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the TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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ISD 696

School board rejects construction bids

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

\$20 million renovation in limbo as officials refocus project

ELY – An official ground-breaking ceremony was held this week to commemorate the beginning of work on the \$20 million school renovation project

for ISD 696, but questions swirled in this community concerning the rejection of construction bids by the school board and the time-

line of the project.

During a tension-filled study session Monday night, Superintendent Erik Erie told board members

that following the recent tabulation of the construction bids for the second phase of the project, Kraus-Anderson (KA), the school

district’s construction manager, and Architectural Resources Inc. (ARI), the school district’s design firm, recommended that

the entire renovation work package be rejected.

Bid tabulation docu-

See...ELY pg. 10

TECHNOLOGY



Art Unlimited CFO Elizabeth Chapman, upper right, and development team members Amanda Jacquart, lower right, Jana Carlson, lower left, and Denisa Lalikova, upper left, convene virtually to talk about careers for women in technology.

Raising the bar for women

Local firm is industry leader for technology career opportunities

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

ANGORA- Few sectors of the U.S. economy are more gender segregated than technology, where women represent barely a quarter of the workforce and a similar proportion of management.

But there’s a thriving

tech-savvy marketing company tucked away in a little corner of the forest west of Angora that’s turning those numbers upside down and proving that technology is not the job of tomorrow but a career for today for women with the drive and ability to succeed.

Tom and Pat Chapman

founded Art Unlimited in 1982 as a print-oriented marketing company, but today their daughters, Chief Executive Officer Anna Anderson and Chief Financial Officer Elizabeth Chapman, lead a high-tech digital marketing operation with nearly 40 team members, two-thirds of whom are women. On

the development team, the group tasked with creating the coding, design, search engine optimization components and more for their clients’ internet footprints, the mix is about 50-50.

When Tom determined the company needed to get

See...TECH pg. 9

CITY OF TOWER

Council OKs study of wastewater treatment expansion

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here, on Monday, approved a motion to request an engineer’s study of options for addressing the community’s lack of wastewater treatment capacity. At a time when the city is aggressively seeking new development, the lack of treatment has been a key piece of infrastructure that’s limiting growth, and it’s one that the Tower Economic Development Authority has been pushing the council to address for some time.

TEDA Director Marshall Helmberger, on Monday, noted that a new RV park proposal, in which the developer was hoping to connect to the municipal system only to be informed that there was insufficient capacity, brought focus back to the issue.

“For most developers, being able to hook up to a municipal system is the easy way,” said Helmberger. “You hook it up and you don’t have to worry about it. That’s what most developers are looking for and right now we really can’t offer that.”

Complicating the issue is that the city relies on the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board to manage its wastewater treatment system and some Breitung officials have expressed reluctance in the past about expanding capacity. Armed

See...TOWER pg. 9

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Wolf secrets revealed by popular videos

Project fundraiser would triple trail cam coverage of packs

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL- There was a time when twins and triplets would be a big surprise for expectant parents, but sonograms and technology changed that forever.

Now, technology is doing the same for what we know about wolves in the wild, as high-quality trail cameras are giving researchers with the Voyageurs Wolf Project surprising and captivating new insights into their summertime lives in the

High quality trail cameras are giving Voyageurs Wolf Project researchers surprising new insights. submitted photo

boreal forest.

“We just shared a post this morning online which was run into a den a couple of weeks ago,” project lead Tom Gable said last Friday. “The den was so tight and narrow that we couldn’t see

See...WOLF PROJECT pg. 11



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Community notices

Bocce ball league to start

GREENWOOD TWP- Throws, punto, raffa, volo, What? These are bocce ball terms neighbors hope to be using at a summer bocce league at the Greenwood Township courts. Plans for a Wednesday evening couples league are in the works. If there is interest, women's, men's, and family leagues will be considered. Fun times, great people, nice courts, now all we need are players. To express interest or to ask questions, contact bbvermilion2021@gmail.com, checkout nextdoor.com, or text 218-750-7236 for information. Let the games begin!

Virtual classes for kids this June

REGIONAL- The University of Minnesota Extension will be offering the following classes for children this June.

►On My Own-classes Thursdays, from 4-5 p.m., June 3 and June 10. Register by May 19, z.umn.edu/OnMyOwn.

►4-H Healthy Sprouts-Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m., June 2 – Aug. 25, z.umn.edu/healthy-sprouts.

►4-H Campfire-Tuesday, June 8 from 7-8 p.m., z.umn.edu/4-HCampfire.

Youth Mental Health Night, June 10

CHISHOLM- The Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program would like to invite youth and families to a Youth Mental Health Night at the MN Discovery Center. Join us for an evening of fun on Thursday, June 10 from 5-7 p.m. while learning about healthy living strategies, local mental health resources, education and more.

The evening will consist of games, prizes, and the ability to explore the grounds of the MN Discovery Center, along with local groups supporting mental health.

Admission is free, while food, trolley rides, and mini golf will be available for purchase.

Join us on June 10 from 5-7 p.m. Questions can be sent to youthmentalhealth218@gmail.com.

Artists featured in several Quad Cities businesses on first Thursdays

REGIONAL- First Thursdays QC (Quad Cities) art walk began May 6 in the downtowns of Eveleth, Gilbert, Mt. Iron and Virginia and will continue on the first Thursday of every month. It is a year-round community event designed to increase pedestrian traffic to downtown businesses and showcase local artists. Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation supported the project with a Culture and Tourism grant.

Participating businesses, bars, and restaurants will host an artist on site at each location during the event, and the business may create sales, promotions or samplings to enhance the visitors' experience. Artists may include musicians, sculptors, painters, artisans, writers, illustrators and poets. Project partners include Iron Range Tourism Bureau, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce, Lyric Center for the Arts and ReVive Virginia which is a nonprofit organization formed to focus on downtown preservation and revitalization. The project also received grants from Virginia Community Foundation and Explore Minnesota.

St. Louis County offices to fully re-open

REGIONAL- All St. Louis County offices will re-open to the public on Wednesday, June 1. The main county buildings, including government service centers and courthouses already are open for specific services, but beginning in June, all departments will be open to walk-in service from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Anyone coming to a St. Louis County Courthouse for court matters should be aware that these services follow a Minnesota Supreme Court order that limits some in-person services through June 13.

Face masks are not required to be worn inside county buildings, however anyone who is not yet fully vaccinated is encouraged to continue wearing a mask. Facial coverings are still required inside the county jail, in accordance with current state orders, and inside courtrooms and court offices, in accordance with the current judicial order.

Even with the re-opening, county services will continue to be made available online and by phone or email. Visit stlouiscountymn.gov/covid19 for more information on visiting county buildings or how to access services remotely.

MEMORIAL DAY

Ely to hold memorial service at cemetery

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY- Memorial Day services will be held at the Ely Cemetery on Monday, May 31, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by VFW Post 2717, American Legion Post 248, and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The entire program will be broadcast on WELY 94.5 FM, according to American Legion Post 258 Adjutant Gerald Tyler.

The service will begin with a welcome by Master of Ceremonies Steven Saari, commander of American Legion Post 248, who is standing in this year for Tony Rechichi, VFW Post 2717 commander. "Tony will be participating in Honor Guard duties," Tyler said.

Bagpiper Joe Linnemann will play America the Beautiful and Yankee Doodle.

The Invocation will be conducted by Helen Koski, reader at First Lutheran Church.

Tyler will then recite the Roll Call of Departed Comrades.

The placing of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will be presented this year by the family of Veteran Robert Niskala, who



file photo

passed away earlier this year. Ely Area Scouts and American Legion Auxiliary members will also participate. Linneman will play Amazing Grace.

The featured speaker this year will be David Merhar, Colonel, (Ret) U.S. Army.

Koski will present the benediction following the keynote address.

Ely Memorial Band Director Sarah Mason will sing the National Anthem and America the Beautiful.

The Ely Honor Guard will present a Salute to the

Honored Dead.

Taps will be played by Ron Forsman.

Volunteers will be placing American flags on the gravesites of known Veterans at the Ely Cemetery on Saturday, May 29 beginning at 9 a.m. The flags will be removed Tuesday morning.

"Our group does not have a listing or knowledge of all the Veterans interred at the Ely Cemetery," said Honor Guard Commander Mike Pope.

"We place flags at the government-issued

markers. Occasionally we may know the location of a specific Veteran and will place a flag there. If someone wants to ensure their loved one has a flag, feel free to join us on Saturday. We will happily loan a flag for the gravesite. Our goal is to put flags on all the Veterans' sites, but we only know the ones marked with the government marker," Pope said.

FARMERS MARKET

Cook Area Farmers Market opens June 19



file photo

COOK- Live, from the Cook City Park, it's the Saturday Morning Cook Area Farmers Market! We're back to sort of normal. After a tough year for all, the members of the Cook Area Farmers Market are excited to be hosting another summer market where we can all get together as a community on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (note the new hours).

They have been tilling the soil, planting seeds, feeding their chickens, tending the bees and extracting the honey. They have been in their kitchens with their canners and getting ready to bake. They have been making soaps and roasting coffee. They have been busy working on creative crafts, jewelry and art; sawing wood in their workshops; and sewing

beautiful items in their homes. The members of the Cook Area Farmers Market are ready to start another season, beginning June 19, and every Saturday thereafter until October from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Cook City Park on River Street.

The market offers a wide variety of fresh, locally-grown produce, baked goods, art and crafts. Like years past, the market is

sure to create a festive atmosphere in downtown Cook for folks who live in our area as well as summer visitors. As more people have become conscious of sustainable agricultural practices, farmers markets have become a popular place to shop for fresh produce. The Cook Area Farmers Market is no different as it grows every year.

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ELY STATE THEATER

Ribbon cutting will open Greenstone Cinema on Friday

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY- The Greenstone Cinema inside Ely’s Historic State Theater officially opens Memorial Day weekend.

Following a brief ribbon-cutting event on Friday, May 28 at 12:30 p.m., public open house guided tours of the entire State Theater complex will be held from 1-3 p.m. Tours will also be conducted on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon.

“There is much to see in both theaters including the original State Theater, its Green Room, the

new 50-seat Greenstone Cinema, and the Grotto downstairs, as well as the expanded concessions area,” said David Wigdahl, chair of the theater’s board of directors.

Movies will be shown in the Greenstone Cinema at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and at 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m. on the weekend. A different movie will be screened in the State Theater at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday, and 2 p.m., 5 p.m., and 8 p.m. on the weekend.

Movie tickets are \$5 for all regular shows. Please consult the EHST website at elystatetheater.org for

previews and specific show times.

“In addition to these daily movies, the theater has created two special summer programs you won’t want to miss, Summer Classics and Stages on Screen,” Wigdahl said.

Summer Classics will be shown every Tuesday and Thursday from Memorial Day to Labor Day and include such familiar blockbuster films as National Lampoon’s Vacation, The Blues Brothers, and Dirty Dancing.

“Stages on Screen will bring Broadway to our screen on Wednesdays and Sundays with special

screenings to include the live National Theater production of *Frankenstein* with Benedict Cumberbatch, *Kinky Boots*, *42nd Street*, and *Carmen on the Lake*, among other special events,” he added. These shows will have a \$15 ticket price.

For frequent summer viewing pleasure, the State Theater has a Summer Movie Pass available for a limited time with eight shows for \$25, a \$40 value. There are also several concessions combinations available featuring beverages of soda, wine, beer, or spirits to accompany traditional movie fare.



The cozy Greenstone Theater, inside Ely’s Historic State Theater, officially opens on Friday, May 28. A ribbon cutting will be held at 12:30 p.m. photo by K. Vandervort

ISD 2142

School board marks close of trying year

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COVID regs lifting in time for normal graduation ceremonies

VIRGINIA- The tone at Tuesday’s meeting of the ISD 2142 school board in Virginia was a mixture of relief, perseverance, and celebration as members worked through an agenda with items to close out a

COVID-scarred academic year and look ahead to the next.

“We’re almost to the end of the school year and we’ve been in-person since the winter break, and it’s just awesome,” Superintendent

Reggie Engebritson said. “I’m giddy. Is somebody putting that in the minutes? I think we’ve done a great job of staying the course and staying in school.”

Engebritson noted that the schools contin-

ue to operate under the Safe Learning Plan, which includes wearing masks, through the end of the academic year next week.

With the end of the state’s COVID-19 facility capacity restrictions

on May 28, the June 4 graduation ceremonies at the district’s high schools will be open to the public, Engebritson said.

“Social distancing will not be required at graduations, no masks, and so

graduations should look pretty much like they used to,” she said.

Board chair Dan Manick noted that there are some people who still

See **SCHOOLS...**pg. 5

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Editorial

Worker shortage

Many factors at play in the declining workforce

Simple answers are always appealing, which is why many people are placing the blame for our region’s current worker shortage on the enhanced federal unemployment benefits that remain in effect in most parts of the country, including Minnesota.

For a small number of workers, the benefits may be a factor, but they are just one of many that are going into the calculations of individuals and families as they weigh the future in what we hope is soon a post-pandemic Minnesota.

It’s worth remembering that our region faced an acute worker shortage even before the pandemic. Exactly three years ago, in an editorial titled “Workforce woes,” we wrote about two issues that were contributing to the problem: the region’s aging workforce and the lack of childcare. The pandemic didn’t slow the aging of our workforce. In fact, it likely prompted more people to retire early. And the childcare industry was hit hard, including in our area, by the pandemic. In other words, both of these factors are, if anything, posing even greater challenges to the area’s workforce than they were before the pandemic.

Details from the April jobs report, nationally, suggest that lack of childcare remains a major issue. Of the 266,000 new jobs reported last month, virtually all went to men, which suggests that, at least in two-parent families, women are choosing to remain at home with kids. That’s not a surprise. With many schools elsewhere in the country still shifting back-and-forth between distance learning, hybrid-learning, and in-person classes, families are facing considerable uncertainty. If the enhanced unemployment benefit means families can delay sending both parents back into the workforce a few months longer, without causing serious stress, then they are achieving exactly their intended goal.

If unemployment benefits were really the primary issue, we would only find worker shortages at the lower end of the pay scale. Someone who is in a profession or trade that pays in excess of

\$60,000 a year is unlikely to give up that level of compensation for an enhanced federal benefit that will amount to no more than \$11,700 this year, since the benefits are only slated to go through September. Yet employers are reporting an inability to find workers at virtually all levels, including for jobs paying well over \$100,000 a year.

