or for more information contact:

Sue Drobac at: sue.drobac@greenwoodtownshipmn.com

Barbara Lofquist at: barbara.lofquist@greenwoodtownshipmn.com

#### EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP **Open Supervisor Seat**

Eagles Nest Township is seeking an interested resident for appointment to an open supervisor position through Jan. 2, 2023.

Minimum qualifications include being an eligible voter in the Eagles Nest Township, being at least 21 years old, and having lived in Eagles Nest Township for at least 30 days. Please send a letter of interest, along with qualifications to Eagles Nest Township Clerk, Keely Drange at 1552 Bear Head State Park Rd., Ely, MN 55731.

Published in the Timberjay, May 21, 2021



#### **POSITION OPENING** Ely Public Schools Foreign Language Teacher 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for an energetic and passionate Foreign Language Teacher beginning the 2021-2022 school year; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Current Minnesota teaching license
  - Previous teaching experience preferred Excellent verbal and written communication
- skills to grow a successful foreign



## FULL-TIME BARTENDER

The City of Orr is accepting applications for a full-time bartender for the Orr Municipal Liquor Store. This is a salaried position that includes vacation package, health insurance, life insurance, retirement and sick leave. Looking for individuals who can interact with customers in a professional, friendly manner. Must pass background check. The City of Orr is a drug-free work place and Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may be picked up at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Highway 53, Orr. Call 218 57-3288 with anv direa



# EMPLOYMENT

#### **DEPUTY CLERK/TREASURER**

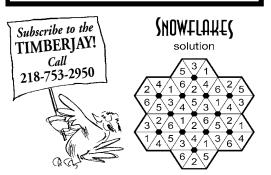
The City of Cook (pop. 574) located in St. Louis County is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of Deputy Clerk/ Treasurer. This position is full time, potentially covers a flexible work schedule, and includes some evening council and commission meetings.

Primary Duties: Utility billing, payroll, accounts payable/receivable, prepare monthly finan-cial statements, meeting minutes, assist with annual budgets, assist in annual audit, manage computer and filing systems and assist in monthly council packet preparation. Applicants must possess strong analytical, organizational, math and computer skills; ability to work with the public; excellent oral and written communication skills; and the ability to work independently and efficiently.

Besides this position, City Hall staff includes an Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer and Office Assistant. Wage includes annual step and reviewed cost of living increases, as well as full time benefit package.

Interested applicants should contact the Cook City Hall by phone at 218-666-2200 or e-mail at theresa@cookmn.us for an application packet. Position will remain open until filled. Application packets can be returned to Cook City Hall by delivering them to 127 South River Street or mailing them to PO Box 155, Cook, MN 55723.

Published in the Timberay, May 21 & 28, 2021



ADIIITV program

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

A complete application must include the following:

- Cover Letter
- District Licensed Application
- ≻ Resume
- Copy of official transcripts ≻
- Current Minnesota teaching license
- 3 letters of recommendation

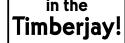
Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Memorial Middle School/High School Principal Megan Anderson at manderson@ely. k12.mn.us or call 218-365-6166 ext. 1726 with any questions

Published in the Timberjay, May 21, 2021

	Super Crossword																			
								A	n	sw	er	s								
Η		S	T	0	R	Ι	С		А	S	E		Т	Е	L		W	A	R	М
Α	С	Т	1	۷	Е	L	Y		В	I	Ζ	Α	R	R	Е		1	L	1	Е
G	Е	0	L	0	G	Ι	С	Α	L	R	E	С	0	R	D		D	1	۷	А
S	Е	Ρ	Т			А	L	L	Y		К	0	Ρ			R	Е	В	E	L
				А	U	D	1	T		Н	[	G	Н	Q	U	А	L	1	Т	Y
Ε	S	С	0	R	Т		Ν	0	S	Е	E		Υ	U	М	М	Y			
S	Т	А	R	Т	Ι	Ν	G	S	М	А	L	L		Ι	М	Ρ	R	E	S	S
Т	А	С	Т	1	L	Е		0	U	Т		А	Ι	Х		S	E	Т	Т	0
E	S	Т	0	S		В	Α	L			А	Ν	Ν	0	Y		А	Ν	1	L
S	Н	1	Ν	Т	0		D	0	Ų	В	L	E	S	Т	А	Ν	D	А	R	D
				1	D	Е	А		Т	Е	А		А	Е	R	0				
Ρ	А	S	S	С	0	М	Ρ	L	Е	Т	1	0	Ν		D	Ν	А	L	Α	В
Α	L	L	E		М	0	Т	Е	S			F	Е	D		0	D	0	U	L
С	0	U	R	Т		Т	S	А		D	S	Т		Е	D	W	A	R	D	1
Т	Е	R	М	1	Ν	I		S	Ρ	А	С	E	М	0	U	Ν	Т	А	1	Ν
			0	М	А	Ν	1		R	۷	1	Ν	G		Κ	Е	E	Ν	E	D
R	U	Ν	Ν	I	Ν	G	F	R	Е	Е		Е	М	В	Е	R				
Α	۷	0	1	D			1	0	S		0	S	L	0			Е	Т	Т	Е
L	U	Ţ	Ζ		Т	Ι	М	Е	А	Ν	D	Т	Ι	М	Е	А	G	Α	1	Ν
Ρ	L	1	E		D	R	Α	G	G	Е	D		0	В	۷	1	А	Т	E	D
Н	A	Ν	D		S	Κ	Y		E	D	S		Ν	Е	A	R	Ν	E	S	S

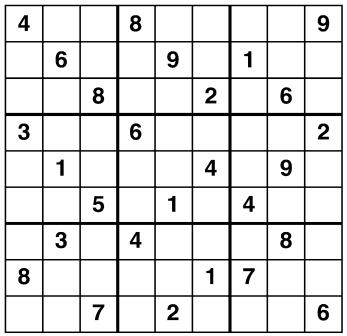
# Online at www.timberjay.com

tfn



# Weekly SUDOKU

# by Linda Thistle



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



© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

♦ ♦ HOO BOY!



