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the TIMBERJAY



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ISD 696

Bringing the past into the future

Ely School District celebrates start of \$20 million building project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The eventual graduating class of 2033 of the Ely school district, now Kindergarten students, provided a simple message to dozens of onlookers last Thursday at a groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the beginning of a two-year, \$20 million building project on the ISD 696 campus.

They carried signs that said

MORE SCHOOL PROJECT

City of Ely, ISD 696 negotiate utility work costs **Page 11**

“thank you” as they paraded past what will be the eventual centerpiece of a modern, state-of-the-art structure that will link the 100-year-old Memorial and Washington school buildings.

Local leaders, elected officials from across the Iron Range, communi-

ty members, and others involved with the construction project gathered on the front lawn of the school to mark the district’s long-awaited transition into 21st-century learning, while paying homage to Ely’s long tradition of education.

Superintendent Erik Erie emceed the hour-long event and welcomed a plethora of speakers to share

See...SCHOOL pg. 11



Washington Elementary students carried hand-made signs in a “thank you” parade last week at the school district’s facility renovation groundbreaking ceremony. photo by K. Vandervort

MEMORIAL DAY 2021



HONOR, RESPECT

Ely remembers fallen heroes

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Hundreds of residents attended Memorial Day services at the Ely Cemetery on Monday. The traditional event was sponsored by VFW Post 2717, American Legion Post 248, and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The brief program, broadcast on WELY 94.5 FM, opened with a welcome

by Master of Ceremonies Steven Saari, commander of American Legion Post 248, who stood in this year for Tony Rechichi, VFW Post 2717 commander, who participated in Honor Guard duties.

Bagpiper Joe Linnemann played America the Beautiful and Yankee Doodle, followed by an invocation by

See...HONOR pg. 10



Ely Honor Guard commander, Mike Pope, top, and other veterans took part in the Memorial Day Service at the Ely Cemetery. U.S. Navy veteran Bert Horvat, right, set flags at graves on Saturday. photos by K. Vandervort

CITY OF TOWER

Clerk resigns to pursue new business

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — City officials here will be looking for a new chief of operations after Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua announced her resignation on Tuesday.

Ranua will remain on the city’s fire department and ambulance service, where she was recently hired as an emergency medical responder. In her letter of resignation, she said she will remain in her position as clerk-treasurer as long as needed to ensure a smooth transition. Her resignation is expected to be on the agenda at the next city council meeting, set for June 14.

Ranua is leaving to pursue a business venture — an apparel line she hopes to develop under the brand Natural Variations — that she has been planning for some time. “For over a decade, I have had a dream I have left lying dormant while I have tended duties and obligations,” wrote Ranua in her resignation letter. “My dream, which is with me daily, will remain in that dormant state until I dedicate time toward its manifestation. I am ready to bring this vision to life.”

Ranua has served in the city’s top administrative position for the past 20 months, having taken over following the

See...TOWER pg. 11

COOK HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

HRA tenants cry foul over leadership at Cook council meeting

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Comments allege executive director is unfit for position

COOK- Four Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority tenants appeared at the May 27 Cook City Council meeting to renew longstanding complaints and call for the ouster of Executive Director Reed Erickson.

Jim Obidowski was the

primary speaker listed on the meeting agenda, and he wasted no time in asserting a claim that the council and the mayor, and not the CHRA governing board, have both the power and responsibility to relieve Erickson of his duties.

“Who is in charge of the

HRA? The city of Cook and the mayor are in charge of Reed Erickson,” Obidowski declared. “That’s what Pete Stauber said. Reed is no good. I’d love to take him to court – sue him and sue the city. He’s nothing but a lying con artist.”

With the Eighth District

Congressman’s name being tossed into the fray, the *Timberjay* contacted Stauber’s office to determine the nature of his communications with CHRA residents. According to a response received Tuesday from Communication Director Kelsey Mix, Stauber’s posi-

tion on CHRA management responsibilities is at odds with Obidowski’s claim.

“Our office has been contacted by several constituents regarding this issue,” Mix said. “HUD does not manage the day-to-day operations of Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority (CHRA). The CHRA

See...HRA pg. 9



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Community notices

Ruby’s Pantry food distribution
COOK- The next Ruby’s Pantry will be a drive-through food distribution at the old Cook School parking lot on Thursday, June 10 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Please give a \$20 cash donation at the door. Ruby’s Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Alango.

Photo contest winners announced
COOK- The voters have spoken, and Carol Bowman is the winner of the “Finding Light” photo contest sponsored by Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook.
Bowman’s shot of two deer looking back at the photographer, titled “Does the Sunlight Make My Butt Look Big?” was the most popular among visitors to the NWFA Gallery during the month of May, besting 67 other submissions. Bowman received \$100 for first place.
Second place and \$50 went to Cecilia Rolando for her scenic photo, “A Still Day No. 1.” Pictures of the photographers and their winning submissions can be viewed on the Northwoods Friends of the Arts page on Facebook.

Lions to host garage sale, June 12
COOK- The Cook Lions Club will once again host its annual garage sale on Saturday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the yellow and blue Lions Club building at 6 1st Street SE in Cook.
The cash-and-carry event will feature furniture, appliances, lawn furniture, an inflatable boat, a gun cabinet and more. Shoppers may prepay for their items, go enjoy Cook’s Annual Timber Days festivities, and return no later than 5 p.m. to pick them up.
Should conditions warrant, shoppers may be asked to observe social distancing protocols.
Proceeds from the event will be used to support local philanthropic efforts of the Lions Club.

Book club to meet 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, moderated by Sue Gustafson.

The *New York Times* best-selling author immigrated to the United State 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. The novel begins with the story of an aristocratic woman who assembles a makeshift family from the survivors of her husband’s resistance movement and continues through the a reunion in 1991.
Readers and Rappers will not meet in July.

NWFA to hold Timber Days activities
COOK -An activity table and tent for participants will be provided by Northwoods Friends of the Arts at the Cook Timber Days celebration June 11, 12 and 13.
On Saturday, June 12, local authors Donna Graham, who wrote a thriller novel called “Silenced To Death,” and Leo Willenius, with his book of worldly wisdoms, “She Won’t Mow The Daisies,” will meet and greet fans and sign copies of their books.
The NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 12 for people to enjoy the Spring Art Expo exhibit. The gallery will also be open that week on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tickets for the annual 50/50 Raffle will go on sale during Timber Days weekend and continue through Aug. 19. Tickets cost \$5 each, and a winner will be drawn at the Monroe Crossing Concert at the Cook Community Center. The winner can choose to receive 50 percent of the ticket sale proceeds or an original painting by Sue Rauschenfels called “Birches.”

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WATER PROTECTORS

We Do It For The Water at MDC, June 10

CHISHOLM- The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) is excited to partner with Sharon Day and the Indigenous Peoples Task Force and the Minnesota Humanities Center to host the “We Do It For The Water” performance hosted at MDC on Thursday, June 10 at 6 p.m. The play is an original written by Sharon Day and performed by Ikidowin Acting Ensemble. After the performance, the Minnesota Humanities Center will facilitate a community conversation.

Written by Sharon Day and directed by Curtis Kirby III with funding from the First Peoples Fund, this play weaves stories of Indigenous struggles to protect our water, beginning with saving Camp Cold Water Spring, the Mother Earth Water Walks, the Nibi Walks and The North Dakota Access Pipeline. The water walkers and water protectors presented a non-violent message that united Native people and non-Native environmentalists. This project will continue the awareness of Indigenous rights and the capacity of the individual



The Ikidowin Acting Ensemble will perform “We Do It For The Water”; a play written by Bois Forte Band member Sharon Day. This performance is free and open to the public. submitted photo

to take action for the environment.
Sharon is enrolled in the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe. She is a founder of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force. In 1990, Sharon developed and led the first Native youth acting troupe. Since then, Sharon has worked with countless Native youth guiding them to grow as actors. Day has acted with Pangea World Theater, Illusion Theater, and the American History Theater. MDC is also hosting a We Are Water MN Virtual Speaker Series in collaboration with the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District and We Are Water MN. This is a free virtual series hosted on Zoom providing an opportunity to the public to learn more about water topics specific to our region including water and labor history in the Fur Trade Era, nibi walks, and local invasive species. Registration links for each date will be available at www.wearewaterironrange.com/events, mndiscoverycenter.com/events/, and on collaborator’s social media pages.
We Are Water MN is led by the Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. We Are Water MN is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and with money from the Clean Water Fund and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

ART MEETS ENVIRONMENT

ARENA DANCES to perform at Tofte Lake Center

Hike, workshop and pop-up performance are also scheduled

ELY- Twin Cities based modern dance company ARENA DANCES will perform their new work, Thermal, at the Tofte Lake Center on Saturday, June 11 at 7 p.m.
ARENA DANCES is the recipient of a 2020 Minnesota State Arts Board Arts on Tour grant that brings this exciting new project and residency to the Ely community. Preceding their performance, ARENA DANCES will offer a series of workshops in the Ely community the week of June 6, focused on the pressing issue of climate change and how human behavior and emotion affect the environment and vice versa. All events are free and open to the public.

Tofte Lake Center is located at 2209 Fernberg Road in Ely are \$10 and tickets available at the door.
Nature Walk
A nature walk with local naturalist Bill Tefft will take place Tuesday, June 8 at 2 p.m. on the Secret / Blackstone Hiking Trail.
Join ARENA DANCES



ARENA DANCES performers will be at Tofte Lake Center and the surrounding Ely area for several events between June 8 and 11. submitted photo

and Tefft of Climate Change Solutions of Scott County to explore the Secret / Blackstone Hiking Trail and discuss the effects of climate change in Northern Minnesota.
Community Movement Workshop
Participate in a community movement workshop at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9 at Tofte Lake Center’s Aerie Studio. The workshop is open to all ages and abilities; this movement workshop is about celebrating the self and one’s expression through movement.
Pop-up Performance
Enjoy a pop-up performance at noon on Thursday, June 10 at Whiteside Park in Ely.
Bring your lunch and enjoy a sneak peek of ARENA DANCES new work, Thermal, at an appropriately outdoor venue. Watch as the company rehearses the work and explores movement specifically informed by this site.
This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage foundation.

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CITY OF ELY

Ely trailhead development hits major cost obstacle

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The city of Ely’s signature west end development project hit a major snag last month when construction bids for the second phase of the project came in at twice the budget. City officials were shell shocked and are regrouping to figure out a new funding plan and any way to move forward.

A total of \$1.5 million was secured for the project last year though bonding legislation and total cost estimates now approach \$3 million.

“It was a huge surprise,” said Interim Mayor

Chuck Novak. The plan to build the showcase visitors center and parking area at the city’s west end entrance is on hold unless more funding can be found.

The building was supposed to be completed in September in time to welcome a state ATV Trail Association convention here.

“The total cost combined (building and lot and site work) are \$2.75 million and we have just a million and a half to deal with,” Novak said.

Clerk - Treasurer Harold Langowski recommended that the project be paused to consider funding

options. “The lot and site work were very near budget,” he said. “We would like to complete the parking lot and the utilities to where the building will be located.”

Langowski worked to complete federal funding earmark requests to Minnesota Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith.

“We are currently working to determine our options,” he said. “We were hit hard with the exploding construction costs for materials and labor. Everybody is in the same boat. But, we are still hopeful for construction at the site this year. But in reality, we are one of



A digital rendering of the planned Ely trailhead. file photo

thousands of federal budget requests being considered.”

The proposed footprint of the visitor center gradually decreased in the planning process. Ely Chamber of Commerce abandoned a plan to move to the visitor

center due to lack of space. Another idea was floated to have the visitor center staffed by Chamber, Ely Tourism Bureau, and U.S. Forest Service. “The building design was okayed by the state,” Langowski said,

so we can’t just cut it in half or start over.”

He said the construction cost estimate was initially estimated to be about \$300 per square foot.

See TRAIL...pg. 5

ELY BUSINESS

Ely business settles in workplace sexual harrassment case

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY - Red Cabin Custard, of Ely, and two other Minnesota businesses that failed to provide work environments free from sexual assault and harassment, in violation of the Minnesota Human Rights

Act, reached settlement agreements this week with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR).

The other two businesses were Mid-America Festivals Corporation that operates the Minnesota Renaissance Festival

in Shakopee, and the Minnesota Sword Club in Minneapolis.

MDHR’s investigation found the owner of Red Cabin Custard, Bill Charmers, used his position of authority to subject Lorna Keller, then 14 years

old, to unwanted touching, graphic sexual innuendos, and sexual depictions of genitals in 2015.