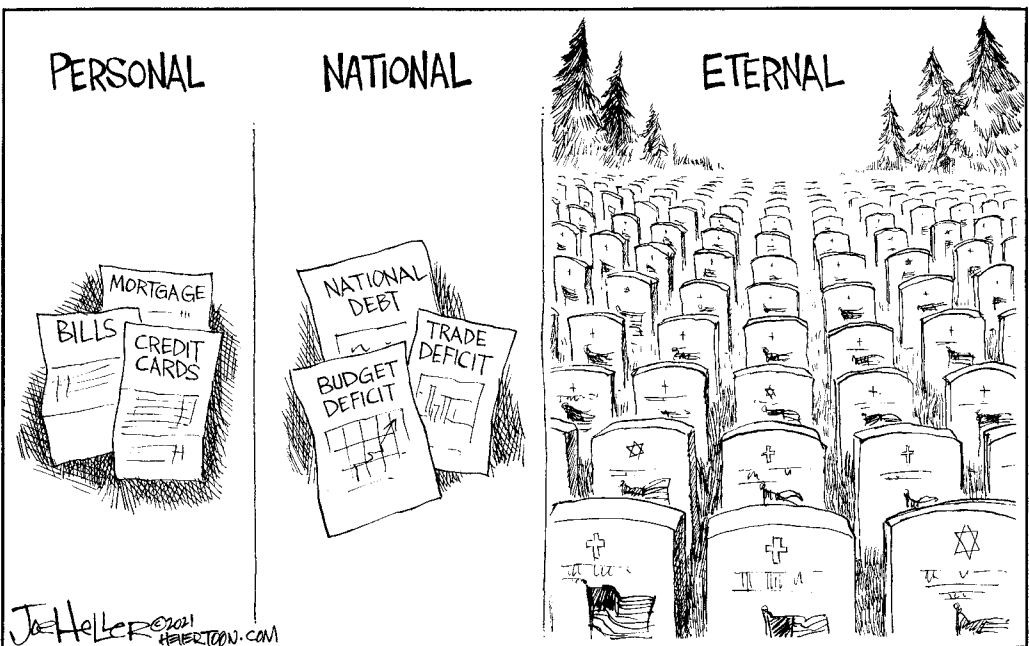
We always knew there would be a worker shortage in the U.S. when the baby boom hit the exit from the workforce, and for some boomers, the pandemic was the shove they needed to call it quits. Now that the economy is ready to ramp back up, their absence from the job market is being felt.

The disappearance of baby boomers from the workforce is coming at the same time that the U.S. has tightened its rules and limits on immigration, which used to be a significant factor in maintaining the workforce in the U.S. And that tightening comes amid the backdrop of a declining birth rate in the U.S. It’s now so low that more people die in the U.S. each year than are born, something that is unprecedented since European settlement here. If you think the worker shortage is bad today, just wait. It will be much, much worse in the future.

The impacts to the economy are already significant. Most economists expect strong economic growth this year, because most of the economic indicators are pointing that way. But if businesses don’t have the workforce, much of that expansion could be stalled.

The bottom line here is that our employment situation and our prospects for economic recovery are connected. While the U.S. has most of the pieces in place for a strong post-pandemic recovery, the shrinking workforce could pose one of the biggest challenges. It would be nice if cutting off enhanced federal unemployment benefits would prompt more Americans to re-enter the workforce. Unfortunately, our workforce challenges, both here at home and across the country, are a lot more systemic and challenging than that.

The debt we owe



Letters from Readers

I hope her words will resonate in me

Having read about the appearance of Chad Davis in front of the Ely School “Board regarding a book entitled I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness,” and having read Junior Micah Larson’s letter to the editor, I wanted to look into the book myself.

Like Micah, I grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood in a predominantly white town, and I attended a predominantly white school and church. I then went on to attend a predominantly white Christian college. My first teaching job was at a predominantly black school, in a predominantly black neighborhood, at Minneapolis North High School. It was eye-opening, to say the least. The lived experience of my students was very different from my own. I learned a lot from them, and it also made me realize I needed to learn more.

Reading slave narratives, autobiographies like “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” by Maya Angelou and a memoir like Austin Channing Brown’s “I’m Still Here” give me insights into the lived experience of lives very different from my own. Visiting the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, housed in the former hotel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, reading about Jim Crow laws, disenfranchisement, discrimination, the KKK, the March on Charlotte, the massacre of black worshippers at the AME church in Charleston, the bombings, the lynchings, the senseless insults, threats and killings, all of this makes me look at the country I love from a different vantage.

While reading about the experiences and emotions of Ms. Channing Brown, I felt many things. Many of them were uncomfortable. I’ve never been the only black girl in a school classroom or church sanctuary, or the only black woman in an organization.

Seeing her experiences and perceptions through her lens gave me a perspective very different from my own.

One of the goals of an education is to broaden our minds and challenge our preconceptions. My mind and my heart were both challenged by Ms. Channing Brown’s memoir. I hope her words will resonate in me for a long time, and I hope her words will help me be a better teacher to all of my students, black, white, and every person I have the good fortune to meet in my classes.

Respectfully,
Sara Skelton Ely

Don’t let them fool you

Stop the steal! Isn’t it easy when walking in a grocery store to pick out those who are likely to be stealing from us the taxpayers? Isn’t it the ones who look poor? Maybe someone who looks or speaks differently? President Reagan’s image of a welfare queen? How much could such a person defraud us in a year? A thousand dollars, five thousand dollars? Small potatoes!

The ones we should be most concerned about are the ones who appear to be financially successful. We fail to think of the wealthy who either directly falsify, or find means only available to the ultra-wealthy, to avoid paying taxes. Yet that accounts for \$400 billion a year. That is over 80 million of our hypothetical grocery store cheaters.

A specific recent example is a doctor in Virginia sentenced to federal prison for swindling the government out of \$20 million. That would take our hypothetical person 4,000 years to amass!

Why is our health insurance so costly? I lived in a northwestern Minnesota town for over 20 years. There was a doctor, well known in the community, who had the reputation of doing a large number of hysterectomies.

People used to joke and laugh about it. Legitimate?

In our town a chiropractor would ask children visiting his children, in his home, if they would like a massage. After a quick massage he would submit billings to insurance for the “procedures”. I know this for a fact because we disputed the charges when our insurance was charged. We also submitted a complaint with the insurance company and received no response.

Be wary of others manipulating our emotions to stir mistrust of others to divide our communities. They divert our attention, so we don’t notice they are the ones really stealing from us.

Keith Steva Cook

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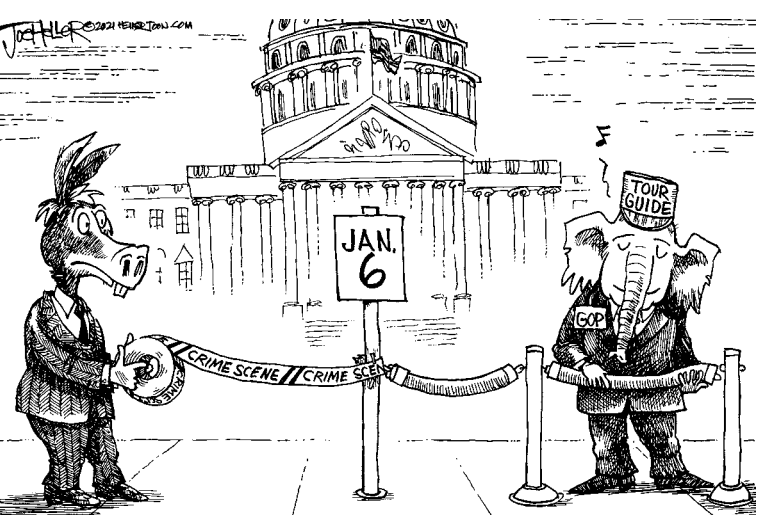
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We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay’s* editorial page. We want to know what you think!



Of Einstein, goldfish, burgers and relativity

“The Big Lie.”

Thanks to the 45th’s refusal to accept that he lost the last presidential election, that phrase has become almost a daily part of our vernacular. “The Big Lie” is used by liberals as shorthand not only for the Donald’s promised, but hardly ever outlandish claims, but paid.



DAVID COLBURN

also for the avalanche of unfounded claims uttered and failed lawsuits filed by Sydney, Rudy, Punch and Judy, and any other “flavor of the day” barrister the Trumpster can find who will work for wages promised, but hardly ever

But as the somewhat controversial Cyber Ninja recount of Arizona votes by rabid Trumplicans drag on, “The Big Lie” means something entirely different to them. The big lie they’re trying to debunk is that Sleepy Joe actually won the election fair and square.

Which is to say that “The Big Lie” is therefore a phrase that is relative.

And that brings us to Albert Einstein, his theory of special relativity, and the humongous lie next to

which “The Big Lie” barely registers as a tiny little fib – the lie of time.

Einstein didn’t actually tell us time itself is a lie. Our belief that time is constant, he said, is the lie. The length of a second, a minute, or a day is never absolute, Einstein said. The rates at which they pass shift depending on position, speed and gravity. Change any or all, and time changes with them.

Maybe you’ve seen a science fiction movie where

an astronaut hurtling at unbelievable speed through space stays young while his relatives back on Earth age and die? That’s an example of Einstein’s theory – time literally slows down when you’re going so incredibly fast.

But let’s look at an example of relativity we can relate to.

Acar’s GPS navigation system can be maddening when it tells you to “turn left” and you end up almost driving into Lake Vermilion

because you listened to it. But if satellite scientists didn’t pay attention to Einstein, your GPS locators and navigation units would be complete junk less than a day after you bought them. And why?

Relativity, that’s why. Moving at speed of about 8,700 mph, the seconds ticking on those satellite clocks pass a tiny bit slower than here on Earth. But they’ve also escaped three-

See **BIG LIE...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

Honor the fallen on Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a federal holiday that Americans celebrate to honor and mourn the men and women who fought to

maintain the freedom of the United States of America. It is a special day to pay tribute to these soldiers by adorning their gravesites with flowers, wreaths and the American flag. We are grateful to John Zaitz and his grandsons

who maintain and care for the Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. They will be placing the new American flags on the military spikes this week. We also acknowledge Sulu's Espresso Café, owned by Brenda Winkelaar

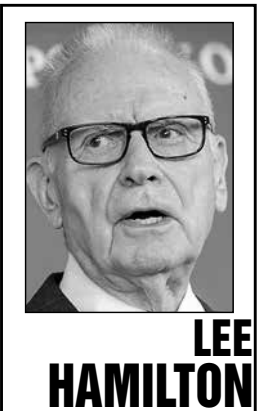
and Linda DiCasmirro, who donated the flags for this undertaking. We encourage everyone to walk past the Historic Fire Hall in Tower and view the patriotic displays in the windows. These were carefully set up by Pauly

Housenga and Pastor Doug Workman. As you view the photos of World War II and the Vietnam War, have a moment of silence in their honor. Commemorating this special day is a privilege and we wish all of

you a safe and wonderful Memorial Day with family and friends. **Linda and Gary Haugen Tower**

We're stronger as a country when more people vote

There is a fight going on over the heart of our democracy, and I worry that democracy is losing. Over the last few months, several states have moved decisively to make it harder for their citizens to vote, and more are on tap. It's hard to tell yet whether this is just a blip or an actual reversal of the U.S.'s long trend of expanding voting access. Either way, it's cause for attention. The earliest moves this year came in Iowa and Georgia, which made absentee voting harder and shifted some control over election processes from elections officials to partisan politicians themselves. Florida recently cut back on drop boxes and ratcheted up ID requirements for request-



ing an absentee ballot. Texas's legislature is moving forward with a bill that would hand power to partisan poll watchers, bar elections officials from mailing out absentee ballot applications, and impose other limits. Ohio legislators want to limit drop boxes and reduce early in-person voting. Republican legislatures in Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming have enacted restrictions, as well. Over the long course of American history, we've tended to move the opposite direction: toward expanding people's ability to vote. Indeed, significant parts of our history revolved around who should be able to vote, since politicians

always want to tilt the field in their favor. Originally, of course, the franchise was limited to white men with property. Then, over time, white men without property, Black men, women, Native Americans, non-English speakers, and citizens between the ages of 18 and 21 won the right to cast ballots. To be sure, there are still plenty of people who are barred from voting by state laws. Some states don't let convicted felons vote; many states deny the vote to people with psychiatric disabilities — and sometimes, poll workers impose their own competency standards, regardless of what the law says. Most states impose a residency requirement — often, you have to have lived there at least 30 days — and though all states allow homeless people to vote, sometimes they have trouble meeting the registration requirements. These days, the

battles tend to revolve less explicitly around who should be able to vote and more around ease of voting. There is a strong argument to be made that this is just a different way of restricting the vote: Democrats made effective use of absentee ballots in the 2020 elections, for instance, so Republican legislatures have imposed limits on their use for next time — though there are states, like Florida, where absentees were a prime GOP electoral tool in earlier elections. In general, voting rights advocates argue that making voting harder means that people who have historically turned out in smaller percentages will once again be at a disadvantage. Many people — over the course of a long career in politics, I've seen this firsthand — are intimidated by the voting process: showing up at a precinct, passing through a gauntlet of campaign signs and people

with handouts, getting checked in, facing the prospect that they'll be humiliated by being turned away. Without encouragement, they opt not to show up at all. There are politicians who know this and take advantage of it. By now, my view on this ought to be obvious. As a democracy, the United States is stronger when as many people as possible can vote and the electorate reflects the actual makeup of the population. This has two beneficial effects: it ensures that our elected representatives reflect who we are; and it helps Americans not only feel a stake in the system but believe that their voices are represented in the corridors of power. The opposite is also true. When people feel that efforts are being made to deny their participation, they write off the process and begin looking for other ways to affect politics and policy, including taking to the streets or develop-

ing sympathy for more authoritarian approaches to governing. It is too early to say how this year's voting-restriction laws will turn out; many of them will likely end up in court. But even if the urge to limit voting is hardly new, it's dismaying that, well over two centuries since our founding, it remains so pervasive. *Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

BIG LIE...Continued from page 4

fourths of the pull of Earth's gravity by being all the way up there, and according to Einstein their clocks move faster because of that. Got that? Slower and faster at the same time. When people more brilliant than I do the math, a second for a GPS satellite way up there passes 38 millionths of a second faster than a second for you or me down here. That might not seem like much, but if those scientists weren't smart enough to figure this out and constantly adjust for it, your GPS would be wrong by six miles the day after you bought it, and six more the day after that. And the primary underwater structure for fish in Lake Vermilion would probably be comprised of wayward Chevys and Fords by now. Try as I might, however, trying to reconcile Einstein's theory with my own experience of changing time is nearly

impossible. I know, with absolute certainty, that time changes even without changes in speed or gravity. I was in eighth grade the first time I noticed seconds moved more slowly than they were supposed to. I was sitting quite perfectly still in Mr. Burton's science classroom, where I was serving after-school detention for leaping out of a window during Ben Barrett's civics class to run to a nearby gas station for candy bars. Peer pressure, I say. I hadn't stopped at my locker on the way to detention to pick up a book or homework, so there I was, seated right next to Mr. Burton's aquarium with its loudly buzzing air compressor, alternately staring for an hour at goldfish and the achingly slow red second hand on the classroom clock. In that situation, an hour is an hour, right, Einstein? Not that

day. Not even close. It happened again just this past Friday at, of all places, the Cook VFW during the reboot of the always popular and terribly missed Burger Night. I didn't get there until 6:45 p.m., and when they took my order, they placed it on a stack of others that seemingly reached from here to the moon, or at least one of those GPS satellites. I was in for a long wait. The passage of time inside the Cook VFW that night defied the special relativity theory of Mr. Smarty Pants Albert Einstein in numerous ways. I'm seated in a chair on good old Mother Earth, so there are no speed or gravity differentials to compute. A second is a second is a second, right, Big Al? Wrong. Time slows down, seconds stretch longer and longer because of variables his theory can't accommodate. Seconds

grew longer every time a waitress carrying a glorious platter of burgers and fries passed me by. They grew longer every time I heard the sizzling of another basket of fries dropped into hot oil. Every time a table of fat and happy customers emptied, time dragged its heels a little more. And when I actually started feeling hungry? Yes, you know the routine. It was a long wait, 70 minutes. But, conditioned to drive-through fast food service over the years (another thing Al overlooked), it seemed much longer. And then suddenly, time raced ahead. I can't eat a whole burger in five seconds, but I'll swear that's all the time it took to wolf that baby down. Of course, the explanation is really that time itself didn't change, only my perception of it did. But as a wise mentor once told me, a person's perception

is their reality. I'll admit it. Even though I don't fully understand it, Einstein was right. Time IS relative, and his ideas have checked out in countless experiments over the years. But frankly, I would appreciate Einstein a lot more if he had provided a solid explanation for how

the smell of an elusive burger, the sight of a northern Minnesota sunset, the distant sound of a calling loon, or the feeling of falling in love all have the power to make time stand absolutely and relatively still.