MARINE

**7B** May 21, 2021 TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Try out the 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.



89 August hrs.

91 13th-century

king of

take notice

49 Touch-

9

8

7

2

5

3

1

4

6

related

OPEN MEETING-AA Thursdays at 7 Woodland Presbyterian Church,

Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive in Babbitt.

and parking

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E Camp St., Ely

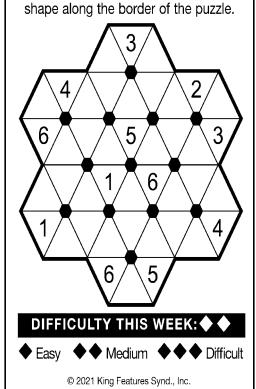
IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

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

— King Crossword —														
Answers														
Solution time: 24 mins.														
М	0	S	S		С	0	Ρ		S	0	R	Е		
0	В	Т	Т		А	R	А		А	۷	0	Ν		
Μ	0	R	Е	0	۷	Е	R		Ν	Е	S	Т		
S	Е	S	А	М	Е		Т	Е	Т	R	А	S		
			D	А	М		в	L	А	Н				
R	А	Н		Ν	А	М		S	Ν	А	R	Е		
E	Т	А	Т		Ν	В	С		А	Ν	Κ	Α		
٧	Е	Ν	U	Ε		А	Н	Α		D	0	Т		
		D	R	Ε	Ι		А	G	Т					
Н	A	S	Т	Ε	Ν		R	U	Т	Ν	Е	D		
Ι	D	0	L		S	0	М	Е	М	0	R	Е		
L	1	М	Е		Е	۷	Е		Е	R	1	Е		
0	Ν	Е	S		Т	A	R		S	A	Ν	D		

Call 7

Ś



puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6

around each of them. No number can

be repeated in any partial hexagon

Adverstising	4	7	1	8	6	3	5	2	
PAYS OFF!	2	6	3	7	9	5	1	4	
5 35 5	9	5	8	1	4	2	3	6	
2	3	9	4	6	5	7	8	1	
	7	1	2	3	8	4	6	9	
	6	8	5	2	1	9	4	7	
Call 753-2950	5	3	9	4	7	6	2	8	
subscribe to the	8	2	6	9	3	1	7	5	
Timberjay!	1	4	7	5	2	8	9	3	

50 Away fromEnglandhome93 Final stops5195 * Classic-en-Provencecoaster at53 AltercationDisney parks			os it	126   נוסי	crew, short	in for	(frozen beef brand) <b>35</b> Politician Kefauver <b>36</b> Hoard				79 80 84		l War Murpł ess	יא <b>1</b>	Springfield 119 LaRue of "CSI: Miami"						
								Proxir	-			ard			excels	sis —					1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18	
19									20			21					22				
23								24									25				
26						27					28					29					
				30	31					32				33	34						
35	36	37	38				39		40				41								
42						43						44		45				46	47	48	
49								50				51	52			53					
54						55	56				57				58		59				
60					61		62		63	64						65					
				66		67			68				69								
70	71	72	73					74				75			76		77	78	79	80	
81					82							83		84		85					
86				87		88				89	90			91	92						
93					94			95	96				97								lac All righte received
			98				99		100						101						Il richte
102	103	104						105				106		107							cote loc A
108							109				110						111	112	113	114	Ť
115					116	117				118					119	120					Toot troe
121					122								123								©2021 King Eastures
124					125				126				127								600
									,												

33 Man of La

34 Steak- ---

Mancha

spoonfuls to

directly

125 Plane

bevred ©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights

114 Halts

117 Tick off

116 NFL coups

78 Old ship-

locating

system





## Protect yourself. Hire licensed.

Make sure your next home project is done right the first time. Protect your investment by ensuring your contractor is licensed.

Verify a license at www.hirelicensedmn.com Or call 651-284-5069.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Prepare for

generator

HIRE LICENSED CONTRACTORS



**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!** 833-356-1940

7-Year Extended Warranty A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer – Call for details

#### Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

fy, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate t or with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditior





Our unique computer system allows you to see how your kitchen will look before you buy!

to 50% O

MFG. List Price on Cabinetry!

# Sinks • Hardware • Tile • Counter Tops • Vanities • Carpet • Vinyl • More!



Many kitchen cabinet displays set up in the store! Also, door samples and over 900 combinations of styles and stains to choose from!

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You



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



### **FINANCING AVAILABLE!**

HOURS: 8-5:30 M-F

find us on:

floortoceiling.com/virginia