Over time, Charmer’s sexual comments intensified, grew more personal, and even extended to children, the investigation

determined. The MDHR also found that Charmers had a pattern of harassing employees, including Lorna’s cousin.

“I pursued this case because I felt it was my duty as a young girl with a voice to fight for the girls

without voices, the girls that have been too scared to report, the girls that haven’t been listened to,” said Keller, who is now 19 years old. “My former boss and bosses like him need

See CUSTARD...pg. 5

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

The nanny party

Republicans talk, but don’t walk the walk, on personal liberty

There was a time when Republicans in the Minnesota Legislature talked about individual liberty. They poooh-pooohed what they derided as Minnesota’s “nanny state,” which they blamed on our DFL-dominated state politics.

Well, who are the nannies now?

The most significant personal liberty bill to come up in St. Paul in the past few years was the measure to end the legal prohibition on the adult use of marijuana. It shouldn’t even have been controversial. Recent statewide polls have demonstrated that Minnesota has experienced the same sea change in attitudes about pot that have been seen elsewhere in the country. Clear majorities of Minnesotans now accept the common-sense realization that prohibition rarely works and that the efforts to impose such policies are ultimately detrimental to society. A party that actually believes its rhetoric about personal liberty would recognize that fact.

Instead, it was DFL lawmakers who voted for personal liberty in St. Paul this session. The DFL-controlled House passed a full legalization measure, which DFL Gov. Tim Walz was ready to sign. But the GOP-controlled state Senate said no.

The Legislature did expand the definition of medical marijuana to allow the use of the smoked product, which is more affordable for patients. That’s a step forward, but under what rational reason does any lawmaker justify continuing prohibition for adults without medical conditions?

The downsides of prohibition should be obvious to all. Prohibition shifts commerce to the dark undersides of society, fueling the rise of gangs and gang violence in the process. This was as true in the 1920s, during the bootlegging era, as it is a century later. Hard-earned tax dollars go for law enforcement and corrections, rather than for treatment of those who need help with addiction, including to the most common addictive drug of all— alcohol. And, since we know that the hammer of law enforcement falls heaviest on people of color, we know those communities will bear the greatest burden from the family disruption and break-up that invariably comes with prosecution and prison.

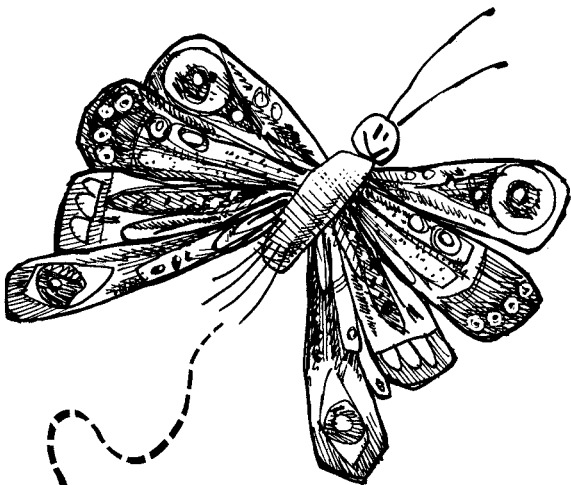
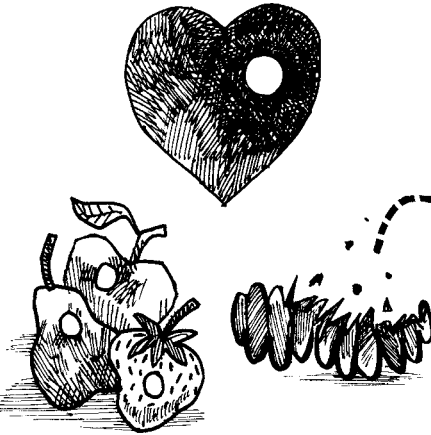
These are heavy costs to impose on society, particularly when it is to no apparent end. In addition to all of its costs to society, we know that prohibition simply doesn’t work. Drug use of all kinds in the United States has increased steadily since the beginning of the so-called War on Drugs back in the 1960s. As major public policy, there are few examples in American history with a sorrier record of failure and harm.

What’s more, by shifting the sale of products to the black market, society loses out on the tax revenue such sales could otherwise provide to the state treasury. Taxing the legal sale of marijuana in Minnesota could generate hundreds of millions of dollars. Last year, for example, Colorado, with only a slightly larger population than Minnesota, brought in more than \$387 million in taxes and fees from marijuana sales. Those are big numbers. Add in the savings from law enforcement and prisons from all the users and dealers who are no longer violating the law, and the financial windfall is even larger.

The logic of legalization is so obvious, one wonders if the GOP has other objectives. As we reported following the 2020 election, the popularity of pro-legalization parties in Minnesota likely impacted a handful of legislative races, in the GOP’s favor. As we’ve since learned, GOP operatives helped some pro-legalization candidates qualify for ballot access and fundraise, in hopes they would siphon enough likely DFL voters away to edge out victories in closely divided districts. Such dirty tricks appear to have made the difference in a couple of districts, potentially just enough to keep the Senate in Republican hands.

Voters who backed those parties may have thought they were furthering their interest in legalization, but by tossing their votes away on spoilers, they actually helped elect candidates who oppose their goal of legalization. The political reality is now clear. If voters support legalization, they can only achieve that by electing DFLers to the Legislature and a DFL governor. That’s something to keep in mind next year, following redistricting, when all of the state’s legislative seats are up for grabs.

And on the Last Day
The Very Hungry
Caterpillar Left
a hole in our hearts



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1929-2021

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Letters from Readers

Israel has its knee on the neck of Palestinians

I hope that Americans will someday soon realize that what Derek Chauvin did to George Floyd with his knee on his neck is the same thing that the Israelis are doing to the Palestinian people every day and have been since what the Palestinians call the NAKBA (tragedy) of 1948. Israel equals Derek Chauvin and unless we demand of the U.S. government that, Democrat or Republican, they cease helping Israeli genocide, it won’t end. In 1948, in a one-month period, 500 Palestinian villages were entered by Zionist forces, raping, killing, and evicting everyone in terror. (What the Nazis did to the European Jews, Israel is doing to the Palestinians. Israel has become the Nazis.)

And, unfortunately, it is we, the American taxpayers, that abet these crimes against the Palestinians. We arm Israel and don’t hold them accountable for how they use what we give them.

There are many Israeli Jews and American Jews who are ashamed of what Israel does. There are some good media that can help us understand the situation, such as the Jewish Voice for Peace. Some Israelis are ashamed of Israel and I am ashamed of the U.S. government’s foreign policy. America doesn’t like peace and is great for inventing enemies.

Steve Johnson
Ely

Cost of infrastructure plan more manageable over time

Even if the cost of the proposed legislation for “infrastructure” is substantially reduced, there will be a significant increase of the national debt. At present, the existing debt represents approximately 102 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP) which

is the traditional method of measuring the credit worthiness of the national debt.

The Biden administration anticipates instituting certain tax increases to repay the debt over time. However, the cash outlay of the costs for infrastructure is required upfront. The time lapse between the cash flow gap between expenditures and the anticipated inflow of tax revenue increase is fulfilled by the issuance of Treasury bonds.

Instead of measuring financial risk against the GNP, a better indicator of U.S. financial credit-worthiness is the annual flow of tax revenues matched against annual debt service cash requirements needed to pay the debt service.

Interest rates are at a historically low level, providing the cost of money at an advantageous time to issue a portion of the debt in 50-year U.S. securities.

There are at present the equivalent of trillions of dollars outstanding negative interest bonds that indicate there is a large market for low interest-bearing bonds. Furthermore, other countries have issued 50-year bonds, i.e., U.K., France and Italy. Ireland, Belgium, Mexico and Austria have issued 100-year bonds. Indeed, there are perpetual bonds with no maturities in the marketplace. Corporate bonds with 100-year maturities have been issued by Disney, Coca-Cola, Ford, Caterpillar, Motorola and Citigroup.

The big drawback for investors of ultralong maturities is that the securities have reduced

liquidity. The long-term bonds, nevertheless, do have a special appeal for endowment funds, insurance companies and pension funds, all of which have long-term financial commitments.

There is a rationale for 50-year bonds for the portion of the infrastructure that has benefits expectancies of fifty years or more such as bridges, roads, and sewer systems. Moreover, funds are expected to be applied to government expenditures for pre-K schools and free community college that hopefully would provide societal benefits for more than fifty years.

In summary, the proposed huge debt doesn’t look so formidable when measured against government annual revenue instead of its previously accumulated debt, and the expected long-term benefits to future generations.

Gerry Snyder
Ely

We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

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



A whole lot of poop and not much sleep

My wonderful daughter, Dot, has impressed me with her potty skills. She’s only 21 months and has managed to successfully poop and pee in the potty. She’s quite the amazing girl. The problem is that she has also pooped in my dresser, on pants and dresses in her the carpet, in the kitchen, in the bureau, those clothes fly



STEPHANIE
UKKOLA

the laundry basket, and she made quite the mess in her crib.

No matter what I do I can’t stop this little thing from taking her diaper off. Forget all those cute

right off just as soon as I put them on.

I’ve been lucky enough to find two bodysuits she can’t wriggle herself out of. The poor girl has been wearing these same two outfits day after day. Of course, I do have to wash them sometimes, when that happens, her diaper is off before I know it and Dot poops and pees all over my house again and again, like some kind of bad puppy.

We keep encouraging her to use the potty.

Sometimes she does, but more often she waits a minute to find a better spot to go somewhere else.

In an effort to increase her wardrobe options my husband Mack and I bought some regular onesies we thought she could wear under her clothes. Haha! Good try, mom and dad. We came to check on her during her nap time; she was in her crib, not sleeping, and this little Houdini had managed to take her diaper off while her onesie

remained on! And of course she had peed all over her onesie and mattress. What dark magic is this?

Her older brother Ed has never been so free-spirited. He was always happy to leave his clothes on and didn’t cause much trouble that way. We did struggle to potty train him; we had been working at it for years. During that time he only had a few accidents around the house. Just a few months ago, at age 3, after Ed mastered peeing

on the potty, we increased the pressure and started offering bigger treats for pooping on the potty. Ed started having tantrums. “I DON’T WANNA POOP! YOU’RE A BUMMER-HEAD!” I’m surprised he didn’t traumatize himself with all that screaming. I just did my best to stay cool, calm and collected and to encourage and support him, all while he screamed and screamed at me. It wasn’t

See **POTTY...**pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Uncomfortable conversations benefit society

The controversy regarding the book that is required reading for juniors in the Ely high school (“I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness” by Austin Channing Brown) gave me a lot to think about. I decided to read the book in question to see if I thought there was anything that would keep it from being appropriate for that age group. In my opinion it was a solid description of a black woman’s experience living as a minority in the U.S.

It has the potential to make white students feel uncomfortable, just as I felt when I read the book “White Fragility.” We’re living in a challenging time for white folks who have become aware of our white privilege while our nation is grappling with racial inequities and their consequences. Recognizing and feeling

uncomfortable with our biases is our only chance to move forward into a more equitable society.

For students to feel that discomfort in a situation where deep, honest conversation can take place in a directed classroom setting would be a good thing. In my opinion, it’s especially important for students who live in a town with little diversity to recognize the lived experiences of others who operate each day in a world that is largely white.

I support the right of any parent to opt out of a curriculum that doesn’t support their particular beliefs and values, but I don’t support their right to withhold it from others by pressing for the removal of that material from the classroom altogether.

I fear a slippery slope toward what is happening in more than sixteen states where legislation has been introduced, and in some cases bills signed, limiting how race-related issues can be discussed in the classroom, calling these

discussions “indoctrination.” Educators in some cases are facing prosecution if they step over an invisible line by having a sincere, civil discussion that would encourage our youth to think critically about a problem that our country is undisputedly facing.

America has a seamy underbelly in our history that has traditionally been “white-washed” in our education system. We can certainly have conversations around what is the appropriate age to enter into discussions about events such as Indigenous genocide and the whole truth about slavery. How on earth can current events such as the murder of George Floyd and the unequal treatment of people of color by police be discussed without considering it in a framework of historic systemic racism? Would that discussion be censored? Wouldn’t it be a disservice to ignore it?

Difficult conversations about race and a true accounting of U.S. history in school as well as in the

home could facilitate the emergence of well-informed young adults who have the critical thinking skills to make their own determination about the world they live in. At some point, after all, most of our Ely youth will leave the bubble of our small town for college or career and experience a broader worldview.