SCHOOLS...Continued from page 4

have the understanding that graduation will be limited to four family members for each student, which was the plan before Gov. Tim Walz unveiled his plan to end COVID restrictions. "It's confusing because it's not May 28 yet and the rules are still in effect for anything before May 28," Engbritson said. Kim Jirik reviewed the contents of a report about the district's experience this year with Q-Comp, a state-sponsored quality improvement initiative for teaching involving such things as learning communities and peer mentorships. Jirik noted that alterations dictated in learning methodologies, including distance learning, made this year's process different from any other. "We had a lot of kids that were in and out for

whatever reason, we had some network distance learning out here, we had an AB learning schedule, so it wasn't full time learning," Jirik said. "There were a lot of things that interfered with education in general this year." Still, Jirik dubbed the initiative a success this year. "Overall, it's been a very good year," she said. "There's been more collaboration this year. There are some people who are better with technology, and some people are better with this or that. They came together, they talked, they helped each other out." In other business, the board: ➤ Approved the annual financial audit reviewed at a prior working meeting. ➤ Approved an adjustment in the pay-for-performance program that

will provide stipends for qualified employees who have reached the top of their salary range and are ineligible for salary increases. The board also designated \$52,000 to be used to fund the pay-for-performance system to cover all eligible employees. ➤ Approved an agreement with Chisholm School District for a cooperative girls swimming team. ➤ Accepted renewal of the district's property, auto, and workers compensation insurance as presented by Dwight Swanstrom Company/Spirit Valley Agency of Duluth. An analysis of the workers compensation rate showed a \$9,000 increase for 2021 over 2020, but the \$109,616 rate was still \$2,000 less than in 2019. The property insurance premium for 2021 was \$137,269, a net

increase of \$11,643. ➤ Hired Alli Sandberg and Jessica Gillson as full-time special education teachers at Tower-Soudan School. ➤ Heard that 132 staff have enrolled in a one-year personal data protection program following a data breach of the district's employee data. ➤ Hired Thomas Hed as a full-time, long-term substitute custodian at North Woods. ➤ Hired Melissa Rabas as a part-time van driver at Tower-Soudan. ➤ Accepted resignations from preschool teacher assistant Olivia Suihkonen and part-time custodian Beth Anderson at Tower-Soudan and health office assistant Wendy Pierce at North Woods.



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TIMBERJAY

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Week of May 31

Monday
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from **2:30-5:00 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.

TS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Depot Museum to open Memorial Day weekend for the season



Volunteers and board members of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society have been cleaning and reorganizing the Depot Museum, which will open this weekend. Plans are to have the museum staffed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through Labor Day. TSHS is looking to hire a depot worker (see ad on page 6B).

The museum is being reorganized to make room for traveling exhibits from the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Since the museum was not open last summer, volunteers were busy giving almost every single item in the building a good cleaning. The items inside some of the glass display cases had not been cleaned in about 15 years. The little gift shop room is being turned into additional exhibit area. Gift shop items will be sold at a TSHS sale scheduled at the old Fire Hall this summer.

Volunteers included Nancy Larson (top left), Linda Folstad (bottom left), and Kathy Siskar (bottom right). Also helping out were Mary Shedd, Pauly Housenga, Ellen Hintz, and Diane Meehan. photos by J. Summit



Independence Day kicks off in Tower on July 3

TOWER- There will be fireworks, and a parade. And the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is excited to be celebrating again.

The fun all begins on July 3. The pancake feed will be missed, but hopefully will return next year. The Vermilion 10K/5K run/walk and kids' fun run starts at 8 a.m., by the fire hall.

We are excited that Main Street will be adorned with vendors and spectators for the 11 a.m. parade. Flags begin the pa-

rade to remind us of the importance of this event. The kiddie parade is also a crowd-pleaser, but is being done differently this year. Youngsters will meet on the side street between U-Betcha and Jeannie's to make their way down Main Street. There will be no costume judging but each child will be given a small flag to wave as they walk and a \$5 gift to bring a smile to their bright faces. The children are followed by enthusiastic floats created with many themes by friends and families, young and old. There will also be the Shriners motor unit, clowns, horses, bands, emergency vehicles, politicians, and more. This year's Grand Marshals are Mary Batinich and Linda Haugen. Both of these women do so much for our community.


At 12:30 p.m., children are invited to the football field by Tower Elementary School for the sawdust scramble and races. There will be vendors and food on Main Street after the parade. Fireworks cap off the day at dusk.

To this point it is much like celebrations of past years, but we are sending a plea for 2021 and beyond for monetary support. The majority of this parade is brought to you by paid participants and prizes. The festivities cost \$15,000 or more. The fireworks finale is a minimum cost of \$10,000. By the time all expenses are paid it is close to \$30,000. Raffle tickets will be sold to raise funds, with the raffle drawing to be held on July 4 at the free Breitung Community Picnic, but so much more is

needed. We have not been able to have any fundraising events over the last year, so the plea is out to help us continue with this fun-tastic community celebration.

Please support, and encourage others to support this, as well as other events, by sending your tax-deductible gift to: Tower/Soudan/Lake Vermilion Events Board (TSLVEB), PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.

JACK
Happy 12th Birthday



Love,
Lacie
& Ellie

Memorial Day display at the old fire hall

TOWER- Memorial Day honors the memory of our military members who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained during battle.

Photos of those unsung heroes from the Tower-Soudan area are currently on display in the windows of the Old Fire Hall on Tower's Main Street.

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 stories. These are unsung heroes of the Tower-Soudan 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.

St. Paul's Lutheran hosting meeting on June 6

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan is holding a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 6, following the 8:30 a.m. worship, to discuss financial issues.

Juniors baseball team being formed

SOUDAN- A new Tower-Soudan area team for players ages 13-14 will be practicing and playing at the Soudan field this summer. Season starts on June 12. Any interested players should contact coach Greg Dostert at 218-248-0648.

Embarrass Fair Parade volunteers needed

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Fair Board is seeking a volunteer or volunteers to be in charge of the parade. The duties consist of contacting different organizations and asking if they will be in the parade. On parade day, the volunteer will be in charge of the parade line-up. Help is needed soon,

since the volunteers will need to contact the school bands. The parade starts at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 29.

The fair committee meets the third Thursday of the month at the Embarrass Timber Hall at 6:30 p.m. Meetings generally run around 90 minutes. The next meeting is Thursday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Timber Hall, 4855 Hwy. 21, Embarrass.

Contact Amber Johnson at 218-600-8517 if you have any questions or want to volunteer.

Andrea Suihkonen graduates from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

REGIONAL- Andrea Suihkonen, of Tower, is among 3,200 prospective candidates for degree attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee virtual commencement exercises held on Sunday, May 16 in Milwaukee.

Andrea graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Arts and Science. UWM is the second-largest university in the state of Wisconsin,

with over 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

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.

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

ATTENTION TOWER & BREITUNG RESIDENTS

A committee has been formed with members from each community to research options for a long-term solution to police coverage in our areas. Our short-term solution will be to continue to work with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department for patrol coverage. Questions or comments are invited and may be directed to the City of Tower or Breitung Township Clerk's Offices.



SEASON OPENING
Friday, June 18
4-6 PM
at the Train Depot

MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL PROM 2021



Nearly 30 couples participated in the Ely Memorial High School Prom last Saturday. The traditional rite of passage for juniors and seniors was put on hold last year because of COVID. This year, the day included a visit to the Boundary Waters Care Center and other senior care facilities in Ely. A grand march planned for Whiteside Park was moved to the high school gymnasium because of rain. A dinner and dance were held at the Longbranch in Winton. photo by K. Vandervort

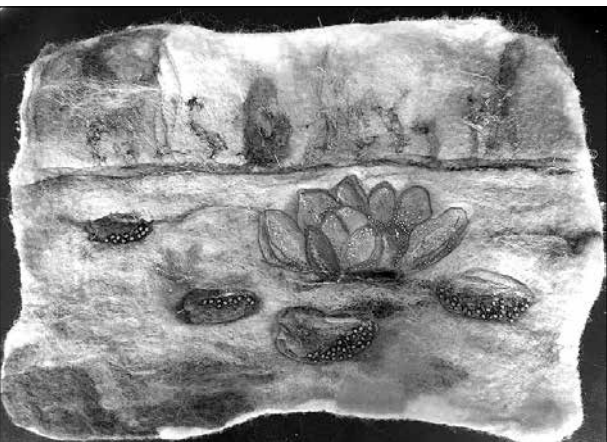
SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Gardner Humanities Trust awards grants

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust recently awarded \$6,727 to local artists, art organizations, and fine arts events. “The Gardner Humanities Trust continued to have a smaller number of submissions this spring,” said Keiko Williams, executive director for the Trust. “The board is hopeful that the grant application process will become more simplified in the future with the development of an online grant portal currently in development. The Trust will keep people informed of its progress.”

Individual artist grants are awarded for unique, short-term opportunities that will impact an artist’s career. Dafne Caruso was awarded \$1,000 to work on the completion of five

Local artists, organizations and fine arts events benefit



Dafne Caruso’s wool roving and felting art will be part of an exhibit later this year. submitted

new art pieces using wool roving tops and felting with a wet technique method. Each piece will then be enhanced with machine and hand stitching, beads and needle felting. An exhibit of the

new pieces is scheduled for November and December of this year. The Trust’s project grant program supports activities in the fine arts and is intended to make possible presentations or

productions. Two project grants were awarded this year to the following organizations: ▶ The City of Ely Heritage Preservation Commission was awarded \$2,727 to digitally preserve the Carl Gawboy mural painted on the walls of an ante-room in the Ely Community Center. The original artist will paint replacement pieces to fill in where necessary and a final photograph/print will be displayed in a public location. ▶ The Northern Lights Music Festival was awarded \$3,000 that will help present three events in Ely during their regional festival, two events in Whiteside Park and one at Vermilion Community

College Fine Arts Theater. The Trust also allocated \$3,000 for use by the Ely Public Library this year. The 2021 Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust board members are: Beth Ohlhauser, Jill Swanson, Angela Campbell, Mary Setterholm, Chris Steele, David O’Donnell, Vince O’Connor and Brooke Lund. The Trust will have a fall grant round with applications most likely due by the end of September. More information on the final deadline will be published in the Timberjay, as well as on the Trust’s website by August. Any questions about the grant programs, the Trust, or ways to support the arts in Ely can be directed to Williams at 218-365-2639 or info@gardnertrust.org.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



a wild visitor strolling sidewalks in the town surprising presence

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
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

OUR COMMUNITY



City of Ely residents took advantage of the annual city-wide clean-up opportunity last weekend. Several dumpsters, donated by G-Men Environmental Services, were set up near Whiteside Park on Friday and Saturday and G-Men and Ely Public Works Department crews assisted residents in disposing of all sorts of unwanted junk items including lawn mowers, air conditioners, scrap metal and other junk. No tire or household refuse was accepted. photo by K. Vandervort

Tuesday Group program back in action

ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering will again meet in person at the Grand Ely Lodge beginning Tuesday, June 1. The group went on hiatus during the coronavirus pandemic. A new coordinator, Lacey Squier, will lead the group as Steve Schon and Steve Piragis announced their retirement. The group meets at noon every Tuesday at the GEL. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. Erik Simula will present his thoughts on the local Birch Bark Canoe Project, which will be kicking off later this month. Erik serves as the Birch Bark Canoe Project instructor for the Ely Folk School, and as the Board Chairperson for the Minnesota Canoe Museum. Have a speaker suggestion? Contact Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or by phone at 218-216-9141.

Structures burn on Burntside island

ELY - Four structures on Waters Island, located on Burntside Lake near Ely, were destroyed by fire early Sunday, May 23. According to the Northland Fire Wire, the Morse/Fall Lake fire chief said the blaze was reported at 5:15 a.m. when a power transformer near a boathouse and summer residence exploded, caught fire and then spread to that structure. Two nearby cabins and an outbuilding were also destroyed. Two residents were treated near the scene for possible smoke inhalation by the Ely Ambulance Service. No other injuries were reported. Firefighters from Morse-Fall Lake, Ely, Babbitt, and the U.S. Forest Service battled the blaze.

ECR children’s garden returns

ELY – When cleaning out and thinning perennial beds or shopping at the local garden centers, think of Ely Community Resource and the children’s garden The children’s garden returns this summer and is tended by elementary students involved in ECR’s summer enrichment program. Children learn how to care for plants, harvest, cook with, and share produce with the community. Gardening goals for this summer include sharing vegetables with seniors at the nursing home, taking a field trip to a restaurant for a cooking lesson, and learning how to arrange fresh flowers and delivering bouquets. Annual, perennial, or vegetable plant donations can be brought to Ely Community Resource, 111 S. 4th Ave. in Ely.

Minnesota Connections Academy recognizes two Ely students

ELY– Etta and Sova Meyer, of Ely, were recently named among Minnesota Connections Academy’s (MNCA) Students of the Month in recognition of their outstanding achievements and leadership in the virtual classroom. Etta, a second grader, and her sister Sova, a fifth grader, were each nominated by their teachers in recognition of their hard work and enthusiasm toward learning in the online classroom. As a Student of the Month, both Etta and Sova will receive a certificate of achievement and be profiled in the Minnesota Connections Academy student newsletter and the school’s social media platforms. “Our students of the month demonstrate leadership and an extraordinary commitment to learning while serving as strong role models for their peers,” said Melissa Gould, Minnesota Connections Academy Principal. “The members of our faculty and staff are proud to give these virtual classroom leaders the recognition they deserve.” Etta and Sova were enrolled in Minnesota Connections Academy at the beginning of this academic year because their mother, Shannon, wanted an experienced and trusted distance learning option for her daughters during the pandemic. The students’ father, John Meyer, is a fourth-grade teacher at Washington Elementary School. “We are grateful for the opportunity that MNCA gave us to have a strong academic year even during the pandemic,” Shannon Meyer said.