When we omit important events in our history or deny the experiences of others, we’re effectively lying to our children.

Linda Sutton Ely

What happened to Greenwood?

The township has a supervisor who seems to want to be a one-man board. Supervisor Ralston has been working on broadband....but no information he received has been given to the township’s Broadband Committee, except after it was asked

for. Unbeknownst to the Broadband Committee, Supervisor Ralston invited a representative from CTC to attend our next township board meeting. This is a good thing. The bad thing is that the committee found out this after a committee member called CTC. The invitation did not go through the committee, and Ralston did not tell the committee. What was gained by not telling the committee?

Is there no decorum left at public board meetings? Supervisor DeLuca has given a middle finger gesture (everyone knows what this is) to an audience member, at last month’s board meeting. Animosity for anyone should be left at home. Animosity by all board members should be left at home. Are the previous board members still angry about two women being elected to the board? They seem to be voting against motions that would be good for the township.

The Greenwood Township Fire Department

has for the most part taken their ball and gone home. At the last night’s fire department meeting, Chief Fazio chose to change the location for the business meeting to his home after visitors chose to attend. He called the meeting private. (Supervisor DeLuca, Clerk Spicer and I have attended the meetings in the past). Visitors included two supervisors, and two residents.

Then we have Clerk Spicer. Seems as though she wants to have the doors locked at the town hall. The board had to pass a motion to have at least the entrance door unlocked. She now keeps the interior door locked, with a sign to knock if you need help. This is not inviting to residents. If she does not want to deal with the public or is scared, is this a job she should have?

Sue Drobac Greenwood Twp.

TRAIL...Continued from page 3

Now the project is at \$700 per square foot. Two bids were received. Max Gray Construction, of Hibbing,

was the low bidder, according to Langowski. The delay of this second phase of the west end development plan will

likely cause additional delays for the third phase, which includes an extension of Pattison Street behind the hospital to

intersect with the new Fifth Avenue W construction. A highly-touted expansion plan by Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital seems

to be shelved. City workforce housing, redevelopment of the former city garage area, and a new Ely Ambulance Service facility

also appear to be in limbo as the trailhead project pauses.

CUSTARD...Continued from page 3

to know that they do not have the power to stifle my voice nor any other young girl’s voice when it comes to sexual harassment in the workplace,” she added.

Keller’s mother, Bryn Fadum, said the family chose to have the Minnesota Department of Human Rights work on this case, instead of filing criminal charges, because a ruling from the state could protect other workers from similar abuse.

Their initial complaint, filed in 2015, was denied. Fadum said from what they saw, no actual investigation took place. The family quickly appealed the denial, and a second investigation found probable cause immediately.

“The case then sat in limbo for several years,” said Fadum, “until we finally called to see what was going on.”

Fadum said their family was encouraged to hire an attorney, and the family, which had since moved to Alaska, participated in a zoom hearing which included the Minnesota’s assistant attorney general.

“Charmers is still the owner of Red Cabin Custard,” Fadum said, “but now he has to report to



Minnesota Department of Human Rights recently found that Red Cabin Custard owner Bill Charmers had sexually harrassed a minor employee in 2015. photo by K. Vandervort

the MDHR, hold trainings for his employees, and go through training himself. There is a lot of documentation involved.”

Charmers also paid a small cash settlement to Keller, but did not acknowledge wrongdoing.

“He tried to give it to her before as hush money,” Fadum said, “with a non-disclosure agreement.”

The family wanted to make sure that Charmers would not be harassing employees in the future and did not agree to the pre-settlement offer.

“I think other girls will come forward now,” Fadum said.

In all three cases, MDHR found the businesses did not have or did not implement policies to help prevent sexual assault and

harassment. This fostered a power imbalance between supervisors and workers that resulted in unwanted sexual innuendos, forcible sexual touching, and rape.

In the Red Cabin Custard and the Minnesota Sword Club cases, the businesses chose not to have sexual harassment policies. The only people to whom workers could have reported the repeated sexual advances were the owners themselves. And, the owners were the harassers.

“Abuse and misuse of authority to sexually assault, harass, or rape workers violates civil rights law,” said MDHR Commissioner Rebecca Lucero. “For employers to effectively prevent sexual assault, harassment, and rape from occurring, they

must not only have strong policies, but they must also enforce those policies.”

While the Minnesota Renaissance Festival had a sexual harassment policy, it was ineffective. The policy was not distributed to workers and training on the policy was sparse. Moreover, the Artistic Director was primarily responsible for enforcing the sexual harassment policy and repeatedly violated it himself when he raped a contract photographer and promoted a highly sexualized work environment.

Approximately one-in-four workplace discrimination cases filed with MDHR involve sex discrimination. Under the Minnesota Human Rights Act, sex discrimination includes sexual assault and harassment.

“Every business has a legal obligation to ensure their workplace is free from sexual assault, harassment, and rape – plain and simple,” Lucero continued. “These settlement agreements require just that – structural change to ensure enforcement with strong policies towards safe and welcoming workplaces.”

Mid-America Festivals Corporation, Red Cabin Custard, and the Minnesota Sword Club must implement and enforce anti-harassment policies and ensure their staff are trained on what constitutes sexual harassment and assault and how to address it.

As part of the agreements, staff must also have multiple ways to report the harassment and/or assault.

To ensure compliance with the agreements and the Minnesota Human Rights Act, MDHR will

monitor each of the businesses. MDHR finalized agreements with Red Cabin Custard in May, Mid-America Festivals Corporation in April, and the Minnesota Sword Club in March.

Those who believe they are the victim of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or any other type of discrimination covered under the Minnesota Human Rights Act, can call the Discrimination Helpline at 1-833-454-0148.

POTTY...Continued from page 4

fun but within a couple weeks he got it and uses the potty all by himself now.

My kids were never naked outside and I was proud of that. This summer is shaping up a little differently... Besides Dot’s unstoppable desire to take off her clothes, we also set up a little pool for the kids to play in and now both of the kids’ clothes come off all the time. Which has led to my little Dot pooping on the sidewalk and on the giant cedar tree. One day while I was at work my husband reported that Dot pooped outside ten times, not an exaggeration, really, ten times. I’m glad I wasn’t home that day.

So on top of this poopey mess, our sleep schedule has gotten a little whack too. Out of necessity to save my arthritic knees I’ve had to give up my upstairs bedroom and have moved into Ed’s former room,

causing him to share a room with Dot. They had always had separate rooms before. That’s been quite the adventure. They seem to like sharing a room. When I ask them, they tell me they do and if I offer to let Ed sleep elsewhere he says he wants to sleep in his bed.

I don’t know all that’s been going on in there, but I’ll tell you what I know. At first, things were mostly fine. Dot slept in a crib and Ed in a twin bed. Dot would blab at Ed, and Ed would be so tired he would fall asleep to her gabbing, sometimes he’d get mad though. I once walked in on Ed punching Dot through the bars of her crib because she was trying to steal his blanket. Another time I walked in and Ed was in her crib. I’m not sure what he was doing but I’m sure he was up to no good.

Within a week of the room change Dot learned to climb out of her crib;

now this is where things get interesting. For now she’s sleeping on her crib mattress on the floor so she doesn’t hurt herself climbing out of the crib. Unfortunately, she’s not old enough to understand that she needs to stay in the bed.


Nap time? Forget it. I keep trying but she will not stay put and hasn’t been napping. I tried laying down with her in my bed so Ed could get some rest. Good try, mom. She was wired and wouldn’t stay down. Too bad for me, I really needed the rest that day.

Bed time? Let’s just say I’ve walked in on many wonderful sights. Dot and Ed jumping from bed to bed. Dot’s mattress leaning off Ed’s to make a slide. Ed and Dot fighting. Now they stand the crib mattress up and let it fall back down on their heads. I can’t wait to see what shenanigans they come up with next.

I’ve walked in on some cute scenes too though, like when Dot fell asleep kneeling, her knees on the floor and upper body on the bed, National Geographic animal book next to her. Needless to say, a twin mattress they can’t move is in the near future.

Ed escaped his crib at about the same age as Dot. When he did he would wander around his room, talking and singing to himself, and then forgo the bed and fall asleep curled up next to his bedroom door, listening for his parents. What a sweetie.

These kids are piles of fun, but man, when I chose to have kids I didn’t realize I was signing up for this! My respite time at nap and bed times has (temporarily, I hope) flown out the window. Wish me luck, I need it!



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TIMBERJAY

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

Week of May 7

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

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

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6 p.m. at the Town Hall on June 8.

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.

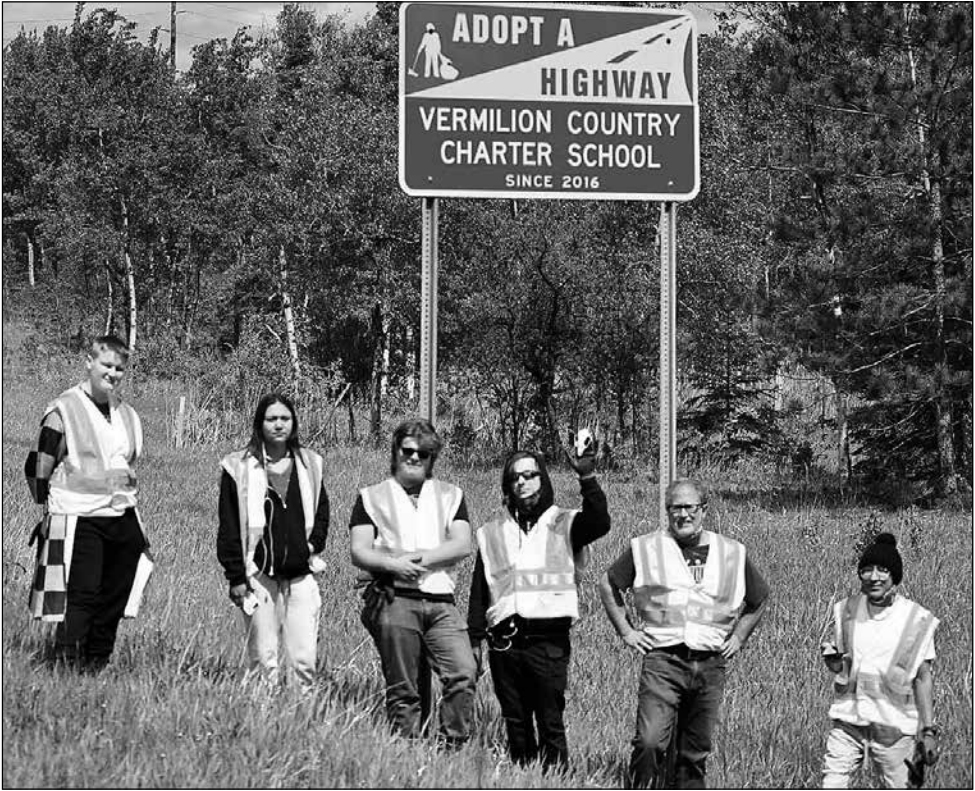
St. Paul's Lutheran hosting meeting on June 6
SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan is holding a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 6, following the 8:30 a.m. worship, to discuss financial issues.

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!

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950



VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Clean up day....

Vermilion Country School students spent an afternoon, last week, picking up trash and finding some treasures (see below) on the section of Hwy. 169 that stretches from the Y Store and goes two miles east towards Tower. Over 10 bags of trash were collected.
submitted photos



VERMILION GUIDES LEAGUE

Guides League sponsors poster contest

TOWER- When the Lake Vermilion Guides League had to cancel their 2020 Take a Kid Fishing event due to the pandemic, members decided to sponsor a clean water poster contest for area fifth and sixth graders. Last Friday, Guides League member Phil Bakken presented every fifth and sixth grader at Tower-Soudan Elementary with a free tackle box stocked with fishing essentials, as well as awarding cash prizes to the top four winning artists.

Shaye Isham won the top prize of \$100 for her poster about keeping our lakes clean. Nico Lenci won \$75 for second place, Thomas Aldrich \$50 for third, and Kellin Pratt \$25 for fourth. Bakken told the students they had a very hard time judging their posters.

The guides league has decided to cancel Take a Kid Fishing this year, but they will be holding their Take a Vet Fishing Day later this summer.

"All of us feel terrible, but we believe this is in everyone's best interest of safety. We hope you are still able to get out and go fishing and enjoy the outdoors," the Guides League wrote on their website. The group is still raising funds to support these events in the future.

The Lake Vermilion Guides League is a not-for-profit organization of local Lake Vermilion guides dedicated to the promotion of fishing and associated activities, to the education of others in the art and joys of fishing, to the preservation and conservation of those natural resources



that are important to fishing and to the enhancement of fellowship and camaraderie among fishermen.

Above: From left: Kellin Pratt, Thomas Aldrich, Nico Lenci, and Shaye Isham.

Right: Students received a free tackle box, thanks to the Guides League.

photos by J. Summit



Fourth of July fundraising underway

Be sure to buy some Fourth of July raffle tickets whenever you see their red, white, and blue booth set up in front of Zup's Grocery.
photos by J. Summit

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.

Zachary Hrvol named to Northern State University Sspring 2021 Dean's List

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Zachary Hrvol, of Tower, has been named to the Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., Dean's List for the spring 2021 semester.

Students who have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester are eligible. Northern State University is a student-centered institution that provides an outstanding educational experience, preparing students through the liberal arts and professional education for their future endeavors.

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



TOWER FARMERS MARKET

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

Subscribe Today • (218) 753-2950

MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Ely Class of 2021 graduates Saturday

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – An outdoor graduation ceremony will be held Saturday night for the Ely Memorial Class of 2021 at historic Veterans Memorial Field. Festivities get underway at 7 p.m. Graduates gathered Tuesday morning for a rehearsal for this unique outdoor ceremony. For the second year in a row, the traditional Washington Auditorium venue is off limits, but for a different reason. Last year, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing restrictions, a

“drive-thru” event was held in the parking lot of the Ely Ice Arena. This year, with COVID-19 restrictions easing because of increasing vaccine rates, the indoor auditorium is being used as a temporary storage area as the campus renovation project shifts into high gear. “We were looking at using the ball field last year,” said 6-12 Principal Megan Anderson, “but with the restrictions, we went with the drive-thru option. So, this year are at the ball field.” Space is limited however; do each graduate will be provided with six tickets. Weather forecasts call for a hot, sunny, dry



Ely 6-12 Principal Megan Anderson, attempts to herd the Memorial School Class of 2021 into a productive commencement rehearsal Tuesday morning at the Veterans Memorial Park baseball field. Graduation ceremonies will be held Saturday at 7 p.m. photos by K. Vandervort

evening for the 37 graduates of the Class of 2021 and their families. The ceremony will begin with the graduates entering the stadium through the home and visitors dugouts to the playing of Fanfare and Processional by Elgar and Ployhar, and the singing of the National Anthem by Ely senior Grace Erickson. Anderson will welcome the graduates and families. The Senior Class Speaker is McKenna Coughlin. School Band Director Sarah Mason will present the Commencement Address. The presentation of the Class of 2021 by Anderson will be followed by the presentation of diplomas by Ray Marsnik, Ely School Board chair, right behind

home plate. Graduates will leave the stadium to Fanfare and Recessional. The traditional tossing of mortar boards will be followed by a vehicle procession down Sheridan Street with an escort by the Ely Police Department.



Washington Elementary students congratulate the graduates as they make their way to rehearsal. submitted photo

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



temperature change
sudden rise then sudden drop
uncertainty reigns

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

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely Tuesday Group meets in person again

ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday in person at the Grand Ely Lodge. The group meets at noon. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness now sponsors Tuesday Group. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or by phone at 218-216-9141. Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers: ➤ June 8: Sherry Abts, Loon Ranger, will discuss

the 2021 April Loon Fallout/Icing (Attendees encouraged to bring a clean, are old bath towel to donate to Ely Loon Rescue) ➤ June 15: Becky Rom, National Chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, will offer an update on the campaign and share information about the 2021 Garden Party. ➤ June 22: Adam Macht, Mississippi Speed Record. In May 2021, four men attempted to set the Guinness World Record for fastest canoe trip down the Mississippi River. Elyite Adam Macht was one of the paddlers.



The 50-seat Greenstone Cinema, an integral aspect of the Ely Historical State Theater complex, was officially opened last Friday with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Shown from left, EHST board member Alanna Dore, EHST Board President David Wigdahl, Ely Interim Mayor Chuck Novak, and EHST board members Brett Ross and Carol Orban. photo by K. Vandervort

Honoring the fallen



Nick Matilla placed flags on military veterans' graves at Ely Cemetery Saturday morning in honor of Memorial Day. photo by K. Vandervort



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

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

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Academic and activity awards recognized

President’s Awards
*Must maintain 3.5 average over last 3 years.

Seniors
Zachary Cheney
Emily Fosso
Olivia Fultz
Aubrey Koskovich
Brynn Simpson
Elijah Squires
Zoe Trip

Freshmen
Jonah Burnett
Annabelle Calavera
Addy Hartway
Evan Kajala
Helen Koch
Riley Las
Zefrym Mankowski
Victoria Olson
Autumn Swanson
Madison Taylor
Trinity Vidal

Academic Letters
*GPA of 3.35 and above in quarters 1, 2, and 3

Seniors
Zachary Cheney
Megan Cote
Emily Fosso
Olivia Fultz
Aubrey Koskovich
Joey Lakoskey
Brynn Simpson
Cole Thiel

Juniors
Erik Aune
Morgan Burnett
TJ Chiabotti
Joshua Copeland
Ty Fabish
Trey Gibson
Alex Hartway
Joseph Hoagland
Sierra Jensen
Taylor Jones
Abby Koch
Michaela Luecken
Sean Morrison
Nathan Palm
Jacob Panichi
Kaya Tschida
Olivia Udovich

Sophomores
Cooper Antikainen
Kohen Briggs
Hannah Kinsey
Grace Koch
Kaden Ratai
Karah Scofield
Elias Smith
Steven Sopoci
Emily Trip
Skyler Yernatich

Freshmen
Jonah Burnett
Annabelle Calavera
Brandon Cook
Addy Hartway
Evan Kajala
Helen Koch

Riley Las
Zefrym Mankowski
Victoria Olson
Autumn Swanson
Madison Taylor

Academic Excellence
*GPA of 3.35 and above in quarters 1, 2, and 3

Eighth Grade
Rory Bundy
Addison Burckhardt
Alex Burckhardt
John Carlson
Ryder Gibson
Aiden Hartway
Sierra Schuster
Amber Sopoci

Seventh Grade
Lincoln Antikainen
Isaiah Briggs
Lauren Burnett
Josephine Carlson
John Danielson
Mya Goggleye
Isabelle Koch
Brittin Lappi
Victoria Mathys
Isabel Pascuzzi
Marley Peak
Payton Scofield

Class of 2021 Scholarships

Monique Benner
Daniel E. Morrison Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Jocelyn Carver
Endeavor Foundation
Orr American Legion

Zach Cheney
Cook Timber Days
North Woods Riders

Emily Fosso
Cook Healthcare
Auxiliary
Cook Lions Club
Cook VFW
Doug Johnson
Scholarship
Endeavor Foundation
Hans Wallin Memorial
Scholarship
Orr Lions Club
PEO Scholarship
Virgie Hegg Hospice
Partners

Olivia Fultz
Memorial Blood Centers
High School Scholarship

Aubrey Koskovich
Breckenridge Charitable
Trust
Doug Johnson
Scholarship
Ed Boroweic Memorial
Scholarship
Jack Banovetz Memorial
Scholarship
Orr Lions Club
Scholarship



Juniors Brandie Walker, left, Abby Koch, center, and Haley Bogdan display Endeavor Scholarship certificates they received at a recent awards ceremony at North Woods School recognizing academic excellence and activity participation.
Submitted photo

Ian Olson
Josh Rutar Memorial
Scholarship
Benedictine and College
Readiness Scholarships
from the College of St.
Scholastica

Andrew Peak
Cook Zup’s Scholarship

Brynn Simpson
Alworth Memorial
Scholarship
Cook Healthcare
Auxiliary
Cook Lions Club
Cook Timberwolves
Cook VFW
Cook Volunteer Fire
Department
Cook Zup’s
Grace Ellen Whiteside
Martin Memorial
Scholarship
Jack Banovetz Memorial
Scholarship
Lake Country Power Les
Beach Memorial Schol-
arship
Memorial Blood Centers
High School
Scholarship
North Star Credit Union
Scholarship
Orr American Legion
Orr Lions Club
PEO Scholarship
Sean Michael Sarazine
Memorial Scholarship
University of North
Dakota Presidential
Scholarship

Austin Sokoloski
Cook Chamber of
Commerce
Cook Timberwolves
Frank Fortun Memorial
Scholarship
Josh Rutar Memorial

Scholarship
Tony Cornelius Memori-
al Scholarship
Watering Can Garden
Scholarship

Cole Thiel
North Star Credit Union
Intern Scholarship

Jeremiah Voges
Minnesota National
Archery in the Schools
Program Scholarship

Activity Awards

Yearbook
Seniors
Elijah Squires
Zoe Trip

Juniors
Lillian Voges
Haley Bogdan

Sophomores
Steven Sopoci

Speech
Sophomores
Emily Trip- fifth, Poetry
Interpretation, 7A Sec-
tional

Student Council
Juniors
President-Abby Koch
Secretary-Morgan
Burnett
School Store Managers-
Olivia Udovich
Haley Bogdan
StudCo Buddies
TJ Chiabotti
Ty Fabish
Sean Morrison
Josh Copeland
Ivy Chaulklin

Sophomores
Vice President - Avery
Thiel

Social Media-Karah Sco-
field
Treasurers-Kohen Briggs
and Steven Sopoci
StudCo Buddies-Steven
Sopoci

Freshmen
Attendance-Addy Hart-
way
StudCo Buddies-Jonah
Burnett

Eighth grade
StudCo Buddies-Mya
Kinsey

Shop Students of the Year
Seventh grade
Gold-Lincoln Antikainen
Silver-Victoria Mathys
Bronze-Isaiah Briggs
Honorable Mention-
Josephine Carlson
John Danielson
Payton Scofield

Sophomores
Gold-Anevay Goodsky-
Spears
Silver-Isaac Fultz
Bronze-Garett Lappi

Juniors
Gold-Erik Hagen
Silver-Tim Lilya
Bronze-Erik Aune

Seniors
Gold-Jack Cook
Silver-Ian Olson

Knowledge Bowl
Junior High
Seventh grade
Isaiah Briggs
Lauren Burnett
Isabelle Koch
Anna Nelson
Isabel Pascuzzi
Serena Pearson

Eighth grade
Addison Burckhardt

Mya Kinsey
Sierra Schuster
Amber Sopoci
Adyson Van Tassell
Lydia Trip

Junior Varsity
Freshmen
Annabelle Calevera
Jessy Palmer

Sophomores
Cooper Antikainen
Anya Pearson
Emily Trip

Varsity
Juniors
Morgan Burnett
Christopher Fairbanks
Kadence Holland
Michaela Luecken
Abbigail Shuster
Olivia Udovich

Seniors
Olivia Fultz
Rey Marroquin
Zoe Trip

Band Awards
John Philip Sousa Award
Olivia Fultz
Zoe Trip

Band Letter
Freshmen
Jonah Burnett
Annabelle Calavera
Brandon Cook
Jesus Flores
Allie Holm
Autumn Swanson
Anna Wilson

Sophomores
Kohen Briggs
Grace Koch
Camille Marroquin
Steven Sopoci
Avery Thiel
Julian Whiteman
Emily Trip

Juniors
Haley Bogdan
Ethan Byram
Ty Fabish
Cole Snidarich
Lilly Voges

Seniors
Olivia Fultz
Zuly Roach
Cole Thiel
Zoe Trip

Golfers
Juniors
Haley Bogdan
Morgan Burnett
Abbigail Shuster

Freshmen
Victoria Olson
Madison Dantes

Seventh grade
Lauren Burnett

COOK CITY COUNCIL

Council dumps city blight ordinance

New ordinance to combat blight will have more “teeth”

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Aside from an extended exchange with Cook Housing and Rehabilitation Authority tenants, the Cook City Council was efficient in addressing a lengthy agenda at its meeting May 27.

Topping the community forum was a discussion about the city’s ineffective blighted property ordinance, initiated by a question from Cook resident Holly Abrahamson asking for clarification about what the 23-year-old ordinance covers and how it is enforced.

City Administrator Theresa Martinson was ready with a critique and a recommendation.

“Our current ordinance does not have enough teeth,” Martinson said, noting one property owner the city worked with for over two years to resolve a blight complaint.

Martinson suggested that the best course of action would be to repeal

the current ordinance and craft a new one with better processes for complaints, remediation plans and enforcement. She said that city staff had already started reviewing blight ordinances from area communities to identify elements that could be included to create a stronger ordinance in Cook.