Happy Days Preschool
REGISTRATION
for 2021-22 School Year IS NOW OPEN!
3/4 year old class- Tuesday & Thursday AM
4/5 year old class- Monday, Wednesday & Friday AM or PM
Deadline is Monday, August 10th
Forms are available online at happydaysely.com, Zup’s, and Ely Northland Market
Scholarships are available.
Child needs to be 3 years old by September 1st.
Questions? Contact Mandy at mandyjpetersen@gmail.com

FAITH AND FOOD

Goodies and goodwill abound at church fundraiser

Proceeds going to send kids to Bible camp and fund church renovation project

COOK- Anyone heading out onto the west end of Lake Vermilion on an empty stomach for the fishing opener would have done themselves a big favor if they had first stopped by Zup’s Market in Cook. And while there were the usual provisions inside the store, the big find was outside – a huge bake sale put on by the women of Cook Covenant Church.

There were items galore still remaining by 1 p.m., but that’s only because each of the women involved was asked to provide 12 dozen of whatever they prepared for the event. Boxes and boxes of baked goodies were stacked higher than the sale tables they were placed on before the sale got started.

As is often the case at such events, the women working behind the tables

hastily elected a reluctant spokesperson, Liz Burton, the pastor’s wife, to speak to the press on their behalf. It wasn’t long before Burton was stumped by a question about how many years Cook Covenant has done this bake sale, and she turned back to her “Dream Team” for help.

“Three or four years?” she asked. “Three, or four?” They collectively ended up passing on that one.

But there’s no question at all about why they were holding this bake sale.

“We are renovating our sanctuary, and it’s very exciting,” Burton said. “Right, ladies? I’m bringing you into this here.”

The women behind the table couldn’t be coerced, but they started volunteering comments from a distance any time they thought Burton needed

some additional support.

Collectively, they revealed that funds from past sales had also gone to do some work at the church, including replacing a furnace, but much had also gone to ministry. And the bake sale also sends any kid or teenager who wants to go to Covenant Park Bible Camp in the summer.

It’s hard to know whether the group had more fun baking or selling all of the delicious goodies, but they evidently were proficient with both. There were plenty of apparently satisfied customers who finished cleaning them out of items.

Burton said she was appreciative not only for her baking “Dream Team,” but for all those who turned out to buy and contribute to getting the renovation project rolling, and also to Zup’s for hosting them.



Cook Covenant Church bakers Bonnie Pajari, Jill Korpela-Bontems, Betty Wilson, and Barbara Wilson display the last remaining items from their massive bake sale to raise funds for church renovations and missions. photo by D. Colburn

Book club to meet on June 8

COOK- The Readers and Rappers book club will meet on Tuesday, June 8 at 1 p.m. at the gazebo in Cook City Park to discuss “The Women in the Castle,” a novel by Jessica Shattuck.

The New York Times best-selling author emigrated to the United States from Germany after World War II and grew up with a sense of shame from being half-German. Her seven years of research for the work of historical fiction took her to Germany where she interviewed family members and others who lived through and survived the war.

Shattuck was inspired by the German people who later in life did not feel the need to be forgiven but wanted to be understood. This distinction formed the foundation for the novel, which begins with the story of an aristocratic woman who assembles a makeshift family from the survivors of her husband’s resistance movement. The story continues through the years following the defeat of Germany, ending with a reunion in 1991.

Sue Gustafson will moderate the discussion.

Readers and Rappers will not meet in July.

Library summer activities begin

COOK- Fun and excitement await the children and adults who include the Cook Public Library’s summer programming in their seasonal activities.

The library will hold the “Reading Colors Your World” Summer Reading Program from June 1 – July 30, and everyone is invited to read.

Preschool through elementary age kids will receive a book log, activity book, stickers and bookmark. Reading logs are to be turned in at the Cook Public Library by July 30 to receive a prize. Anyone can request a book log by calling the library at 218-666-2210 or emailing crystal.phillips@alslib.info.

North Woods Elementary students will receive summer reading materials at the end of May. It’s also time for a BINGO challenge for adults and teens. Pick up the Summer Reading BINGO card at the Cook Public Library or print a copy from the library website at www.cookpubliclibrary.org.

Earn a BINGO in any direction, turn in your card by July 30 at the library and receive a prize.

Need book ideas? Call 218-666-2210 or email crystal.phillips@alslib.info.

Hospice starts membership campaign

COOK- The annual membership campaign is one of two main fundraisers of the year for Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. In 2020, the campaign raised over \$1,500 in memberships and memorial donations. This was a significant decrease from past years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. VHHP fundraising suffered during this last year and a half.

This year VHHP is hosting a Hope for Hospice 4K Walk/Run on June 26 as a membership fundraiser. Registration is open, and forms are available on the VHHP website.

The race will start at 9 a.m. beginning at the Old County Garage at Ashawa Road in Cook. Registration is \$40 in advance and \$45 the day of the race. Kids five and under are free. Six years old to 13 years old registration is \$15 in advance and \$20 on race day. To ensure a t-shirt, register by June 3. Registration for the race

includes a one-year membership to VHHP.

You will receive the VHHP newsletters and mailings that include updates about the wonderful things we are doing for those in hospice as well as any fundraisers/meetings we hold throughout the year. Please see the website for registration info for the Hope for Hospice 4K Walk/Run at www.vhhp.org.

“Your membership is not only important to VHHP, but also very important to the patients and families that we are able to help and support through your generosity,” Program Director Becca Bundy said. “VHHP continues to receive financial requests during this pandemic. Health and financial hardships don’t stop because of a world pandemic.”

Bundy continued, “Memberships are available as individual or family memberships. Please consider a VHHP membership or renewing your membership. With your membership, you are entitled to a copy of our annual spring and fall newsletters, an invitation to our Annual Meeting held in June (more information available upon request), and a copy of our Annual Report. Remember all

membership contributions are tax deductible. Your contribution may cover patient medical supplies and equipment, bereavement and grief support, patient support in the form of massage, family visits, last wishes. Your contributions also provide scholarships at graduation for two graduating high school seniors from the Cook, Orr, Nett Lake and Tower attendance area, as well as a current college student.”

You can find a renewal form on the VHHP website or contact Program Director Becca Bundy via email at vhhpdirector@gmail.com or phone at 218-780-5423.

NWFA Art Expo begins June 3

COOK- Artwork of regional Minnesota artists will be on display for the annual Spring Art Expo at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook during the month of June.

Spring Art Expo was created specifically to encourage the display and sale of art by regional artists who will reap the benefit of keeping all of the money from each sale.

Visit the gallery and enjoy a huge variety of

stunning artworks and crafts including jewelry, pottery, fiber art, carvings, sculptures, photos and paintings at 210 S River Street.

The annual event will begin June 3 and run until June 26. Exhibits will only be at the gallery and not in local businesses. Artist members pay a registration fee of \$15 which covers the expenses of NWFA.

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. On June 12, the gallery will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In conjunction with Spring Art Expo, NWFA will take part in the Cook Timber Days celebration June 11, 12, and 13. There will be art activities for children in the NWFA tent and local authors signing their books..

Wednesday, June 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. is the night that “Music In The Park” kicks off 13 weeks of Wednesday concerts at the gazebo in Cook, with the first featuring the “Beefeater Brothers!”

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Looking to graduation ceremonies and beyond

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP- Spring is an exciting time for students and for school staff. With the weather getting nicer, students are spending more time outside, which is especially important this year with everyone needing an occasional mask break. The end of the school year is bittersweet for students and staff alike. While our students need a break, many crave the structure and social connections at school. Living in a rural area myself, without the connection to kids at school, opportunities for social interactions for my own kids are more difficult to secure.

With the COVID pandemic hopefully heading to a close, guidance has changed for our graduation 2021. The initial capacity limits for in-

door events (capped at 50 percent capacity) will be lifted on May 28. Our original plan limited the number of family members allowed to four, but now our graduates will be able to invite their families and friends without



JOHN VUKMANICH

worrying about any limit at all. The mask mandate for schools will be lifted on the last teacher contract day on June 4, so masks will not be required

on graduation night.

So, what does the future hold? Education is a reflective and ever-changing profession. We are used to adapting our practices to fit student needs, changing expectations, current initiatives, technology use, and other factors. The pandemic required us to change many things. Some of these changes can be looked at in a positive light. As a teaching staff, we are really excited to wrap up the school year on a positive note, but also to look to next fall to establish a new normal. It’s hard to imagine thinking about next year already, especially after the stresses of the 20-21 school year, but part of what keeps educators moving forward is focusing on the positives to come.

In meeting with teachers at the close of the year, many comment-

ed that the need to incorporate distance learning led to a streamlining of content delivery. Some of the topics that might not be 100 percent necessary were taken out, and the focus was on more of the essentials. In simple terms, we had to cut out some of the fluff. Technology delivery, while still not perfect, certainly improved. Teachers not only became more adept at delivering lessons virtually, but also at pre-recording content. This could lead to a positive of having more in-class time to focus on practice and on individual instruction as needed.

The importance of relationships with our students became even more apparent in the past year. Many students have struggled remotely with distance learning. The inability to connect in-person led to an increase in the numbers of kids strug-

gling academically. The number of failures led us to having a first at North Woods: Credit Recovery classes for our high school students. By having credit recovery (summer school), students will have the chance to earn back lost credits. For a senior, this can mean the difference between getting a diploma a month late or a year late. By the way, this was a state and national problem as many schools and students grappled with distance learning. I am thankful that we were able to remain open. Another big focus for us is student engagement. When students are engaged in the learning process and subject matter, they do better, plain and simple. I want our school to move forward focusing on this and do all that we can to connect our kids to the subject matter and to give students ownership

in how they demonstrate their knowledge. I will be working with teachers on how this might look. I also am looking at how we best engage our families to ensure that kids have good school attendance. Far too often, the reason a student is struggling is because they are simply not coming to school. Attendance is very important, and kids who attend school consistently are generally much more successful. It seems a rather simple concept, but we need to have students, parents, and our staff all on the same page to make sure that everyone realizes the importance of coming to class consistently. As a wise person once said, “Half the battle is showing up.”

I would like to wish our seniors well as they move on. More to come on the North Woods Class of 2021 in the near future.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Hammer and tongs: Blacksmithing at Ely Folk School

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Who isn't fascinated by fire? It seems to be part of human DNA, and human history. Blacksmithing gives one the opportunity to "play" with fire, using intense heat to transform hard metal into a different substance that can be bent, twisted, and formed into many functional and decorative items.

The Ely Folk School recently presented a Taste of Blacksmithing class that gave

students an opportunity to give this ancient art a try.

A recent all-day workshop, dubbed "Hammer and Tongs," was conducted at EFS. Educator Paul Webster gave participants a chance to practice and expand their skills, making some tools and S-hooks that are useful around the house and shop.

Webster holds a Master's Degree in experiential education and has been forging since 1988. He is a founder of Forging Community, a community organization and blacksmithing school in Duluth. He has also

worked as the blacksmith for Duluth Pack Store and the Frost River Trading Company doing classes and demonstrations. Forging Community members give demonstrations at their home base in Duluth and teach blacksmithing skills throughout Minnesota.

EFS students learned about forge safety procedures, proper color (temperature) to start forging, and basic hammering techniques for elongating, bending and twisting metal. Everyone went home with one or more successfully executed

S-hooks.

Ely native Phil Leino assisted at the class. "His donation of our first forge was responsible for the initial spark that led to the creation of the blacksmithing building and program here at the Ely Folk School," said Program Director Betty Firth.

Leino's grandfather served as the Ely blacksmith years ago. "Phil grew up in Ely, hearing stories about his blacksmith grandfather and worked with his Dad fabricating metal tools," she said.



A blacksmithing student learns the craft at Ely Folk School.
photo by K. Vandervort

TOWER...Continued from page 1

with this week's motion, Tower representatives on the TBWWB will now bring the request for the study to the joint powers board for consideration.

While the TBWWB has been closing in on its capacity limit for some time, a 2018 city council decision to connect the Hoodoo Point Campground to the municipal system essentially consumed the remaining capacity.

While Monday's motion passed unanimously, it prompted considerable discussion about other ways to address the issue. Council member Dave Setterberg noted that the city was making progress on inflow and infiltration (I and D) into the system, and that it could build capacity through continuing that effort. Council member Joe Morin agreed but noted that an engineer's study would likely also analyze the potential gains through an I and D reduction plan. "That's why I support the study," said Morin. "We need to have the facts in front of us."

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad agreed, also voicing support for the study.

Expansion of the current pond system could pose significant financial hurdles, since a permit for increased capacity is likely to come with stricter limits on discharges. If so, that could require mechanical treatment in addition to ponds, an outcome that would substantially increase both the construction costs associated with an expansion as well as ongoing operational costs for the system. Reducing I and D, which currently accounts for a significant percentage of the wastewater flow, could help increase capacity. TEDA has also discussed the construction of a cluster system on the west side of the East Two River, to serve existing businesses and the county public works garage, as well as the proposed new RV park, without having to connect to the municipal system. A cluster system is like a standard septic system but is considerably larger and is designed

to serve multiple users. If built, it could later be connected to the municipal system if and when the TBWWB expands its treatment capacity.

Recreational trails

The council also approved another study, this one to be conducted by the Lake Vermilion Trail joint powers group on a planned paved trail segment from the Y Store to Tower. Carol Booth, of Cook, informed the council that the planned route is flagged and that the group is working with an engineering firm on an environmental assessment, which would include some city-owned property. "We're not asking for money," said Booth. "But we would like a motion allowing us to do the analysis."

In other trails-related action, the council approved an agreement with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission to create a master trail plan for the community. Grants manager Nancy Larson said will take about six months to complete the

plan, which will be overseen by a local steering committee. Kringstad and Morin agreed to take part on the steering committee, which will be made up of representatives from various groups with an interest in trails.

"Trails are really important to our area," noted Larson. They're a real economic driver and this plan will look at new trails as well as issues with existing trails," she said.

The \$10,000 price tag for the study is being funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and a \$2,500 commitment each from the city and TEDA.

New campground contract

In other action, the council approved a new five-year contract with Randy Pratt as manager of the Hoodoo Point Campground. The decision came with little discussion, although Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua noted that she had made some changes to the

contract to more accurately reflect the actual job duties. "The city attorney reviewed the changes and saw no problem with them," Ranua said. Some on the council did spot some typographical errors among the changes, however, and they approved the contract contingent on correcting spelling errors.

In related action, the council voted to repeal city Ordinance 14, which dates back to 1967 and places day-to-day management of the campground under the auspices of a city Tourism Development and Administration Commission. Such a commission has not existed for decades, noted Ranua, and seems to conflict with the longstanding practice of the city to contract out for campground management.

In other business, the council:

- Approved getting quotes to extend electrical service to a portion of the harbor. Morin said he had received a request from a local businessperson who was interested in being able to offer services like a food

cart at the harbor at busy times. Councilors noted that the harbor has been used by others in the past for events, but that the lack of electrical service has required the use of generators.

- Approved a motion to appoint Deputy Clerk Terri Joki-Martin as the point person at city hall to work with the local events board on 4th of July activities.
- Approved the hiring of Olivia Suihkonen as the city's seasonal summer worker.
- Approved a motion directing the clerk-treasurer to update all city lease properties. In some cases, said Ranua, there are no existing leases that can be found at city hall.
- Under the consent agenda, approved a letter of support for the Northeast Minnesota Mine Tour Project. It also proposed a \$1,000 contribution toward the effort in 2022.
- Accepted the resignation of Marshall Helmberger from the Tower Fire Department.