Meeting attendees and council members alike shared concerns about various properties in town before the council voted to authorize the repeal of the current ordinance and to develop a new one.

Maki resigns

The council accepted, with regret and appreciation, the resignation of Kris Maki as deputy clerk/treasurer.

Martinson said she had already started to adjust office responsibilities so that all essential tasks remain covered. As part of that plan, she requested that office assistant Dawn Kehoe’s title be changed to utility billing/admin-

istrative clerk to reflect the new elements of her position. The council approved.

With the recent departure of former ambulance director Tina Rothleutner, the department needs additional office support, Martinson said. Councilors approved Jan Seinola to take on an administrative assistant position.

Martinson also reported that no bids were received to purchase the older city ambulance that had been seriously damaged in an accident returning from a transfer run last year.

A subsequent offer by Roger Esterby, of Cook, to purchase the ambulance for \$5,100 was approved. The city has received

a \$20,862 grant for an emergency warning siren.

The council was scheduled to meet in a special session on Thursday, June 3 at 4 p.m. to award the sale of the city’s \$2,540,000 general obligation sewer and water revenue refunding bonds.

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11391 Ash River Trail
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Wed: 1pm–4pm
Sat: 2:30pm–5:30pm

Orr Canister Site
4038 Hwy 53
Summer Hours
Tue: 9am–1pm, Thu: 2pm–7pm
Sat: 8am–noon, Sun: 10am–2pm

Cook Transfer Station
2134 S. Beatty Rd.
Hours
Mon: 10am–6pm
Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities
5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia
Tue, Sat: 8am–1pm

Kabetogama Lake Canister Site
10150 Gamma Rd
Summer Hours
Mon. & Wed: 9am–noon
Sat: 10:30am–1:30pm

Portage Canister Site
6992 Crane Lake Rd.
Summer Hours
Mon & Tue: 2pm–6pm
Thu: 10am–1pm, Sun: 3pm–6pm

Regional Landfill
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm
Sat: 8am–3:30pm

Sturgeon Canister Site
8380 Hwy 73
Hours
Sun: 10am–4pm

County 77 Canister Site
2038 County Rd. 77
Summer Hours
Tue:1–6pm, Thu: 8am–1pm
Sat: 8am–5pm, Sun: noon–6pm

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

State launches COVID vaccination incentive program

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- State officials are hoping Minnesotans who have dragged their feet in getting vaccinated against COVID-19 will find new incentive in the “Your Shot to Summer” rewards program that launched on Tuesday.

Announced last week by Gov. Tim Walz, the first 100,000 eligible people age 12 and older who get their first vaccine dose beginning May 27 will be eligible to receive one of the following rewards:

- \$25 VISA card
- Minnesota State Fair tickets
- Single-day admission to Valleyfair
- Minnesota fishing license
- Minnesota State Parks annual pass
- One adult admission to the Minnesota Zoo
- Pass for the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth
- 30-point ride pass at Nickelodeon Universe at Mall of America
- Northwoods Baseball League Tickets.



New incentives are being offered for those Minnesota residents who are dragging thier feet on getting the COVID-19 vaccine. photo by K. Vandervort

and the key to keeping our state safe for everyone. Help yourself, help our state, and take your shot to summer!”

The program kicks off as vaccine doses administered weekly continue to decline. Last week’s 126,539 doses administered is off 70 percent from the high registered in early April. Progress toward the state’s goal of having 70 percent of those 16 and older with at least dose has also lagged, although Tuesday’s data showed the state is within five percent of reaching the goal.

Numerous states have implemented incentive programs for vaccinations, with rewards as diverse as lottery tickets, chances for college scholarships, and free beer. Preliminary reviews of incentive programs suggest that cash payments could be more effective than other reward options, but no definitive research has yet been conducted.

HRA...Continued from page 1

is represented by a Board of Commissioners which, by Minnesota State Statute, is appointed by the mayor and approved by the governing body of the municipality. This Board is responsible for the hiring, employment, and supervision of the Executive Director of the agency.”

Mix’s statement affirms the response Mayor Harold Johnston gave at the council meeting.

“I’ve been told the authority I have is to appoint somebody to the board. I can’t interfere in day-to-day activities,” Johnston said.

“You’re lying to us, too,” Obidowski retorted.

Obidowski passed out a December 2013 Minnesota Court of Appeals review of a decision made by an unemployment law judge to deny Erickson unemployment benefits after his dismissal from the state Department of Employment and Economic Development for alleged “inappropriate expenditures and requests for reimbursement.”

Erickson’s appeal was originally approved but subsequently denied after DEED retained a law firm to investigate the allega-

tions more thoroughly. The Court of Appeals affirmed that there was “substantial evidence” to support the denial of benefits.

Obidowski characterized the ruling as evidence of “embezzlement several times” and suggested that CHRA financial records should be examined.

Since embezzlement of public funds is a crime in Minnesota, the *Timberjay* reviewed electronic court records for any charges filed or legal actions taken against Erickson for this incident and found none.

Numerous other comments were made by residents about Erickson’s

behavior, including an allegation that the CHRA buildings have been “bugged” so that Erickson can eavesdrop on any conversation in a public area. “I have a bug finder,” resident Teresa Lindsoe said.

Councilors entertained comments and discussion in excess of 45 minutes, and Johnston noted that it wasn’t the first time this group of residents has complained about Erickson, and said that their assertions run counter to other things he’s heard.

“What bothers me is this is not a universal opinion of Reed,” Johnston said. “I get a different story from some of the other residents that they’re quite satisfied.”

“He’s got his pets,” Obidowski replied.

Declining to take any actions from the meeting exchange, Johnston turned the council’s attention to a vacancy on the CHRA board that must be filled by a resident. The council agreed that they would like to see an election held to nominate a resident for

the spot, in accordance with policies laid out by HUD. They agreed to develop a proposal for transparent procedures for

nominations and election monitoring to present to the CHRA board and Erickson for review.

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See Pg 11


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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:

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421 E 4th Street
Duluth, MN 55805

218-727-1448
gregorichmatakfamilydental.com

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

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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Town board to hold public open house on policing needs

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP- At their May 27 board meeting, members of the Breitung Board heard from the Tower-Soudan Police Committee on their progress assessing the commu-

nity’s policing needs. So far, the committee is generally not in favor of having local policing, citing costs, liabilities, lack of resources for officers, and the likelihood of turn-over. Before the committee comes to any final recommendation, they will hold

an open house for community members to learn more about the data and share their thoughts. The date of the open house is not yet set but will be announced in the *Timberjay*.

Breitung Supervisor and police committee liaison Chuck Tekautz asked the other board members what their ideal policing scenarios would be, considering they would be making the final decision. Chairman Tim Tomsich said he would like to see a hybrid of local police with county support and supervisor Greg Dostert agreed. “If we had a local officer at 40 hours (per week) and supplemented with county we could have the best of both worlds,” said Tomsich.

Deputy clerk and committee member Renee Pearson voiced her concerns about the St. Louis County Sheriff patrols sitting at the bridge in Tower, rather than patrolling the communities. “That doesn’t do us any good, paying them \$70 an hour to sit there for hours,” she said. Tekautz said that four-wheelers and motorbikes have been speeding through town on a daily basis and that it could be a result of less policing. “Slowly but surely speed is increasing,” he said. He reminded everyone there is a 15-mph speed limit for recreational vehicles in town. Maintenance director Tom Gorsma said motorized vehicles are not allowed on bike trails

and he is in the process of installing signs on the township’s paved trails. Tomsich said there are two applicants for Breitung Police Chief and one for full-time officer. No action will be taken at this time. In other news, the board: ➤ Heard from Gorsma who reported that he and his crew have been busy reseeding, maintaining the ball field, and picking up garbage. He thanked the anonymous community member(s) who picked up garbage off Junction Road. ➤ Heard that demand for camping at McKinley Park is high and that it’s booked solid for most of the summer. ➤ Declared that COVID restrictions for township buildings were

being discontinued. As of June 1, Clerk Dianna Sundahl will have office hours from 8 a.m. to noon and treasurer Jorgine Gornick will be in from noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday. ➤ Read the amendment to the Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnace Ordinance, passed it, and will publish a summary. ➤ Approved the purchase of an upgrade for a thermal imaging camera for the fire department at a cost of \$5,495. ➤ Tekautz and Dostert will check the township for blight. ➤ Heard that the township’s drinking water is safe and passed all quality checks.

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by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-Registration is now open for this year’s Vermilion 10K and 5K Run/Walk. The race will be held on Saturday, July 3 at 8 a.m., prior to the start of the Fourth of July parade. The annual event was canceled last year, but the race is back on track, along with many of Tower-Soudan’s Fourth of July events. This year, Range Runners will be providing a professional race timing system, so racers are asked to preregister and pre-pay online at www.rangerunners.org. A chip timing system will be used. Runners are urged

FOURTH OF JULY
Vermilion Run gets underway on July 3

The Vermilion 10K and 5K Run/Walk returns for this year after a one-year break due to the coronavirus. file photo

to preregister and pay in advance, to help with race planning and to conform with safety guidelines. Cost for the 10K run, or 5K run/walk is \$20. Special family rate for the 5K run/walk is \$40. Children 12 and under can run/walk free with a paid family member. T-shirts are available separately from the race entry fee. T-shirts pre-ordered by June 23 are \$15, T-shirts on race day will be \$20 with a limited supply available. Race day registration will be available from 6:30-7:45 a.m. Look for

the registration tent set up on the corner by the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center building. Bib pickup also runs from 6:30 – 7:45 a.m. The 10K race starts in front of the Tower Fire Department, winding on the bike trail to McKinley Park, then Hoodoo Point, and back into Tower. The 5K route starts on the opposite side of Main Street, and runs around the Tower Elementary School field, then out to Hoodoo Point and back. There is also a free one-mile kids fun run that starts

at 8:15 a.m. Registration for the kids run will be after the adult races take off. The kids race takes place on the Mesabi Bike Trail, behind the train depot, with the starting line at the trail kiosk area. Kids will register for the race at the starting line. The race is a fundraiser for the Vermilion Country School and is sponsored with help from the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board. Questions, contact Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 or jsummit@vermilioncountry.org.

HONOR...Continued from page 1

Helen Koski, reader at First Lutheran Church. Gerald Tyler, adjutant, Legion Post 248, recited the Roll Call of Departed Comrades. The placing of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was presented this year by the family of veteran Robert Niskala, who passed away earlier this year. Ely area Scouts and American Legion Auxiliary members also participated, while Linneman played “Amazing Grace.” The featured speaker this year was

David Merhar, Colonel, (Ret) U.S. Army. Koski presented the benediction following the keynote address. Grace Erickson, Ely High School senior, sang the National Anthem and America the Beautiful. The Ely Honor Guard presented a rifle salute to the Honored Dead. Taps was played by Ron Forsman. Volunteers placed nearly 1,200 American flags on the grave sites of veterans at the cemetery on Saturday.

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COOK'S ANNUAL

TIMBER DAYS

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

FRI JUN 11

12-team Bean Bag Tournament
Firefighters Challenge

SAT JUN 12

Pet Show • Magic Show • Car Show
ELVIS Tribute Show
FIREWORKS @ Doug Johnson Park

SUN JUN 13

Church Service
Lawnmower Races • Raffle Drawing
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38th

Vermilion Walk & Run

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• 10K Run - 8 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk - 8 a.m.

• 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

City of Ely, ISD 696 negotiating responsibility for utility work

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - ISD 696 and the city of Ely continue to negotiate on covering the costs of replacing the city water main from Harvey Street to the school campus as part of the school district’s \$20 million renovation project.

Interim Ely Mayor Chuck Novak was in no mood last month to grant the request from the school district, asserting that all city water customers are responsible for the cost of any water main work from their property to the middle of the street.

“If you have a problem with the city water line or sewer line, and you have to have them replaced, you’re paying the cost from the connection in the alley or the street to the residence or business,” he said.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski has estimated the cost of the water main work to be nearly \$250,000. Major electrical connection work will also be required.

New water, electrical connections required at school project

“The school is of the mind that the city should defray the costs (for the work) on their property,” Novak said. “So, the discussion underway is, why? This puts a burden on the city taxpayers. I don’t know what the end resolution is going to be, but this concern is coming from a lot of folks. This could cost a lot of money and it’s not in the budget. The EUC (Ely Utility Commission) is already hurting because of the reduction in usage of water last year. If they get burdened with this, it could result in raising the rates on our current utility customers which includes single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings and businesses. Inflation is starting to kick in already.”

At a city council meeting last month, council member Paul Kess inquired as to the city’s position. “As we negotiate this, is it our stance that this is not our bill?” he asked.

“I don’t know,” Novak responded. “The sad point is, this utility connection issue, and some other issues, were never addressed when the plans were put together for the school project, for some reason. I’ll keep my opinions to myself in that. The council will have to decide if we’re going to defray that cost or not.”

Council member Heidi Omerza stressed that the issue should be addressed immediately. “The school, I firmly believe, is an asset, and although they do need to pay their bills, I don’t want there to be a lot of back and forth about this. The longer this goes on, the worse it will be.”

Council members planned to discuss the issue at their study session this week, but in a memo from the deputy clerk last Friday stated, “After discussion with the mayor, he decided to cancel the study session. Harold has been working with the school

regarding the water main.”
Water treatment plant woes

In a memo to council members earlier last month, Langowski said the Ely Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvement Project cost will likely top \$9 million. The project is required by new Minnesota wastewater permit requirements for mercury removal. The new requirements call for completion of the improvements by March 2023. To meet that deadline, construction must begin this fall, he said.

He submitted a summary explaining the “dire need” for funding for the project. “Without grant assistance, the \$9.3 million project would result in a \$20 per month increase in rates for 30 years,” he said. “Obviously, that isn’t feasible.”

Langowski made federal funding earmark requests to Minnesota Sens.

Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith. That deadline was last week.

“We made the same request to Rep. Pete Stauber but our project didn’t make his list,” he said.

Other business

In other business, the council:

➤ Approved a proclamation to end all COVID-19 emergency orders in the city of Ely.

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Park and Recreation Board to purchase engineered wood fiber chips for the Whiteside Park playground for \$2,460.

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Budget Committee to direct city staff to develop a list of surplus items for sale.

➤ Approved a 15-percent pay increase for Ely Fire Department officer pay.

➤ Approved the purchase of a 2001 Dodge

brush truck for \$16,000 from the Department of Natural Resources.

➤ Approved the purchase of a lawn mower for the cemetery for \$6,853.

➤ Appointed Scott Richards to the Airport Commission and Scott Meland to the Housing and Redevelopment Board.

➤ Approved a residential rehab loan for Bryan Edlund, 925 E Harvey St. for a new furnace and AC unit for \$6,500.

➤ Approved a residential rehab loan for Jennifer Lavendure, 336 E Chapman St., for roof and window replacement for \$10,000.

➤ Approved a commercial renovation loan for the Rockwood Eatery for a new roof and insulation for \$17,500.

➤ Accepted the resignation of Cory Weisinger as Equipment Operator 3, and approved posting the position internally.

➤ Approved a temporary liquor license for the Ely Rotary Club on Aug. 24.

SCHOOL...Continued from page 1

their thoughts. Within the humble beginnings of exploring a way to connect the campus’s landmark buildings so students would not need to brave sub-zero temperatures to traverse between buildings, a path forward was established, he said.

He highlighted the efforts of a community task force that prioritized the needs of teachers, staff, and students in creating a “vision” for what education in Ely will look like in the future, and thanked a long list of federal, state, county and local officials for their support of the project.

Erie saved his greatest praise for school district voters.

“Most importantly, I would like to thank our voters,” he said. “Last August, in the midst of the COVID pandemic, they approved a \$10 million bond to support their schools. This was so significant. How often do people vote ‘yes’ to raise their taxes? Thank you to all those who support this project.”

A parade of Washington school K-5 students, led by Principal Anne Oelke, walked by the podium, all carrying hand-painted “thank you” signs, and drew extended applause.

School board chair Ray Marsnik, also an Ely school graduate, said the school building renovation is a “dream come true.”

“This is a big win for education and our kids,” he said. “This project will not only address some of the deficiencies that go along with aging buildings, it will also provide 21st-century learning spaces for our students and community,” he said.

“The people in our community have always supported education,” Marsnik continued. “We have a great school here and are very proud of it. This project will enable us to continue to be a viable independent school district that is financially sound.”

Ely Class of 2021 senior Will Davies, who graduates on Saturday, noted that he won’t be on campus when the building



Students of the Ely school district shoveled a pile of dirt during a school building project groundbreaking ceremony last week. photo by K. Vandevort

project is completed.

“This is a new beginning for the youth of Ely,” he said.

U.S. 8th District Rep. Pete Stauber, State Sen. Tom Bakk, State Sen. David Tomassoni, State Rep. Rob Ecklund, State Rep. Spencer Igo, St. Louis County Commissioner Paul MacDonald, and officials from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation,

Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, and construction manager Kraus-Anderson all took turns at the podium highlighting the importance of the school project.

A group of students, school board members, and elected officials all took turns shoveling dirt in groundbreaking ceremonies.

Former ISD 696 Superintendent Kevin

Abrahamson, who initiated the school expansion project by securing a school safety grant of \$500,000 and forming the community task force to explore additional options, was also on hand for the celebration. “I’ll be here for the ribbon-cutting when the project is complete,” he said.

Minor work on asbestos abatement and vacating the industrial arts building

was started this spring. Demolition work will commence once school is out next week. Work will continue this summer with some parts of the Washington building slated for completion in time for the start of the 2021-22 school year. The entire project is scheduled to be completed for the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

dismissal of former Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith in June 2019. Former Clerk-Treasurer Ann Lamppa had served as interim clerk-treasurer for just over three months, until the city hired Ranua.

Ranua took the helm at city hall at a time of crisis, with the city’s finan-

cial reserves, even some dedicated accounts, all but drained by the previous clerk-treasurer. Ranua imposed stricter spending controls and more realistic city budgeting, which has helped the city regain a more stable financial footing. At the same time, she sometimes labored

under the personnel challenges that managing the city often entails.

The city’s elected officials lauded Ranua’s efforts in the wake of her announcement. “Having been one of Victoria Ranua’s early cheerleaders for the position and pleased that someone with

her skillset was stepping into what was still a very unstable city government at the time, I am grateful that she entered into Tower city management when she did,” said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad.

Council member Dave Setterberg noted that Ranua had helped the city improve

its financial structure, grants management and helped update job descriptions, and modernize city ordinances. “I will miss Victoria’s detailed agenda items, job knowledge, and commitment to maintaining ethical values,” said Setterberg. Both officials wished Ranua well in her new venture.

“Being an entrepreneur at heart myself I fully understand Victoria’s desire to follow her dream, and move on to the creative business fulfillment that she seeks,” said Kringstad.

Ranua plans to remain in Tower, where she hopes to establish her new business.



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GOLF

North Woods golfers headed to state

Boys dominate with three top finishers

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The North Woods boys completely dominated the competition at last week’s 36-hole 7A sectional tournament at Virginia Golf Course and are headed to state on June 15-16.

And while the Grizzlies girls second-place finish in their sectional tourney, also held in Virginia,

wasn’t good enough to send the whole team on to state, North Woods will have a golfer in the field who nailed down an individual qualifying medal.

Crushing the course

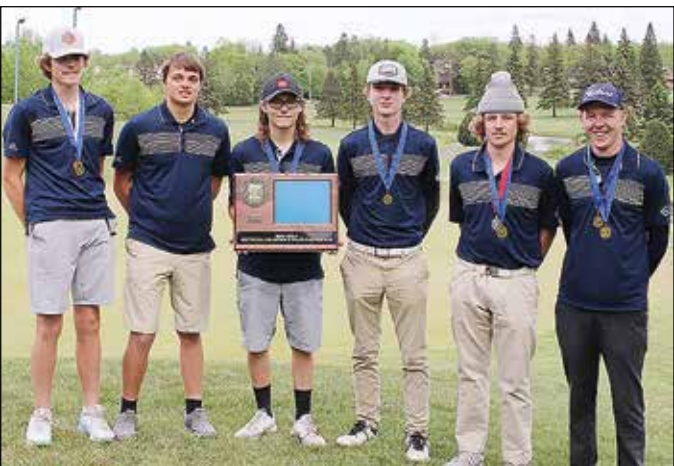
The competition on the boys side wasn’t even close, as North Woods locked up the team championship by a whopping 49 strokes over runner-up Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, 625-674.

Right: Members of the North Woods boys golf team with their first place trophy from the Section 7A tournament. Pictured are Davis Kleppe, Ty Fabish, Brandt Boutto, Eli Smith, Sam Frazee, and Ian Olson.

submitted photo

Three Grizzlies chased after the individual medalist honors,

See GOLF...pg. 2B



BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Grizzlies advance in playoffs

Currently at 1-1 in double elimination round in Section 7A

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- North Woods got off on the right foot in the Class 7A sectional baseball tournament on Tuesday, thumping Mt. Iron-Buhl 14-4, but then stumbled against Nashwauk-Keewatin in the nightcap to fall into Thursday’s elimination bracket.

The Grizzlies’ first two batters, Louie Panichi and Cole Thiel, wasted no time in roughing up MIB pitcher Rylen Niska. Panichi scorched a shot down the left field line for a stand-up double, and Thiel followed up with a

Above: Grizzlies first baseman Ty Leinonen doesn’t get the call on a pickoff play.

Right: North Woods runner Andrew Zika slides safely into third ahead of a throw.

photos by D. Colburn

towering home run to left. With Jake Panichi and Andrew Zika collecting RBIs, North Woods led 4-0 after one inning and appeared positioned for a quick and easy rout.

But the Rangers had other plans, tying the game in the top of the third and

See GRIZZLIES...pg.2B



SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Grizzlies upset Bluestreaks

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CHISHOLM- Sixth-seeded North Woods rolled over host and third-seed Chisholm 15-7 in first round 7A sectional tournament action on Tuesday, but the win was less an upset and more a young team coming of age at the right time of the season.

Chisholm won a May 11 matchup 10-0 during a stretch where North Woods lost seven of eight games.

Right: North Woods’ Addy Hartway slides under a tag in the Grizzlies’ 6-0 win over Nashwauk-Keewatin on May 28.

photo by D. Colburn

But North Woods entered Tuesday’s contest on a four-game win streak, including a 15-14 road win over 7AA Mesabi East on May 27 and a solid 6-0 home throttling of Nashwauk-Keewatin on May 28.

See GIRLS...pg. 2B



SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS



Ely sophomore Rachel Coughlin slides safe into home just ahead of the tag from NER pitcher Thia Lossing. photo by K. Vandervort

Ely tops L-BF in first round

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL–The Timberwolves had their work cut out for them after edging fourth-seeded Littlefork-Big Falls, 17-15, in the opening round of the Section 7A softball playoffs, held Tuesday. The Wolves were set to take on top-seeded Barnum in Cloquet on Thursday, after the *Timberjay’s* weekly presstime.

The Wolves looked to be in trouble early in their Tuesday contest, falling behind 6-1 after two innings. Ely got its offense in gear in the third inning, scoring three runs, and opened the floodgates in the fourth as they put up eight more runs to take a 12-6 lead.

From there, the game went back and forth for a couple innings before

See SOFTBALL...pg. 2B

BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Ely edged by Cook County

Opening round loss ends Wolves’ season

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

HIBBING— The Timberwolves ended an up-and-down season on Tuesday, as Cook County edged the Wolves 6-5 in the opening round of the Section 7A playoffs. “We rode a roller coaster all season long,” said Head Coach Frank Ivancich, who noted the team entered the season with an abundance of young and inexperienced players. “We certainly got better as the season progressed,” he said.

As has happened throughout the season, errors proved costly for the Wolves again on Tuesday, as the Vikings picked up five of their six runs on four Ely errors. “That was just too much to

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

Grizzlies’ Burckhardt takes fourth at league meet

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods distance runner Alex Burckhardt was the top performer among

Grizzlies track athletes competing with the South Ridge Panthers track team at the Polar League Championship meet on May 26 at Two Harbors.

Competing in the 3,200-

meter run, Burckhardt clocked a time of 11:07.63 to finish fourth, trailing winner Maverick Koecher of Moose Lake by 16 seconds.

On the girls side, Joey

Lakoskey placed ninth in the 100-meters with a time of 14.13 seconds. Lakoskey has also competed this season on the South Ridge 4x100 relay team, but Polar League meet results did not

specify individual relay members. One other North Woods athlete was listed in the results. Cooper Antikainen placed 29th in the girls 200 meters with a time of 34.94.