TECH...Continued from page 1

into the digital realm in the 1990s, Anderson eagerly dove into the realm of coding, basically learning by doing it.

"There really weren't any coding classes at that time," she said.

But there were coders who would teach and mentor, including Rick Pearson of Eagle One Productions.

"I got this local fellow to teach me coding," Anderson said. "Dad would drive us over to Lake Vermilion and go into his basement 'man cave' and he would teach me some tips and tricks. So, the passion was started then. We knew that's where growth was, and when you're an entrepreneur you always look for places that are growing."

Elizabeth Chapman started at Art Unlimited managing the paperwork and finances, but she, too, jumped into the technology side of the operation, pursuing a degree from the University of Minnesota.

"I think I was one of the first totally remote learners that graduated from the U of M because I was in one of their pilot program classes, so I was able to do that while at the same time working and continuing to grow the company," Chapman said.

Ground floor

Anderson and Chapman, along with Operations Director Mike Laulunen, oversee the big picture for Art Unlimited these days, but most women, and men, start their technology careers as Anderson did, working in the hands-on arena of development. The Timberjay spoke with three women on the Art Unlimited development team whose experiences illustrate that the pathways into tech for women are

varied and numerous.

Denisa Lalikova has worked for Art Unlimited for a year, coding websites while working from her home in Duluth. It's not at all the career she originally envisioned.

"I grew up in Slovakia, and pretty much my whole life I was just playing hockey," Lalikova said. "Then I was lucky enough to leave my country and come to the U.S. I studied in high school for three years, still played hockey, and then I came to (The College of St.) Scholastica. My main goal was to graduate in exercise physiology and then pursue becoming a physical therapist."

However, she was interested in technology, too, and added computer information science as a second major in her senior year. The additional major meant extra time in college, and Lalikova used some of that time to do some research.

"It opened up my doors to technology," she said, "and I guess I kind of fell in love with it. It's like when you're working on something and you lose track of time. It's that same feeling that I had playing hockey, so I said OK, that's the thing. That made me learn more on my own, because I only did the CIS major for three semesters."

A few weeks before she graduated in 2020, Lalikova

landed a virtual internship with Art Unlimited, and the mentorship she received there led her to stay on.

"It was just really cool to start from the bottom and make my way up to be fully independent and do websites and all the tasks by myself."

As a child of the Iron Range growing up in Virginia, Amanda Jacquart also had her sights set on something other than technology for a career.

"My first initial thought was to be a paleontologist," she said. "When I looked into it, I said no, that's too much physical work that I can't do. My other passion was just messing around on the computer."

Jacquart started learning CSS code and making "my own little websites" when she was 14 years old and got hooked into the virtual world of cyber pets.

"It was a huge community at that time," she said. Creating virtual web environments for these digital creatures convinced Jacquart that technology was what she wanted to do. But she didn't explore it seriously until enrolling in the graphic design program at Mesabi Range College after taking a couple of years off after high school.

"I found a really good happy medium of the design aspect and the coding aspect as well," she said.

It just so happened

that Anderson represented Art Unlimited on the graphic design program's advisory committee, and that, Chapman said, led to a serendipitous encounter.

"It was at an open house for the advisers to come see work that Anna met Amanda, and she came back and said 'Can you hire this person for me?'" Chapman said.

Jacquart lives in and works from Babbitt, and during her seven years with Art Unlimited she's progressed through multiple levels of changing engagement with technology.

"I like the randomness that my job provides," she said. "One day I'll be doing my (user experience) review and all of a sudden there's a weird issue that comes up and I'm off onto another path to solve this problem. Then that leads down another crazy path."

There's another reason technology has been a good choice for Jacquart - family.

"When I started this field, I was a single mom," she said. "Being able to have the opportunity to work from home and still do my job to 100-percent full capability was a great aspect to this. There are no boundaries, really, when you're in tech. You're free to do all different kinds of aspects of technology while being able to work pretty much anywhere."

Jana Carlson's path to a technology job at Art Unlimited is the most unorthodox among the three. A wife and mother of seven, with three still living at home, she spent about 20 years homeschooling her children. Her technology background was as a user, not a coder or designer, but that didn't deter her from looking into a technology career.

"A big part of wanting to homeschool was just being a learner myself," Carlson said. "I have been constantly learning, and that's one of the things that appeals to me about this job and tech in general, because things are always changing. There's always something new to learn and implement to help people."

Carlson was in luck. As a company that embraces the core values of family, vision, empowerment, and excellence, Art Unlimited is wired to embrace candidates with her background and qualities.

"By running everything through that filter, you don't focus on the differences as far as gender, or their socioeconomic pathway or the education, you focus on first on how they fit the core values," Anderson said. "Because we've trained ourselves in things and we know what's possible, those who have an innate desire to learn and want to do it and fit the core

values, they can do just as well as someone who has a master's or a PhD."

So, it's been on-the-job training for Carlson in her year-and-a-half at the company, and the variety of learning HTML, CSS, JavaScript and more, as well as stepping into the realm of search engine optimization has been just what she hoped it would be.

"It's been a really fun experience," she said. "Always something new. I'm excited that a lot of our clients are starting to gain some traction, to see their ranking on search engine results go up. It's always exciting to find new ways of doing that, or if something's not working to try something different."

All three women agreed that technology is a great fit for women who want careers with variety, opportunities for continuous learning and professional growth, and a wealth of different options for the future.

"I have had the experience of being laid off from a job, so I know what it's like to be in an industry that isn't necessarily going to provide a good position in the future," Carlson said. "But I know that in tech there are always going to be opportunities out there. It's something that's growing and expanding and not retracting."

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ELY...Continued from page 1

ments indicated that the second phase of the project was estimated to cost more than double what was expected, from about \$4 million to more than \$8 million.

KA Senior Project Manager Mike Dosan joined the study session via social media. "Bid package two, primarily involving the renovation work in the Washington and Memorial buildings, did not come in where we wanted them to," he said. "We did not get the bid coverage we were expecting. Out of the 24 bid packages, 12 of them received just one bid. We expected more coverage. We recommend not approving any of the bids in this package."

Dosan proposed to the school board they re-bid the second phase of the project in October. "We feel that the market would be somewhat better than now, considering all the material cost increases that we have seen, and just the bidding market going into

winter when people are looking harder at work and not filled up with workloads right now," he said.

Dosan also suggested that the school district work with ARI and KA to "refocus the scope," or look for ways to cut the project to bring it within budget and have it completed by the fall of 2022.

School board member Darren Visser pushed the district to "rethink some things to save money" in case the new bids still come in over budget.

Dosan stressed the importance of the school district refocusing the scope of the project this summer, well before the re-bidding process in October. "We will be starting those meetings with ARI and the school district to focus on that," he said. "We want to feel good about what we are putting out there to bid in October."

Anne Oelke, K-5 principal, was assured that the Washington building media center, destined



A new roof is being installed this week on the Memorial High School building. photo by K. Vandervort

to become the new Early Childhood and Family Education facility, will be renovated and ready to open at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

Dosan noted that a portion of the new ECFE facility was bid in the first construction package that was approved earlier this spring. "Bid package one primarily focused on the demolition and removal of that area, and the remodeling to build it back was in bid package two, but we will demo and rebuild it for this fall," he said.

"With the rejection of the package-two bids, we will develop a list of the things that have to be done to coincide with what's going on with the addition and bid package one," Dosan said. "We would change-order (the ECFE

work) into the project this summer to get that done for the fall."

School board Tom Omerza pushed the construction manager to increase marketing of the ISD 696 school renovation project to get more bids for each of the parts of the phase-two project and to avoid getting just one bid for so many aspects of the project.

"I would say we did a good job of that for bid package two and bid package one," Dosan said. "I think bidding (for phase two) in May had something to do with it. Some of the contractors perhaps decided they were too full and didn't want to over-extend themselves. That could have been part of the reason. If we can reorganize the scope and get it out to

bid in October, we'll have the time to get the word out. We have 32 packages under phase one that the contractors are already set to do the work on."

Dosan struggled to explain why half of the work scopes for the second bid package received just one bid. "There may be partially a distance issue, or if it is that they are all busy. I'm sure there are several factors. Many of the people we called, said they were just booked up for the summer," he said.

Dosan reported that the demolition work on the campus is on schedule, but admitted that the bid package rejection will result in delays on when renovation work (initially scheduled to commence this summer) will be completed. "We are hoping that reorganizing the scope for October bids will come in at what we agree on and we can continue to get the job done by fall of 2022."

"If we are over budget overall, what are our options?" Omerza asked.

"Once we re-assess the revised scope for bidding, we would also propose a series of alternates so we can pick and choose from

what bids come in. We want to make sure we use the funds to the maximum," Dosan said. "We take this seriously and we are taking responsibility for this. We are not where we want to be, obviously."

Oelke asked if aspects of the first construction phase, primarily involving the new building construction between the Memorial and Washington buildings, could be scaled back to make up for the over-bidding in the second phase.

Dosan said nothing is off the table. "We don't want to decide that on our own so that will be a discussion for us to have," he said. ARI has done a little work on that already this week."

Visser stressed looking at even minor things to consider scaling back. "Let's not overlook the \$5,000 and \$10,000 things. Those things add up, too."

Oelke added, "We did sell to the public that our existing buildings are a hundred years old and that we wanted to very much take care of those buildings and not focus solely on the middle (new building), but the whole project."

Erie also reported that the asbestos abatement process required in the demolition work for the renovation project is now up to more than \$200,000.

Book banning request

School board members received a report on the District Advisory Committee that included school curriculum review, specifically the high school curriculum and required reading materials. The committee recommended no changes to the English curriculum.

Earlier this spring, a district parent requested that the school board remove a book from the required reading list for eleventh-grade English students.

The book in question is "I'm Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness," by Austin Channing Brown. The 2018 *New York Times* bestseller is described, "From a leading voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with 'diversity' so often falls short of its ideals."

In raising his objections, the parent, Chad Davis said, it is a book "filled with hate speech, racial division, anti-white rhetoric and cancel culture all rooted in critical race theory."

Erie said the Memorial School English Department reviewed the book and the banning request. "Even the professional learning community that is associated with the English Department read the book, too," he said. "The English Department made their recommendation to Principal Anderson to continue using it to support the standard that it is associated with. Principal Anderson gave her support and told me she supports continuing on (with the standard). I also support that. That was the process we used and will continue to do that."

Erie said the administration will continue to study Minnesota School Board Association Policy 606 that pertains to textbooks and instructional materials. School board chair Ray Marsnik said he would like to have the MSBA policy in place in ISD 696 for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

State COVID picture muddled depending on data source

REGIONAL- While the news appears mostly positive when looking at the trends for COVID-19 issues in the most recent county and state data, save for a continuing sluggishness in increasing vaccinations, a national assessment indicates that some aspects for Minnesota are not as rosy compared to other states.

The most encouraging sign that COVID-19 is on the wane is found in the seven-day test positivity rate. The statewide rate reported on Tuesday, 4.2, is below the five-percent threshold that state officials say is a concerning sign of disease spread, where it was just last week. While individual areas may vary and the coronavirus and its variants are still active, the downward trend is a clear signal that a slight two-month surge in March and April has subsided. Officials have said the increases in the number of fully vaccinated individuals accounts for a significant portion of that reduction.

St. Louis County’s rate remained steady at 2.8, still significantly lower than statewide.

Federal report

Only Maine, West Virginia, Wyoming, Colorado and Delaware have worse case rates per 100,000 residents than Minnesota, according to the weekly federal COVID-19 State Profile Report released on Tuesday.

Computing case rates per 100,000 people allows an apples-to-apples com-



Jill Manning gives a vaccine to one of 63 Ely Memorial students last Friday during a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the school. photo by K. Vandervort

parison of the prevalence of new cases across states. California leads the nation in this measure with a rate of 3,799 new cases per 100,000. At 5,607, Minnesota’s rate is 48 percent higher.

And while northern St. Louis County continues to enjoy the lowest seven-day average of daily cases the area has seen since February, the news in the federal report wasn’t as good for the county as a whole. St. Louis County is in the report’s top 12 counties in the state for newly reported daily cases.

The six North County zip code areas monitored by the *Timberjay* helped to fuel that standing, as six new cases reported last week in the Cook, Orr, and Tower zips put the area slightly above the 5.3 rate for the northern portion of the county.

Vaccine progress

Vaccine doses administered last week totaled 226,718, the lowest weekly total since mid-February, and would have been much lower if not for the addition of about 60,000 doses administered to newly eligi-

ble 12 to 15-year-olds.

While state health officials sent out notifications that information for 12-to-15 vaccinations would be included on the Vaccine Data dashboard starting Tuesday morning, some features of the new data set were still unavailable on Wednesday. The *Timberjay* obtained the information from an alternative official source.

Overall, 2.5 million Minnesotans are now fully vaccinated, with another 350,000 having received their first dose of the vaccine. Sixty-four percent of those



Vermilion Country School student Dakota Hanninen received a button that said “I got my COVID-19 vaccine” on Tuesday. photo by J. Summit.

age 16 and over have now received at least one vaccine dose, edging upward toward the state’s goal of 70 percent.

Also on Tuesday, the state reported that 2,550 people who have been fully vaccinated, one-tenth of a percent of the overall total, have subsequently contracted COVID-19 in what officials term as breakthrough infections. Twenty-six of those patients, average age 74, died after hospitalization.

State infectious disease director Kris Ehresmann said that the tiny percentage of breakthrough infections

shows that vaccines work.

“The data . . . strengthen the argument that vaccine is a significantly valuable tool in this fight against COVID,” she said.

A report from the Centers for Disease Control on breakthrough infections reinforced Ehresmann’s statement.

“The number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths that will be prevented among vaccinated persons will far exceed the number of vaccine breakthrough cases,” the CDC report stated.

WOLF PROJECT...Continued from page 1

anything. We saw two pups, but we couldn’t see the back of the den. So, we put up our cameras, and lo and behold, five pups were in there. We never would’ve known that because you can’t sit by the den and wait for them to come out; they’re not going to come out while you’re there.”

Determining wolf pup survival rates is just one goal of the project, and across the dozen or so packs the project monitors, undercounting pups by half or more would seriously affect their conclusions.

“There’s a lot of dens that have these little nooks and crannies and these little pups can sneak into them and you’ll never see them in there,” Gable said. “Those cameras give us a lot of confidence that our estimate is sound.”

The University of Minnesota-sponsored project, which grew out of a collaboration between Voyageurs National Park and Northern Michigan University, has already made great strides in its studies by tracking wolves with GPS collars, but translating wolf movements into descriptions of actual wolf behavior often involves educated speculation. Trail cams, Gable said, can remove the guesswork. “Wolves catching fish, we documented that from following our GPS-collared wolves around, but it was hard to get our paper published on that one because we didn’t have direct observation of it,” Gable said. “The paper was rejected the first time because the reviewers said you don’t know they’re actually catching fish here; it could be something else. And then we put out a trail camera and got it. If we had had that footage to go with it there would have been no question that they were catching fish, because we’ve got the video evi-



Determining wolf pup survival rates is just one of the goals of the Voyageurs Wolf Project. submitted photo

dence to show that.”