NW GOLF...Continued from page 1B

with Ian Olson challenged by Sam Frazee through much of the second round. Olson chalked up rounds of 72 and 78 to win the title with an eight-over-par 150. Frazee followed up an opening 73 with an 81 in the second round to drop back into a tie for second place with Davis Kleppe, who had rounds of 79 and 75. Eli Smith shot 81-86, 167 to round out the four-man winning total. Ty Fabish shot a total score of 177 and Brant Buotto carded a 217. “Ian was steady and didn’t let a few bad shots get him down,” Head Coach Will Kleppe said. “He battled the course well and to come out on top of the section is a tremendous credit to him and the time he has spent on his game. Davis firing a 75 on day two really locked us in. Eli and Ty played

some of their best golf of the year which was an ideal time for that to happen.” But the big story, Kleppe said, was Sam Frazee. “He suffered an ankle sprain prior to day two competition,” Kleppe said. “We were able to treat it and get him up and moving on it, but he couldn’t play anywhere close to his usual game on Thursday. It would have been understandable for him to withdraw, but he toughed it out because his team needed him. That says a lot for the young man’s character and determination. The whole season flashed before our eyes when I saw him struggle to hit that first tee shot, but he rebounded with a string of pars on the front, and he battled right to the end to secure his place near the top of the leaderboard.”



Tori Olson
Olson qualifies
Tori Olson was well up the leaderboard after ringing up a 94 on the first day of the girls sectional tournament, but it would take something better than that to give her and her team a shot at

going to state. Olson responded with a career-low 87, and while the Grizzlies fell short as a team, Olson’s total of 181 earned fifth place and an invitation to compete solo at state. “Tori put together two great rounds,” Head Coach Kandi Olson said. “She had a solid first round but knew she would have to shoot lower during the second round to not only help the team, but also to give herself a chance at ending up in the top spots.” Braham won the four-team tournament by 42 strokes over North Woods, 743 to 785, but Coach Olson was pleased with how her squad competed. “This year, we knew that we were competing against a team in the field that was older and more experienced, and in the end that team pulled together two great

rounds and won,” Olson said. “Our girls battled with them until the end trying to come back from a deficit created the first day. Juniors Haley Bogdan, Morgan Burnett, and Abbi Shuster battled hole-to-hole with tough competition and seventh-grader Lauren Burnett had a great showing for her first time playing under pressure. Freshman Madi Dantes shot some of her best rounds of the year at sections.” Haley Bogdan put together a 197 for the tournament, followed by Morgan Burnett, 203, Madi Dantes, 204, Abbi Shuster, 234, and Lauren Burnett, 269. The state tournaments for both boys and girls will be played at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker.

SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B

the Vikings added six runs in the sixth to tie the game at 15-15. In the seventh inning, Ely was looking at one out with no runners. “Ella Perish drew a walk. Charly Flom had a base hit, followed by a fly-out by Rachel Coughlin,” said Head Coach Cory Lassi. “With runners at first and second and two outs, Sydni Richards punched a hit through the infield to score two, making the score 17-15, which ended up being the deciding runs.” In the bottom of the seventh inning, a Vikings batter hit a shot to left field. “Kate Coughlin made a nice diving catch,” he noted. With the tying runs on first and second and two outs, we ended the game with a grounder to third.”

Winning pitcher Katrina Seliskar struck out two, scattered 11 hits and gave up just five earned runs. Flom went 3-4 on the day and scored four times. Richards was 2-4, scoring three times, while Rachel Coughlin scored twice. “It was a fun one,” Lassi said. “I have to give credit to our older girls. They are the ones who carry us. We go where they go. If it wasn’t for them, it would be a different story.”
Regular season wrap-up
The Timberwolves finished their regular season with a 9-9 record last week following a home win and a loss on the road. Ely lost 13-12 to Two Harbors last Thursday. Seliskar allowed 16 hits, while striking out seven

and walking just one batter. Ely batters notched 10 hits. Flom went two for three including a double. Rachel Coughlin went two for four at the plate, while Seliskar went two for five and added three RBIs. With a game-time temperature approaching 30 degrees, Ely made several mistakes in the field. “We gave up the 13 runs but only four of them were earned,” Lassi said. “It was a bad combination of Two Harbors slugging the ball (16 hits), and us giving them too many opportunities. Katrina pitched really well, giving up just the one walk, and she did what she needed to do. We just didn’t play the best defense behind her. It was cold, and that made catching and throwing more difficult, but

both teams were playing in the same weather. We struggled a bit more with it.” Ely beat Northeast Range, 25-6, last Wednesday after two Nighthawks pitchers, Thia Lossing and Maizy Sundblad, gave up 25 walks over five innings. “Our pitching is where the improvement needs to be,” said Nighthawks Head Coach Misty Roseth. “We are very inexperienced and continue to work on that. Catching and hitting has come a long way but we have trouble pitching a pitch. We’ll keep working at it.” Northeast Range (1-9) re-established their girls softball program two years ago after many years without enough players to field a team. “Last year was

lost because of COVID,” Roseth said, “so we pretty much started over again this year and it’s been a rebuilding year. The Timberwolves’ seventh-grade pitcher Zoe Mackenzie gave up four earned runs and two hits in her second outing of the season. She walked four. Ely batters collected eight hits in the game, including a double by Madeline Kallberg. “I thought we played quite well,” Lassi said. “We made the plays in the field. Our pitcher threw strikes. Their pitchers had a hard time finding the strike zone.” Ely scored 18 runs in the second inning. “I wanted them to be aggressive at the plate and try to drive something through,”

Lassi said, “but it was a hard situation to be in for the girls.” Coming into the 2021 season, the new coach said he didn’t know what to expect. “With the first practice and realizing how young we were, we weren’t going to focus on wins and losses as much as growth as a team,” he said. “Realistically, we had three games that we lost by a total of five runs. We find a way to pull those out and 9-9 turns into 12-6 and that’s looking really good for such a young team. I see a night-and-day difference from the first day of the season. A big part of it is the confidence the girls gained. They believe they can be in ball games and win,” he said.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

overcome,” said Ivancich. Ely hurler Harry Simons pitched well, scattering seven hits and striking out three Cook County batters while walking just one, but ended up tagged with the loss. The Wolves finished the season with an 8-12 record. Ely senior Will Davies wrapped up his high school baseball career with two

hits, including a double, and two RBIs in the contest. Junior Jacob Towley also connected for two hits. The Wolves finished their regular season last week with a 13-8 loss at Two Harbors. Towley took the loss for Ely, allowing nine runs on five hits in two innings pitched. Sophomore Gunnar Hart pitched two innings, allow-

ing two runs on three hits. Davies allowed two runs on two hits, while striking out four, in his two innings on the mound. Davies again led Ely with two hits and two RBIs, while Towley ripped a double and sophomore Logan Loe drove in two runs. Davies had an outstanding career, noted Ivancich. “Will has experienced

two state tournaments in 2016 and 2017, and a Section 7A final appearance in 2018. Will ended the season as our leading hitter, with a .428 batting average, with 30 hits, 26 runs scored, 13 RBIs, and a team-leading eight doubles.” Davies was also named to IRC Conference, Arrowhead, and Section 7A All-Conference Teams.

Ivancich said his young team had a tough time losing, even to better teams. “We struggled with that as the season came down the stretch and that inability to handle setbacks whether during an inning or an at-bat or during a stretch of games was our biggest challenge and will continue to be as we move into playing summer baseball,”

GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

The Grizzlies were merciless on offense, decimating three Chisholm pitchers with 25 hits in seven innings, including a three-RBI double by Karah Schofield. North Woods batters did the most damage in a seven-run outburst in the third that staked the

Grizzlies to an 8-1 lead. Addy Burckhardt got things rolling with an RBI single. Then Helen Koch followed suit, the first of four consecutive Grizzlies who drove runs across the plate. Avery Thiel slugged a two-run single, Brynn Simpson picked up her second RBI single, and

Skyler Yernatich slapped a hard single that brought home two more runs. Scofield’s hit came in the sixth with the bases loaded, two out, and the Grizzlies up 9-3. After falling behind in the count, Scofield ripped her double to add three to the board. Holding onto a 12-6

lead, North Woods pitcher Evelyn Brodeen helped her own cause in the top of the seventh with another bases-loaded double that drove in two runs, and an RBI single by Hannah Cheney topped off the Grizzlies’ scoring. Chisholm scored a solitary run in the bottom of the inning for the 15-7

North Woods win. Brodeen picked up the complete game win, collecting four strikeouts while giving up 15 hits. Nine Grizzlies chalked up RBIs in the slugfest. The Grizzlies’ reward for the win was a second-round matchup on Thursday morning against

second-seed South Ridge in Cloquet. North Woods was assured of a second game on Thursday, win or lose, due to the double-elimination format.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

knocking North Woods starter Caleb Uchal off the mound with the bases loaded and two out. Jake Panichi stepped in and avoided potential disaster by forcing a ground ball that shortstop Zach Cheney turned into the third out. Thiel came through again in the fourth inning,

rapping a bases-loaded, two-out double that drove home two runs to retake the lead 6-4. The Grizzlies used active bats and aggressive baserunning to turn the heat way up in the next inning, with Jake Panichi and Ben Kruse rapping a pair of RBI singles that ended

Niska’s run on the mound. MIB reliever Damian Tapio fared no better, giving up a sizzling bases-loaded triple to Louie Panichi to extend the lead to 11-4. One more run gave the Grizzlies an eight-run advantage after five innings. The lead gave North Woods Head Coach Jeff

Smerud the opportunity to swap Panichis in the top of the sixth. Louie took the ball from Jake and retired the only three batters he faced. Then, in the bottom half of the inning, with Grizzlies at second and third, Louie Panichi ripped a grounder past the MIB

third-baseman into left field, scoring both runners and ending the game 14-4. The Grizzlies would have liked to carry over some of those runs into their night game against fourth-seeded Nashauk-Keewatin. The Spartans largely held the Grizzlies in check in ringing up a

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June 13 poker run, chili feed to honor Smiley, The Joker

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA – The upcoming Scotty Christensen “Smiley – The Joker” Poker Run and Chili Feed on Sunday, June 13 in Virginia is what it seems to be, a fundraiser in honor of its namesake, who was killed in a hit-and-run accident in 2016 while out for a late-night walk near the Loon Lake Community Center.

Odds are that Scotty, 24 years old when he died, would want participants to be true to his two nicknames, Smiley and The Joker, and just have a good time together.

But behind the event is a complex mix of a mother’s heartbreak, enduring love, an unresolved past, and hope for the future.

No one has ever come forward to take responsibility for Scotty’s death, and lingering unanswered questions only intensify the pain his mother, Rita Licari, experiences daily.

“I don’t think there’s even been one day where I haven’t cried at least once, during the day,” Licari said. “There have been things they have checked out, but nothing ends up being the answer. We need the answer to start really healing. It’s not going to change the fact that he’s no longer with us, but it will give us an end to that question.”

Some of the proceeds from the event will go

toward the reward fund, Licari said.

“It’s at \$5,000, so I would like to increase that,” she said.

Some money will be set aside to help with future awareness and fundraising activities, but Licari wants something positive to establish Scotty’s legacy for the future, so the event will also raise money to start a scholarship fund in his name.

Scotty earned a two-year welding degree and also liked blacksmithing, Licari said, being named an honorary lifetime member of a blacksmiths’ guild. Challenged by health complications due to an autoimmune disorder, Licari credited the East Range Academy of Technology and Science charter school in Eveleth for much of Scotty’s achievements.

“He struggled a lot due to his autoimmune disease, so he was always playing catch up,” Licari said. “Going to (East

Range Academy) helped because they even did a lot of one-on-one with him. He struggled and he wanted to quit many, many times. I can say 100 percent that if it had not been for that school, he would not have graduated.”

Licari said she would like to find a way to provide scholarship support in collaboration with East Range Academy for a promising student in need, to pursue welding education. She said she is also exploring possibilities for providing some support for students who take blacksmithing classes through the Ely Folk Academy.

Registration for the poker run will start at 10 a.m. in the school parking lot next to Olcott Park and costs \$25, which includes the ride, chili feed, a door prize ticket, and bracelet.

At 11 a.m., motorcycles, cars, and trucks will hit the road for five destinations where participants will receive

mystery cards to make up poker hands. Locations along the route include The Alibi Bar in Gilbert, Timbers Edge Grill and Bar near Eveleth, Rudy’s Bar and Grill in Aurora, Good Ol’ Days in Tower, and The Shack on Highway 169 on the ride back to Virginia. Riders won’t know what hands they’ve been dealt until they’re revealed at the end of the ride. Prizes will be awarded to the holders of the three best hands.