That first video posted to the project’s growing YouTube site has garnered about 2,600 views, and a subsequent wolf fishing video picked up 6,700 more. There are currently about 75 videos on the site, with typical viewership ranging between 1,000 and 10,000. The most popular video, the first-ever footage from a wild wolf wearing a collar camera, has had over one million views in the month it’s been online.

Coupled with additional social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, videos produced with trail cam footage have been viewed more than 28 million times and have brought international attention to the project, Gable said.

“You’ve got people following the project from South Africa, China, Thailand, Australia, South America, all sorts of European countries,” he said. “It’s been really awesome because it allows us to share our work and the wonder of northern Minnesota with a really huge audience. I think we

have over 130,000 people following us across the various platforms, and that continues to increase substantially every day.”

Trail cam footage allows both researchers and followers to engage in a new way with the stories of wolves over short and long periods of time. When researchers put a GPS collar on a wolf, they also give it an ear tag. Collars detach and drop off automatically after a year or so, Gable said, but the quality of trail cams has improved to the point that researchers can often read the tag numbers from the video or use unique markings to identify individuals.

“For example, we’ve learned that a wolf that was tagged as a yearling in 2015 is now the breeding animal in this pack in 2021,” Gable said. “Now we’re able to maintain and figure out when new packs form, we can determine when breeding animals die, and when a new pack comes in and takes over that territory.”

Biologists flying in airplanes have been fortunate in the past when they’ve been able to observe a

wolf pack twice during the winter, as one pack’s territory can range up to 70 square miles. Trail

cams accomplish the task far better.

“You don’t have to do any flying, you don’t even need to have a collar on an animal in the pack,” Gable said. “You can just put your cameras in that territory, and it’s not uncommon for us to get ten, 12, 15 observations of the same pack.”

To expand the trail cam component of the research even more, the Voyageurs Wolf Project has launched an ambitious campaign on GoFundMe to raise \$36,000 for 120 Browning Spec Ops trail camera packages. As of Tuesday, they were about three-fourths of the way there with over \$28,000 in donations.

If successful, the campaign will more than triple the number currently deployed, expanding the range covered and facilitating expanded research in

wolf litter size and pup survival, pack and overall population estimates, unique behaviors like fishing and eating blueberries, and hunting behaviors.

“I’ve been telling people that if you really enjoy the content we share, the more cameras we have out just increases our ability to capture really special moments,” Gable said. “It’s not only helping our work, but it also is benefiting our outreach and the people who donate directly because we’re going to share all of our cool stuff.”

Donations to the fundraiser can be made online at <https://gofund.me/8c460f-bc>. You can learn more about the Voyageurs Wolf Project by visiting their Facebook page or going to their website at www.voyageurswolfproject.org.

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Zachary Gerald Cheney
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Samuel James Frazee
Olivia Winter Fultz
Darius J. Goggleye
Shandra Lyn Hanninen
Charles Dale Curtis Holmes Jr.
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Rayanne Cynthia Marroquin
Logan Nicholas Nurmi
Ian Robert Gregory Olson
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Zuly Malee Roach
Cadence Jo Saarikoski

Jacob Riley Salmela
Natalie Kay Shantz
Brynn Elizabeth Simpson
Austin Bradley Sokoloski
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Elliana Grace Thom
Mathew Phillip Toivola
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Jeremiah Cole Voges
Preston Alexander Whitney
Kory William Zallar
Andrew Joseph Zika

Class Motto

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Class Flower

Blue Tulip

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"If This Is the Last Time" by Lany

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SOFTBALL

Wolves top Deer River 27-24

Improve to 8-8 as the season winds down

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

DEER RIVER—The Timberwolves came out on top of a wild affair here on Tuesday as the two opponents scored a combined total of 51 runs with Ely up 27-24. The win improved Ely’s record to 8-8 with two games left in the regular season.

It looked like a blowout

in the early going as Ely jumped to a 17-1 lead, but the Warriors battled back to make a game of it. Good defensive play by Ely helped at times. “I thought we played really well offensively,” said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. “At times during the game we definitely needed to tighten up our defense. We allowed quite a few unearned runs. Rachel Coughlin provided

some spark on the defensive side of the ball, turning two double plays in key spots.” Coughlin also went 3-5 at the plate, with four RBIs and two runs scored, while seventh-grader Bella Davis was three-for-three on the day. Kate Coughlin had two hits in three at-bats and scored five runs and Zoe Mackenzie was 2-5, with two RBIs and three runs scored.

Right: You’re out! Umpire D.J. Janeksela calls a Cherry runner out at home as Ely catcher Sydni Richards puts on the timely tag.

photo by K. Vandervort

Ella Perish had three hits in six at-bats, along with two RBIs and two runs scored. “I was really happy with the production from the

See **SOFTBALL...**pg. 2B



GOLF

Grizzlies nab scoring title

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BIWABIK- The North Woods boys golf team fell short of one goal with a second-place finish in the East Range Conference league meet, held May 19. But their finish was still good enough for the Grizzlies to be crowned the overall league scoring champs for the season.

Sam Frazee made a good run at the top medalist position on the Quarry course at Giants Ridge but fell three strokes shy, finishing second with a score of 83.

On a different day, adding in Davis Kleppe’s sixth-place score of 87 and Ian Olson’s seventh-place 89 might well have been enough for the Grizzlies to claim a tournament crown. But with top medalist Andrew Peterson leading the way, red-hot Virginia-Mt. Iron-Buhl placed three golfers in the top five to take the ERC tournament team title.

Other North Woods scores included Eli Smith, 92; Ty Fabish, 94; Brant Boutto, 125; and Jonah Burnett, 154.

See **BOYS GOLF...**pg. 2B

North Woods takes third in league golf

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BIWABIK- In an outcome predictable from regular season play, Mesabi East won the East Range Conference girls championship golf tournament on May 19 at The Quarry at Giants Ridge, while North Woods finished third in the five-team field behind Rock Ridge.

Freshman Tori Olson navigated her way to a second-place finish with a 92, followed by Haley Bogdan in 11th with a 110. Morgan Burnett’s 126 fell in at a tie for 18th. Madison Dantes, 135, 27th, Abbi Shuster, 137, 28th, and Lauren Burnett, 148, 31st, rounded out the Grizzlies’ scoring.

“Tori’s swing was pretty steady, and she made some good decisions out on the course,” Head Coach Kandi Olson said. “Lately, her short game has really improved and she relied on that each time she got close to the green. She also had a great day off the tee box.” Olson said there were numerous other highlights throughout the day as the players adapted their games to the unique challenges of The Quarry, such as sand traps, rock quarries, and narrow fairways.

“Some days it’s a lot to handle,” Olson said. “In the end, I was happy with how all of our players handled themselves throughout the round.”

Tori Olson and Morgan Burnett also received all-conference awards for their consistent play throughout the season.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to play Wednesday and Thursday in the 7A sectional tournament at the Virginia Golf Course in Virginia.

BASEBALL

Grizzlies toss a scare into state-ranked Panthers

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods baseball team picked up a home win against Carlton last Friday, just after a near upset of state-ranked South Ridge the day before was short-circuited by an unlikely source— the rule book.

The Grizzlies fell behind the Panthers 2-0 at the outset of Thursday’s home contest, but scratched across a run in the home half of the first on an RBI single by Chris Chaulklin. They evened the score in the bottom of the third inning when Cole Thiel came home on a sacrifice fly by Zach Cheney.

While Cheney held South Ridge at bay from

Above: The Grizzlies’ Ben Kruse prepares for a rough landing after leaping to grab a foul ball against Carlton.

Right: As Carlton fielders scramble, Ty Leinonen streaks to safety on an infield hit.

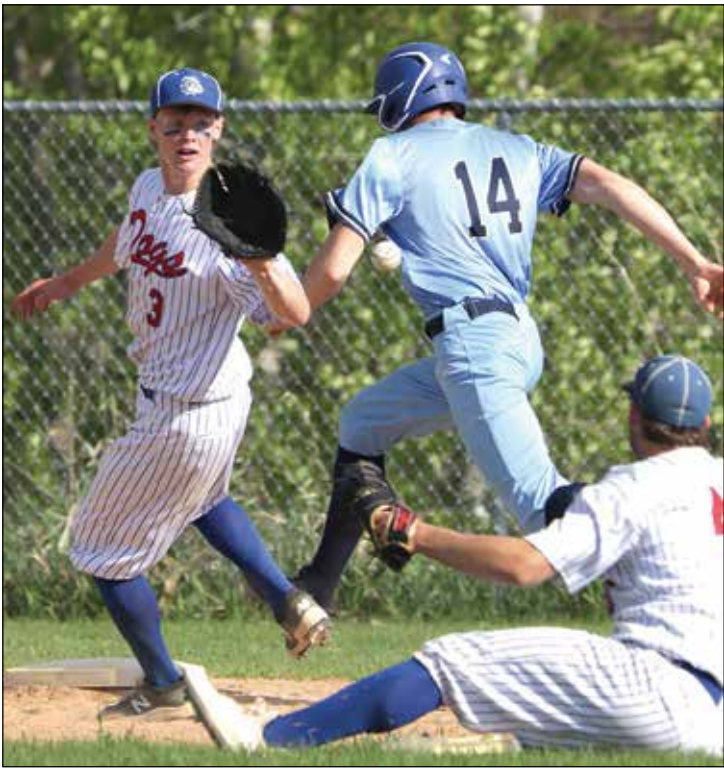
photos by D. Colburn

the mound, the Grizzlies grabbed a 3-2 lead when Chaulklin scored on an error in the fourth.

Chaulklin was in the mix again in the bottom of the sixth, smacking an RBI double that scored Jake Panichi, and then crossing the plate himself on a Ty Leinonen grounder. Going into the final inning, the Grizzlies led 5-3.

“We took the number-

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 2B



14-run seventh lifts T-wolves

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LITTLEFORK — Ely exploded for 14 runs in the top of the seventh inning here as they rallied to top Littlefork-Big Falls in blustery conditions on Tuesday. The Vikings had been up 9-6 heading into the frame, but Ely ended up cruising to a 20-9 final score to improve to 9-10 on the season.

Ely junior Harry Simons pitched four and two-thirds innings, scattering three hits and striking out five. But five unearned runs for the Vikings kept Simons from notching the win. That honor went to senior Will Davies who pitched an inning and a third in relief. Sophomore Gunnar Hart pitched the final frame for Ely.

Simons had a big day offensively, with three hits.

Sophomore Logan Loe notched two hits and tallied four RBIs while junior Chase Sandberg went two-for-two while driving in three runs.

Ely lost a closer contest last Thursday in Nashauk when they fell 7-3 to the top-seeded Spartans. Simons did well from the mound, scattering seven hits and allowing no earned runs, but took the loss. Four Ely errors and some

base-running miscues proved fatal to the Wolves’ cause. And Ely couldn’t deliver in the clutch offensively, stranding 13 baserunners in the matchup.

Simons paced Ely offensively, with two hits and a run scored.

Playing at home under the lights last Wednesday, the Wolves cruised to 12-2 five-in-

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B

Grizzlies romp over Nighthawks

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Batting first as the designated visiting team, the Grizzlies immediately rattled off three runs on two RBI singles and a passed ball steal of home. The Nighthawks came back in the bottom half of the first with two runs, including an RBI triple.

North Woods got the most out of its 14 hits, collecting 16 RBIs. Northeast Range also was efficient with its seven hits, getting six RBIs.

photo by J. Summit

For the Nighthawks, J. Levens rapped an RBI triple, while E. Levens and M. Maki collected two hits each. I. Hendrickson took the loss.



North Woods picks up back-to-back wins

Brodeen again notched the win and had three RBIs to help her own cause. Brynn Simpson and Skyler Yernatich were each credited with two RBIs.

regular season on Thursday at Two Harbors. Section 7A Northern Division seeding was expected to be announced on Saturday with playoffs set to begin Tuesday, June 1. Coach Lassi speculated that a fifth-seed playoff ranking would send Ely to fourth-seed Littlefork-Big Falls.

contest. Braylen Liselegard had one hit and scored a run for the Nighthawks.

very often for us, being the one single A team amongst some much larger schools. It's definitely a big deal in the bigger picture."

“It was a good bounce-back game for us,” Smerud said. “We started a little slow, but the game rolls on and the kids get a rhythm hitting the ball, seeing the ball, and they finally came through in the sixth with some big at-bats. It’s nice to finally put something back on another team and be able to relax a little bit.”

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CITY OF TOWER

Gundersen Trust board has lots of questions for city auditor

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— The Gundersen Trust earned almost \$700,000 in interest income from its creation in the 1992 to 2014. But those earnings fell sharply beginning in 2014, when the trust board opted to change the trust’s structure to a type of private foundation, termed a governmental trust by city auditors. Since then, the trust has barely earned enough interest to cover the cost of its annual audit and fulfill its required contribution back to the principal amount to protect the fund from inflation.

At the May 20 meeting of the trust board, members had plenty of questions for Devin Cegler, from the city’s audit firm of Walker, Giroux, and Hahne (WGH), including why the trust hadn’t sought status as a 509(a)3 supporting organization, similar to the Gardner Trust in Ely.

A supporting organization is a charity that carries out its exempt purposes by supporting other exempt organizations, usually other public charities, which includes governmental units. This classification is important because it is one means by which a charity can avoid classification as a private foundation, which has different rules regarding tax liability as well as rules about annual distribution of assets. The trust appears to meet the definition of the supporting organization under IRS rules.

The trust was initially set up using the same framework as the Gardner Trust. Both trusts used

First steps taken to adopt better investment strategy

money gained by the sale of an asset of the city, in Ely’s case a painting donated to the library, in Tower’s case, land donated by Martin and Elizabeth Gundersen. Both were initially set up as 501(c)3 nonprofits. Gardner Trust officials then sought classification as a 509(a)3 supporting organization, which gave the trust more leeway in investing its funds to create a steady flow of interest payments that were used to benefit the city and its residents.

Gundersen Trust Board Treasurer Steve Wilson has been researching the history of the trust and its early years.

He said that trusts set up with an initial large donation typically have a five-year window where they are considered to be a supporting organization, but after that point they will default to the more restrictive private foundation status, unless the organization requests the 509(a)3 status.

“We did satisfy the requirements for the community supporting organization,” Wilson told Cegler.

After reviewing additional documentation after Thursday’s meeting, Wilson said it appeared that WGH was trying to avoid the private foundation requirements including an excise tax on annual investment income, and a requirement to distribute at least five percent of the fund’s balance each year, along with increased paperwork requirements.

Wilson said that

WGH continued to submit public non-profit 990 forms annually, even while checking a box stating the trust was a private foundation.

“It was a critical oversight,” said Wilson. “We lost the five-year window to become a 509(a)3. We should have been able to slide into that category and not default to a private foundation.”

Cegler noted that now-retired Gary Giroux was involved in the trust’s formation and said he could research why the decision was made not to ask the IRS to become a 509(a)3.

Wilson said that Ely’s Gardner Trust had made this change shortly after it was founded, which was before the Gundersen Trust was formed, so the information was available to both the city’s audit firm and attorney.

WGH continued to submit the 990 forms required of 50(c)3 non-profits, even after being contacted by the IRS in 1995, midway through the five-year period, questioning the status.

“It seems like nobody was minding the store as far as our status,” Wilson said. “A private foundation is different from a community supporting organization.”

After the initial five-year period, Wilson said, the trust was designated by the IRS as a private foundation, which operates under different rules from a community supporting organization or a municipal trust.

Siegler noted that the

board trustees had to make the decision to accept the designation as a private foundation, operated as a government trust.

“Nobody on the trust board understood this,” Wilson said. “The initial decision to self-declare was a fatal error.”

“The IRS had contacted us in 1995, when we were still in the five-year window when we were considered a public non-profit, to find out why we hadn’t requested a tax-exempt determination,” said Wilson after the meeting. WGH decided that the trust didn’t need to do the conversion, because it was being operated as a government trust.

“Then the IRS apparently stopped paying attention,” Wilson said.

“After we exited the five-year window, the auditors started filing simultaneously as both public and private nonprofits, which, of course, is not possible,” Wilson said.

It took another ten years for the auditors to note this contradiction.

In 2014, WGH urged the trust board to convert from a private foundation status to a governmental trust, which would return the trust to a tax-exempt status. At that point the auditors also stopped filing the 990 form required of 501(c)3 non-profits.

Cegler noted that this change allowed the trust to retain its tax-exempt status, and protected the trust as a restricted fund, or endowment, of the city. But this move also severely limited the investment options for the trust (now

under Minnesota Statute 118A).

Trust board member Sheldon Majerle, the longest-serving member on the board, said board members had been told the trust remained a trust until terminated by a court order.

Cegler told the board that they do not provide legal opinions, and only are giving advice and their own opinions.

“That is not how things unfolded,” said Wilson, who had uncovered several letters from WGH to the city, pushing the city to convert the trust to a governmental trust status.

In 2018, a court order enshrined this change, which severely limits how the trust can invest its money, and in today’s low-interest environment

making it almost impossible to use the trust’s principal to earn enough interest income to help support the city.

“The board followed your advice,” said Wilson. “And it’s now enshrined by a court order. WGH told us other options would have tax implications. Why didn’t they tell us about our other options that would have continued to allow us the investment flexibility needed to earn a decent return on our investments...We were following your strong recommendation.”

Cegler noted that the team auditing the city, and also handling the trust’s audit, specializes in governmental audits, not non-profit audits, which are

See...TRUST.. pg. 4B



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Vermilion
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A great afternoon for a ball game in Soudan...

There were plenty of fans at Tuesday's North Woods vs. NE Range ball game. Clockwise from top left: Aubriana Olson pets a 7-week-old puppy named Bean, who was at the game with his owner Crystal Anderson. Jordyn Lakoskey watches the game with her nieces Sammijo and Brixlee. North Woods B-team players wait for their turn on the field. Eddie, on Corky Hill's lap, was having a great time people-watching. Kasen and Kooper Dostert enjoy freshly-grilled hamburgers. photos by J. Summit



TRUST...Continued from page 3B

handled by others at the firm.

The trust board also got poor advice from their attorneys at Cope and Peterson, Wilson said.

A letter dated March 6, 2015, from Cope and Peterson to the city discussed how the attorneys, after meeting with WGH staff, decided to move forward with their recommendation to convert the trust to a governmental trust fund without investigating any other options.

"They led us by the hand to a jail cell," Wilson said. "Now we have to go to court to get out and back to where we were before. We weren't guilty of anything."

Next steps

After reviewing the history of the decisions that led the board to the position it is in today, trust board members are now focusing on changes that can be made to best use the trust fund to support the city in the future.

"The reason we have been digging so deep," said Trust Board President Orlyn Kringstad, "is that if we are going to do the right thing for the future, we need to protect our asset and get the best returns we can. We are committed to making the right decision now, for the best benefit for the city."

Wilson told Cegler he knew his comments had been harsh, and that they weren't personally directed. He noted the trust board had also received conflicting advice from attorneys over the years.

Trust board member Jesse Gornick noted the board is made up of citizens, not professionals.

"When you talk about the role of board trustees," said Majerle, "you hit the nail on the head. The people serving often do not have a clue." Majerle noted that in the early years of the trust, when interest rates were higher, they didn't need to worry as much about returns.

The trust's current audit pointed out that some trust assets are being invested in CDs earning .05 and .07-percent interest.

The board approved the suggestion of Wilson and Kringstad, who had solicited proposals from legal firms that specialize in trust management issues, to hire the firm of Quinlivan and Hughes, based in St. Cloud. They noted that the city attorney

does not have expertise in this area.

Wilson said the proposal from attorney Brad Hanson at Quinlivan was the most thorough of the three received and showed he had already examined the trust's founding documents. It also included three possible options for the trust board to examine.

"He knows the law and understands our situation," Wilson said.

The board voted to accept the proposal from Quinlivan, noting the hourly rate was similar to the other two proposals. Wilson said since Hanson was already well versed in trust law, the legal time required might be less than from another law firm.

In initial discussions with the new attorney after Thursday's meeting, Wilson said the attorney feels the trust still qualifies

as a 501(c)3, even after the 2018 court order.

The board will be using this advice to decide how to proceed with their goal of changing the trust's designation to allow a wider variety of investment options, that will earn enough income to truly benefit the city, which was the goal of the trust when it was initially established. Income from the trust is supposed to be distributed each year, with 75-percent going to the city's general fund, and the remaining 25-percent going to community education and recreation projects in the city's forest lands. The city has also borrowed money from the trust, paying it back with interest, to fund a new fire engine, as well as infrastructure projects at the harbor.



Bring them in to the
**St. Louis County Household
Hazardous Waste Facility**
or a local collection near you!

June 2021

More info at www.stlouiscountymn.gov/hw

Thursday, June 10
Ely Joint Public Works Facility
10am - 2pm
2210 E. Sheridan
Ely

Thursday, June 17
Cook Transfer Station
10am - 2pm
2134 S. Beatty Rd.
Cook

Wednesday, June 23
Soudan Canister Site
10am - 1pm
5160 HWY 169
Soudan

Virginia HHW Facility
at the Regional Landfill
5345 Regional Landfill Road
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 741-8831
Year round hours of Operation:
Tuesdays & Saturdays
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Hibbing HHW Facility
at the Hibbing Transfer Station
3994 Landfill Road
Hibbing, MN 55746
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Year round hours of Operation:
Saturdays
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Hope for Hospice

4K Walk/Run

Saturday, June 26 • 9AM

**9447 Ashawa Road, Cook
(Old County Garage)**

- Register by June 3 to guarantee a t-shirt
- Adults \$40 in advance \$45 day of race
- Kids 6 to 13 yrs \$15 in advance \$20 day of race
- Kids 5 years and under FREE

Register at: www.vhhp.org

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Providing NO COST basic healthcare
and referrals
111 S 4th Ave E, Ely
Volunteer opportunities also available

ATTENTION

Dear patients,

Dr. Scott R. Anderson's dental office will be closing as of June 10, 2021. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Our office will remain staffed as needed to release any requested records and to aid in the transition to a new dental office. After July 1 all remaining patient records will be transferred to the office of Dr. Joe Gregorich, D.D.S. He welcomes new patients and can be contacted at:

Gregorich & Matak Family Dental
421 E 4th Street
Duluth, MN 55805

218-727-1448
gregorichmatakfamilydental.com

Thank you for your understanding.

*Dr. Scott R. Anderson, D.D.S.
Dr. Gretchen Kreklow, D.D.S.*

PUBLIC NOTICES

DNR PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ON VAN VAC RD TO BE CLOSED

The Burntside Lake Public Water Access on Van Vac Rd (County Rd 404) will be closed to the public from June 15 to September 15, 2021.

During this time the existing parking at the access will be improved, additional parking for trucks/trailers and single vehicles will be constructed, and stormwater management will be improved throughout the site. Due to the narrowness and steepness of the site, water access at this site will be completely closed during construction.

Alternative public water access sites on Burntside Lake can be found off of Wolf Lake Rd, County Rd 489 (Burntside Lodge Rd), Passi Rd, and North Arm Rd. Call Tower Area DNR Parks and Trails at 218-300-7841 with any questions.

Published in the Timberjay, May 28, 2021

DECLARATION OF LAND PATENT Michael William Vittori©

Located on the Land and Soil
St. Louis County Minnesota

<https://minnesotaassembly.net/public-notice>

Land Patent is posted for 60 days starting
May 30, 2021 until July 30, 2021
by: Michael Vittori ©

Published in the Timberjay, May 28 & June 4, 2021

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools Temporary Summer Skills Paraprofessional (2 Positions)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for two Temporary Summer Skills Paraprofessionals; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Associate's Degree/equivalent or Para Pro Certification
- Preferred experience working with school-age children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

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

A complete application must include the following:

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

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

Start Date: June 14, 2021 through August 12, 2021 (Monday-Thursday)

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 5 hours/day (8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

Deadline to apply: June 4, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 28, 2021

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 financial 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



Information Specialist Supervisor – Planning Apply by 06/14/2021

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 5/28

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board Facility Plan

Notice is hereby given that the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board will hold a Public Hearing on June 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Tower Civic Center.

The meeting will be held to discuss the various wastewater collection alternatives as discussed in the Facility Plan and consider adopting reasons for choosing the selected alternatives and estimated sewer service charges for the project. All residents and property owners in Tower and Breitung are encouraged to attend.

Matthew Tuchel
Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board
Water-Wastewater Supervisor

Published in the Timberjay, May 28, 2021

City of Tower Consumer Confidence Report

The 2020 Consumer Confidence Report (Drinking Water Report) for the City of Tower water supply is available for the public to review at Tower City Hall.

This report includes information on the city's water quality testing for 2020.

For more information, you can call Tower City Hall at 218-753-4070.

Published in the Timberjay, May 28, 2021

EMPLOYMENT

Tower Depot Museum Worker Wanted

Tower Soudan Historical Society is looking for the right person to welcome visitors to the Tower Train Depot Museum this summer. This person needs customer service and organizational skills and should be interested in learning/sharing our area's history. The position is part-time at \$10/hour on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day. Duties include opening/closing the museum, greeting guests, dispensing tourist information, and light cleaning. Please apply by June 4. Mail contract info to Linda Folstad, PO Box 207, Soudan, MN 55782 or email tshssecretary@gmail.com.

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Associate's Degree/equivalent or Para Pro Certification
- Preferred experience working with school-age children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

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

A complete application must include the following:

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

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

Start Date: September 1, 2021

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: June 3, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 28, 2021



STEGER MUKLUKS
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Steger Mukluks is Hiring!

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Sales Work: FT, PT & Seasonal**

**Apply at 100 Miners Dr. in Ely
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REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY DEPUTY DIRECTOR

St. Louis and Lakes Counties Regional Railroad Authority is conducting an executive search for a Deputy Director. Interested individuals can apply at www.stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-726-2422. Apply by 06/07/2021

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 5/28

Obituaries and Death Notices

Sandra M. Heikkila

Sandra M. "Sandy" Peterson Heikkila, 77, of Embarrass, went to be with her Lord on Oct. 27, 2020, surrounded by her family, while at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Her laugh, smile, and kind words will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 5 at the Embarrass Cemetery. Lunch will be served at the Embarrass Timber Hall following the burial.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth "Kenny" Heikkila; children, Dora, Cindy (Joe) Scherer, Todd and Chad; grandchildren, Sam (Bill) Newburn, Nick Remarcik, Dylan (Jaden) Scherer, Alyssa Scherer, Brian and Henry Heikkila; great-grandchildren, Bentley and Chelsea Mae, Matthew (Harley) and Morgen Newburn; great-great-grandchildren, Waylon, Jozlyn, Macie and Saidee Newburn; brothers, Gary (Marsha), Steve (Sarah) and Dave (Mary); sister, Barb (Bob) Hilmas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lauri C. Tuominen

Lauri C. Tuominen, 80, of Sand Lake, and also Apache Junction, Ariz., went to be with the Lord on Feb. 16, 2021, in Apache Junction. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 4 at Woodlands Bible Church in Eveleth.

Survivors include his wife, Kathleen Joyce Carlson Tuominen; daughters, Kimberly Gerzina and Sheila (Craig) Lempia; sons, Mitchell Tuominen and Matthew Tuominen; brother, Michael Tuominen; sisters, Joyce Wiitala and Linda Lehtinen; sister-in-law, Andrea Merten; brothers-in-law, James Carlson and Jason Carlson; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Lori A. Milton

Lori Ann Milton, 55, of Eveleth, passed away on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth after a short battle with cancer. A celebration of life will be held at the family home at a later date. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home of Virginia and Hibbing.

She is survived by her parents, Joseph and Emilie (Dittel) Milton of Eveleth; brother, David (Michele) Milton of Ely; niece, Lauren (Bryce) Anderson of Erhard; nephew, Ryan (Olivia) Mahoney of Moorhead; great-niece, Ainsley and great-nephew, Gannon, both of Erhard; furry companion, Squirt; and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins.

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Activities
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More Info? Contact Human Resources
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humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

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 City Hall at 218-757-3288 with any questions. tfn

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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1				4			3	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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.

AUTOMOTIVE

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
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Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
2 Miles South of Tower
218-749-0751

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

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

ELY AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 915 E Camp St., Ely

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

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RUMMAGE SALE

HUGE (50+ DONATING) RUMMAGE SALE- VIRGINIA SENIOR CENTER, 511 Chestnut (across from Goodwill). Wed., Thurs, Fri, June 2,3 & 4, from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Come shop before work! Parking available in back. 6/4

WANTED

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

STORAGE SPACE WANTED IN TOWER OR ELY- Approx. 10'x18', June 1 - Aug. 31. Please call 218-365-8169 or 612-220-8988. Leave a message. 5/28p

FUNERAL SERVICES

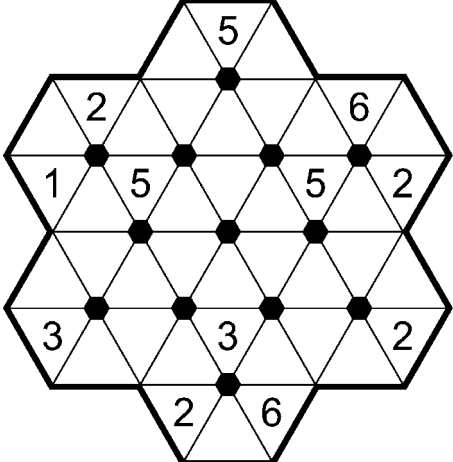
Range Funeral Home



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

SNOWFLAKES
by Japheth Light

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



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

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6	1	3	9	5	7	8	4	2
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Try out the Timberjay classifieds
Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.
Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts.
Call Today – 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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franksmarine@centurytel.net
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

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Summer Hours:
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Sat: 9-5, Sun 9-3

FOR SALE

ROTOTILLER FOR SALE- Cub Cadet Model RT65H. Used 5 times, stored in a shed, has forward and reverse. Asking \$600. Can be seen at 1588 Farm Rd. N, Tower (Vermilion Reservation). Call 218-404-8187. 6/4nc

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Boat launch, rental, store & repair
Cabins for a great, fun vacation
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4655 Moccasin Point Rd Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319
Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
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moccasinpointmarine.com


ACROSS
1 Beethoven's Third, popularly
7 Biblical twin
12 "— -Ca-Dabra" (1974 song)
16 Math calculation
19 Fred Astaire, e.g.
20 Piano challenge
21 Get out of the field
22 Year, in Portugal
23 Start of a riddle
25 Security datum
27 Cockpit guess, briefly
28 Math calculation
29 Woolen cloth
31 Many a roof edge
32 Riddle, part 2
38 Costume part, perhaps
39 Future jr.
40 Maine college town
41 Riddle, part 3
50 Debt slip
51 "Annie" star Quinn
52 Home of the Bay of Pigs
53 Mr. America's pride
56 Sensed
60 Great serves
61 It has limbs
62 Bit of a lot
63 Cow catcher
66 Diner dish
68 Riddle, part 4
73 Home of Ikea
74 Virtual bread?
75 Elliptical
76 Like saints
77 Not had by
79 Turns away
84 With 55-Down, totally ready
85 Mrs., in Berlin
86 SOS signals
89 "So cool!"
90 Riddle, part 5
95 "Heidi" author Johanna
98 A juror takes one
99 Corn-on-the-cob unit
100 End of the riddle
109 Intro studio class
110 "— Gold" (Fonda film)
111 Author Sarah — Jewett
112 Gun rights org.
114 Stunning with a gun
116 Riddle's answer
121 Suffix with polymer
122 Town near Santa Barbara
123 Everything, in Latin
124 Ill-advised
125 Decimal base
126 New York City river
127 "Zounds!"
128 Notes with hashtags
DOWN
1 Falco of "The Sopranos"
2 Balsa transports
3 Tavern sign
4 Freud's "I"
5 So-so mark
6 Call into court
7 Tiara shiner
8 Best players
9 Bad dog
10 Exalting poem
11 Really criticize
12 The Little Mermaid
13 Moisten, as grass
14 GI's time off
15 Clerk at TV's Kwik-E-Mart
16 Actor Antonio — Jr.
17 Asymmetric
18 Oscar winner Rita
24 Laundry room brand
26 London length unit
30 Actor Ken
33 "Oh, gross!"
34 LI doubled
35 Even — speak
36 Score unit
37 Itty-bitty bit
41 Little drink
42 Bladed tool
43 "They're playing — song"
44 Courtroom mallet
45 Go hastily
46 Dated
47 Razor-inventing philosopher
48 Chalked stick
49 Remit, as sins
53 Musician Guthrie
54 Bone to pick
55 See 84-Across
57 Tea box
58 Latin "Lo!"
59 Mined find
60 Year- — -glance
61 Green car?
63 Zenith rival
64 "TGIF" part
65 Hearth residue
67 Spiteful
68 Like a missing GI
69 Tony winner Carter
70 Subside
71 Start for friendly
72 Aplomb
73 "Na Na" lead-in
78 Scot's refusal
79 Bible boat
80 Tripod part
81 As well
82 Really long time
83 Hen or nanny
85 Govt. money guarantor
86 It lacks a heel
87 Wood strip
88 Throb
90 Shaw of jazz
91 Presage
92 Ration
93 Mineo of films
94 Three, in Rome
95 Try to hit, as a gnat
96 Coined thing
97 China's Sun —
101 Mystical board
102 Lower arm bones
103 Kosher
104 Like plow-pulling oxen
105 Lock of hair
106 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
107 Many a bellybutton
108 Lovers' meeting
113 Firefighters' tools
115 Sushi eggs
117 "Can u believe it!"
118 — roll (lucky)
119 Nashville-to-Chicago dir.
120 Have debts

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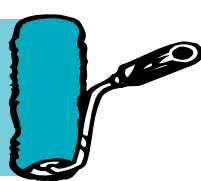
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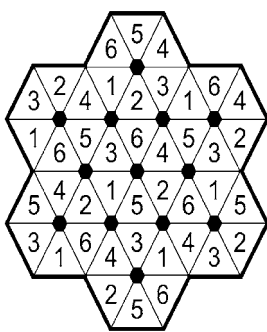


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D	A	N	C	E	R	E	T	U	D	E	R	E	A	P	A	N	O
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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Creel survey underway on Vermilion

It’s a critical tool for fisheries managers, but it takes months and doesn’t come cheap

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKEVERMILION— Anglers here may have the chance to take part in a creel survey this summer, conducted by the Department of Natural Resources. It’s an important part of fisheries management and it will provide the DNR with its

first reliable look at fishing pressure on the big lake since the last survey, conducted in 2015.

With concerns about increased fishing pressure on the lake, this year’s creel survey should provide critical information that isn’t available in any other way. Two creel “clerks” will be out on the lake this summer,

contacting anglers as they’re out on the water. The survey started on the May 15 opener and will continue through Sept. 30, five days a week, including all weekends and holidays. Each clerk averages about 30 interviews a day, so between the two of them they are expected to conduct over 4,000 angler interviews during the survey.

The interviews will be conducted randomly to ensure a scientifically valid result.

During the interviews, the creel clerks will ask anglers a few questions about their fishing trip for that day and record information on the fish species caught. Creel clerks may ask

See SURVEY...pg. 9B



DNR creel clerks will be out on Lake Vermilion five days a week through Sept. 30. submitted



SPRING IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

The warbling season

The annual return of warblers to the North Country reminds that some things do stay the same

*“You know your place in the sky
You hold your course and your aim
And each in your season
Returns and returns
And is always the same.”*

From the song “Stars,” *Les Miserables*

In a world in which it seems that change is the only constant, I’ve always liked the reliability, or at least my illusion of reliability, in the natural world. Just as Inspector Javert sang about the stars in the sky, for me, the annual seasonal migrations of birds have long provided a similar kind of anchor.

Each in its season returns and returns and is always the same, at least in that flea-speck of a moment that any of us spends alive here in the universe. And so it was this past week, when my wife Jodi and I took our morning walk, this time along the road where we live out on the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp. It was one of those first truly mild mornings in May, when the sun was out and there was a hint of a little summer humidity in the air. It was early enough in the season that the bugs weren’t out, but the annual wave of warblers had just arrived from the neotropics to take advantage of the abundant insect life that was soon to explode across the landscape.

I’ve always favored the warblers, not only because of their distinctive songs and colorful plumage, but because they are such wonderful examples of how each creature has its place, much

like those stars in the sky. And here, on our morning walk, they all were there. The black-throated green warbler was singing from the mature mixed woods around the house as we headed down the driveway, just as always. At the same time, ovenbirds (a type of warbler) were demanding “teacher-teacher!” from two different locations from the deep woods well past the edge of the yard. As we hit the road, a black and white warbler was “weetzy-weetzy”ing from a few big aspen off to the east. A bit up the road, the chestnut-sided warbler was singing his “pleased, pleased to meetcha!” song from the stand of young aspen, their favored habitat.

As we passed the alder and willow wetland up the road, I pointed out the insect-like “bee-buz-buzz” of the golden-winged warbler to Jodi. Just past there, where young balsam fir regularly attract magnolia warblers, suddenly there was the slurry “weo-weetchy,” alerting us to another species that knows its niche. As we hit the swamp edge, where the alder mixes with cattails and sedges, the “witchity-witchity-witchity” told us the yellowthroat was back on its territory, although perhaps a week earlier than I would have expected.

By the time you read this, that morning walk will also be accompanied by the rollicking “churry, churry, chorry, chorry” of the mourning warblers, a common one in our woods that is always among our latest arrivals each spring and



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Singing warblers include (top) a black-throated green warbler, (above) a chestnut-sided warbler, and (below) an ovenbird.

photos by M. HelMBERGER



Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
NODDING TRILLIUM



As with others of the genus, the **Nodding Trillium**, *Trillium cernuum*, likes to do things in threes. You’re most likely to spot this shade-loving wildflower by its prominent whorl of three leaves that sit atop a foot-tall and otherwise bare stem.

But look underneath right now and you should find a single nodding flower, with three large white petals backed by three large green sepals.

Trilliums are among our showiest spring wildflowers, but the nodding variety is the only one generally found throughout the North Country. Unfortunately, this wildflower is a bit shy, so you’ll need to bend down to get a better look. It’s definitely worth it.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye anglers continue to report mixed results on area lakes. Most anglers are catching good numbers of walleyes, but they are only averaging 9-13” on many lakes. Anglers catching bigger walleyes have been finding them in shallow water, 8 feet or less. Anglers are having success catching them on slip bobbers and leeches during the evening hours or fishing a little deeper, 8-12 feet of water, with a jig and minnow during the day.

Pike fishing has cooled off as water temps continue to rise well above average for this time of year. Large suckers, fished under a bobber, continue to account for most of the big pike caught right now. Spoons, spinnerbaits and large spinners remain very effective on smaller pike.

Stream trout anglers have been having good success trolling small crankbaits. Night crawlers fished under a bobber or floated off the bottom also has been very effective on trout in area lakes.

Panfish - Reports of crappies spawning on some area lakes have been coming in. Anglers catching these fish have been finding them in shallow bays over sand and around pencil reeds. Hair jigs, tipped with crappie minnows, under a bobber, have been very effective. weedbeds.

Courtesy Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely



Several structures burned in Bezhik Lake lightning fire

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST—Mother Nature helped firefighters get the upper hand on the Bezhik Fire last week, but not before the blaze impacted some private property owners in the area. While the blaze began near Bezhik Lake, within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, dry air and southerly winds last Tuesday, May 18, pushed the fire outside the wilderness boundary and toward a cluster of private inholdings located along the Moose Loop Road, off the Echo Trail.

“It had a pretty good head of steam going on Tuesday afternoon,” said Tim Engrav, a public information officer with the U.S. Forest Service’s LaCroix office in Cook. “It really had a lot of potential.”

While cooler weather during the day on Wednesday, and nearly an inch of rain that following evening, quieted the fire enough for firefighters to have it fully contained as of Saturday, the fire’s big run the day before destroyed at least one seasonal cabin and several outbuildings, according to Engrav.

“It doesn’t look too nice,” said Tom Kintner, of

Tower, describing the property he and his wife own off the Moose Loop Road that was in the path of the fire. Forest Service firefighters managed to save their cabin and outhouse, said Kintner, but other buildings, including the sauna, a woodshed, a couple trailers and a generator, were all lost from the fire. “The sheriff escorted us in and out,” said Kintner, in order for them to assess the property damage. “I got a few trees that were singed pretty bad, too,” said Kintner. He said he has friends and relatives who have already offered to help him rebuild. “My wife said I have to build the sauna back,” he said.

Fire wrap-up

With the fire contained, the administrative team from the Minnesota Incident Command Center, or MNIC, transferred command back to the local fire officials. Final mapping of the fire put the total acreage at 782 acres, about half the size of initial estimates. Fire crews were continuing to extinguish hot spots and monitor the perimeter to prevent any new fire activity.

All told, 89 fire personnel were deployed to the blaze.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
61 33	66 46	69 47	71 47	75 50

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.
05/17	76	43	0.00		05/17	76	52	0.00		05/17	75	43	0.00		05/17	84	57	0.05		05/17	76	56	0.10	
05/18	84	44	0.00		05/18	83	40	0.00		05/18	80	52	0.00		05/18	81	52	0.00		05/18	82	42	0.00	
05/19	78	49	0.00		05/19	78	40	0.00		05/19	81	54	0.00		05/19	77	57	0.00		05/19	78	43	0.00	
05/20	75	59	0.27		05/20	75	59	0.19		05/20	77	59	0.75		05/20	72	63	0.39		05/20	75	58	0.43	
05/21	69	64	0.07		05/21	70	63	0.05		05/21	72	63	0.27		05/21	82	64	1.04		05/21	70	64	0.08	
05/22	80	61	0.00		05/22	81	61	0.00		05/22	82	64	0.00		05/22	79	57	0.00		05/22	81	60	0.00	
05/23	81	47	0.00		05/23	82	44	0.07		05/23	83	47	0.01		05/23	55	45	0.00		05/23	80	45	0.10	
Total			5.62		YTD Total			5.26		YTD Total			5.54		YTD Total			6.05		YTD Total				6.46

WARBLERS...Continued from page 8B



will spend their summer hunkered down in thicker brush.

Like many people who are attuned to the natural world, I listen for all these songs each year for the stories they tell, and with the hope that a world that is increasingly hostile to so much of the life we long took for granted, still has a place in the sky for these remarkable birds. While I know that my experience is anecdotal at best, hearing that things are more or less as I remember them,

tells me that while all is not well with our environment, at least all is not lost.

It’s easy to believe otherwise when you see the unending stories on the destruction of the rain forest, the dying of the oceans, and the rapidly changing climate, particularly in the Arctic. I know all of the birds that call this region home face a myriad of challenges, from loss of habitat, or loose cats, to the disruption of the timing of insect eruptions due

Left: A mourning warbler, one of the latest warbler arrivals.

photo by M. HelMBERger

to climate change.

It reminds me that I’m not the only one who feels dependent on the well-timed rhythms of the seasons. For birds in migration, in particular, arriving too soon can be as lethal as a late April snowstorm, while arriving too late could leave them without the food resources needed to raise their brood. Since many of these small birds will only have one or two seasons to pass on their genes, it’s a critical issue of timing. The increasing variability of our climate adds wobble to the system, which is just one more challenge many birds face. It’s no surprise that the vast majority of small woodland migrants are declining in number, some dramatically so, based on breeding bird surveys.

For me, that walk down the gravel road is my own breeding bird survey, of sorts. And while it may not be scientific, when the birds are singing, all there, and in their place, it is a comfort. I hope they’ll continue to be there as long as I regularly walk this little piece of the Earth.

SURVEY...Continued from page 8B

to record measurements of fish that anglers keep.

DNR pilots will also be conducting 60 flights this summer, during which they will tally the number of fishing boats on the lake.

Given the extensive effort that goes into a creel survey, they’re expensive to conduct. “They’re cost-prohibitive so we can’t do them every year,” said DNR large lake specialist Matt Hennen, who’s based in Tower. In fact, because of the expense, the DNR only conducts such extensive surveys on the state’s largest and most popular fishing

lakes. The DNR has also conducted such surveys on both Birch and Burntside lakes in recent years.

“Creel surveys are a huge source of data on fishing pressure,” noted Hennen. With local concern about the pressure on the lake, Hennen said this year’s creel survey will provide valuable science which can help to evaluate those concerns. “We’ll see the number of hours that people spend fishing and get an estimated harvest,” he said.

And the survey will assess the harvest of all the popular game fish on the lake, not just walleye.

This information, when com-

bined with scientific data collected during standard fisheries population assessments, is used to make informed fisheries management decisions for the lake.

Angler participation is an essential part of this study, so the DNR is asking anglers to be patient with the creel clerks and provide information that is as accurate as possible. Since 1984, the DNR has conducted 12 creel surveys on Lake Vermilion.

For additional information or questions contact Matt Hennen at the DNR Tower area fisheries office: 218-300-7810 or matthew.hennen@state.mn.us.

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