Those who want to support the fundraiser with their appetites can purchase a chili feed ticket for \$8. Chili, a ham and cheese sandwich, cookie, beverage, bracelet and one raffle ticket are included in the price. The chili feed will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Italian American Building.

For more information, contact Licari by calling 218-404-3974 or emailing rosebudlicari@hotmail.com.

Local marketing firm gets state grant for employee training

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ANGORA- Digital marketing firm Art Unlimited, based in Angora, has been awarded a grant from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education to support employees in the advancement of their technical education.

Among 67 awardees announced Tuesday by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Art Unlimited is one of only three businesses in information technology statewide to receive a Dual-Training Grant award. Grants support participation in the Dual-Training Pipeline program to advance the skills of selected employees.

“Art Unlimited works with our team to determine who is interested and eligible for this program,” said Chief Financial Officer Elizabeth Chapman. “We then design an on-the-job training program that uses the skills learned through

their higher education. It is a win-win for both the employee and employer. The employee receives greater learning, funding towards their education, and mentorship. The employer receives more knowledge on their team members, enhanced employee retention, and greater employee loyalty.”

While the grant is designated for Art Unlimited, neither the business nor the employees selected receive any money directly Chapman said. All funds go directly to the educational institutions that provide coursework toward industry-recognized degrees, certificates and credentials. An employee has to attend an eligible training/education program and stick with the employer for the duration of the nine-to-12-month program.

“Art Unlimited is proud of our team’s knowledge and is very thankful for the Pipeline program’s investment,” Chapman said.



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For More Information contact **Rita Licari at 218-404-3974** or
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Community notices

Angora church to hold garage sale on June 12

COOK- St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church is holding a combination garage, craft, and bake sale on Saturday, June 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at "Pastor Dan's house" at 1221 Highway 53 in Cook.

Funds raised will be used to support the activities of the women's group at the church.

NWFA reprises canvas art event

COOK- The second edition of the Northwoods Friends of the Arts small art project and fundraiser "A Canvas and You" is underway, and this time there's more than one way to enter.

As with last year's inaugural event, participants may paint, draw, weave, glue or paste on 8x10 canvases that are available from the NWFA Gallery in Cook, 210 S River St.

As an alternative, artists may submit a favorite piece of art they have created other than on canvas. It could be a weaving, a photo, a quilt, a carving or a sculpture, but it must not be larger than 12x12.

A canvas is provided for paying the \$10 entry fee; alternative entries also cost \$10. Artists have the month of June to prepare their entries for submission by June 30.

Artworks will be on sale at the gallery for \$50 during July, with \$25 of each sale going to NWFA.

Stop by the gallery during regular open hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to get your canvas and start creating. For additional information, contact Alberta Whitenack, 218-666-2153, or see the NWFA website at www.nwfamn.org.

Ride, Raffle 'n Roll seeks breakfast volunteers for August fundraiser

EMBARRASS- Ride Raffle 'n Roll is in search of volunteers for the pancake breakfast on Aug. 14 to assist with cooking, serving, and clean-up from 7:30 a.m. to 11

a.m. Contact Lisa at 218-742-6272 for more information. Ride Raffle 'n Roll raises money to help fight ALS and to help those living with ALS. Proceeds benefit Never Surrender Inc. A Ride Funding the Fight Against ALS through the Black Woods Blizzard Tour. Find us at www.neversurrenderinc.org.

Hospice sponsors walk/run fundraiser on June 26

COOK- Registration is open for the Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Hope for Hospice 4K Walk/Run on June 26, a hospice membership fundraiser. Registration forms are available online at www.vhhp.org.

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. Registration for youths ages six to 13 is \$15 in advance and \$20 on race day.

Registration for the race includes a one-year membership to VHHP. Members receive newsletters and mailings that include updates about the hospice activities and information about other VHHP fundraisers and meetings.

Memberships and contributions cover patient medical supplies and equipment, bereavement and grief support, patient support in the form of massage, family visits and last wishes. They also fund three college scholarships for students from the Cook, Orr, Nett Lake and Tower attendance areas.

For more information about individual and family memberships, contact Program Director Becca Bundy via email at vhhpdirector@gmail.com or phone at 218-780-5423.

Cook 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. "Reading Colors Your World" Summer Reading Program kicked off on Tuesday and

runs through 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.

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.

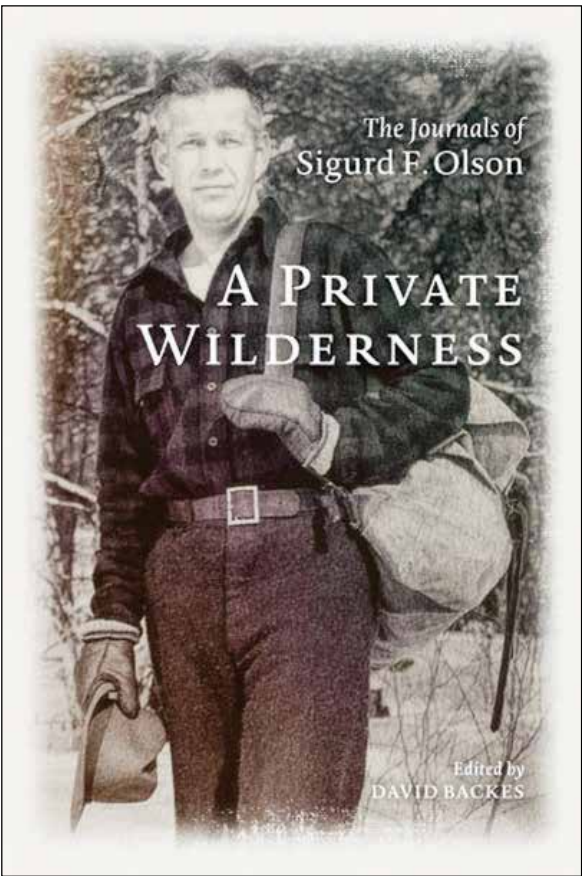
NWFA holds Art Expo events in June

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 to encourage the display and sale of art by regional artists and includes a wide variety of artworks and crafts including jewelry, pottery, fiber art, carvings, sculptures, photos and paintings.

The annual event will run through June 26 exclusively at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River Street in Cook. 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 Saturday, June 12, the gallery will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in conjunction with Cook's Annual Timber Days festivities.

June is also the month when "Music In The Park" returns, kicking off on Wednesday, June 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. with the Beefeater Brothers.



David Backes to discuss his new book A Private Wilderness: The Journals of Sigurd F. Olson at virtual event

REGIONAL- There will be an in-depth presentation and moderated conversation with David Backes about the history and inspiration surrounding his new book, from inception to publication, as well as a Q&A session with the audience. This virtual event is on Thursday, June 10 at 7 p.m., hosted by the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. Backes will be in conversation with Douglas Wood, author of Deep Woods, Wild Waters. Register for free at z.umn.edu/olson610.

Few writers are as renowned for their eloquence about the natural world, its power and fragility, as Sigurd F. Olson (1899–1982). Before he could give expression to The Singing Wilderness, however, he had to find his own voice. It is this struggle, the painstaking and often simply painful process of becoming the writer and conservationist now familiar to us, that Olson documented in the journal entries gathered here.

Written mostly during the years from 1930 to 1941, Olson's journals describe the dreams and frustrations of an aspiring writer honing his skills, pursuing recognition, and facing doubt while following the academic career that allowed him to live and work, even as it consumed so much of his time. But even as he speaks with immediacy and intensity about the conditions of his apprenticeship, Olson can be seen developing the singular way of observing and depicting the natural world that would bring him fame and also, more significantly, alert others to the urgent need to understand and protect that world. Author of Olson's definitive biography, editor David Backes brings a deep knowledge of the writer to these journals, providing critical context, commentary, and insights along the way.

When Olson wrote, in the spring of 1941, "What I am afraid of now is that the world will blow up just as I am getting it organized to suit me," he could hardly have known how right he would prove to be. It is propitious that at our present moment, when the world seems once more balanced on the precipice, we have the words of Sigurd F. Olson to remind us of what matters—and of the hard work and the wonder that such a reckoning requires.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

SPRING ART EXPO AT THE GALLERY

Sale & Exhibit Dates:
June 3-26
Open:
10-4 Wed, Thurs, Fri
9-1 Sat
50/50 Raffle
210 S River St, Cook, MN

Cook Timber Days
June 11, 12 & 13

C&C SUMMER ART CLASSES

Music In The Park
Wednesdays 6-8 PM (starts June 16)

Writers Group
Tuesday, June 22 1-3 PM

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All furniture may not be as shown.

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SUMMER WELLNESS SCHEDULE

Weekly Medical Clinics and Fluoride Clinics
Ely Community Health Center • 111 S 4th Ave. E
Every Thursday Evening • 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
A 2-minute fluoride varnish treatment can help protect your teeth between dental visits. No appointment required.
No one is turned away and services are FREE.
2nd and 4th Thursday
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics • 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Come after work and before dinner for your COVID-19 Vaccination. Anyone 18 or older who has not completed their vaccinations is invited. No reservation required.
If you get vaccinated you will receive a \$10 Ely Chamber Bucks redeemable at numerous locations throughout Ely per poke.

Wednesday Wellness
Ely Senior Center • 27 S 1st Ave E
1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month • 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Free blood pressure clinics, No appointment required, Services at no cost.
1st and 3rd Wednesday • COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics • 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Come after work and before dinner for your COVID-19 Vaccination. Anyone 18 or older who has not completed their vaccinations is invited. No reservation required.
If you get vaccinated you will receive a \$10 Ely Chamber Bucks redeemable at numerous locations throughout Ely per poke.

Tasty Tuesdays
Ely Senior Center • 27 S 1st Ave E
3rd Tuesday of each month • 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Come to our new class offering nutritious cooking tips for you and your family. We've partnered with the University of Minnesota and a local cook to show you how to prepare tasty meals on a budget. Participants get free tastings in class and a grocery bag of ingredients to take. The class is free however registration is required. **Call our office @ 218-365-5678 to register or for more information.**

Ely Community Health Center • 111 S 4th Ave E • 218-365-5678

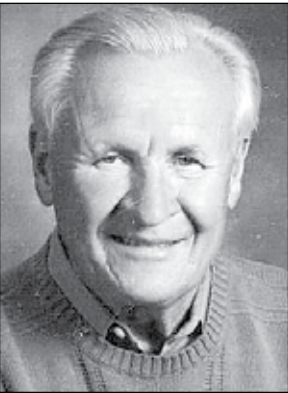
St. Louis County Solid Waste Facility Area site hours

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

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

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

Obituaries and Death Notices



Sanford Brenna

Sanford “Clark” Brenna, 80, of Cook, went to be with the Lord on Monday, May 24, 2021, at Centra Care Hospital in St. Cloud due to Alzheimer’s complications. His wife and two daughters were by his side during his final days. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 16, with visitation one hour prior to the service, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Please join us for a luncheon after the service in the fellowship hall. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Clark was born on July 26, 1940, in Thief River Falls, to Sanford and Pearl (Johnson) Brenna. He lived in Thief River Falls, Vallejo, Calif., Two Harbors, Aurora and Duluth before settling in Cook.

Clark graduated from Two Harbors High School in 1958, became certified as a journeyman meat cutter, and attended Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis to become a surveyor. He

was inducted into the U.S. Army on April 11, 1962, and sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He then transferred to Korea during the Korean Conflict, to Camp Kaiser by the DMZ with the 2nd Battle Group, 3rd Infantry Combat Unit from 1962-1964. He returned to Fort Lewis, Wash., and with an honorable discharge returned to Minnesota in April 1964.

Upon returning to Minnesota, Clark started his career with Arrowhead Grocer and Gateway Foods as a General Supervisor. On Aug. 12, 1967, he married Barbara Schaefer Brenna and they moved to Cook, purchasing a grocery store, Clark’s IGA, which they ran for 38 years until retirement. All three daughters learned the family business and spent many years working by his side.

Clark was a devoted family man, grandpa, Christian, and all-around fun-loving man. He was an avid outdoorsman specifically enjoying moose, deer hunting and fishing. He enjoyed many years of father/daughter Canada fishing trips with his friend, Kenny Keister, and all the girls. He enjoyed many years of deer hunting with his daughters and the Ottertail Camp crew of Jeff Elliott and Roy Hitchcock and families. Clark also enjoyed golfing and joined the men’s league in his retirement years. He was very fond of the church lutefisk dinners and spent many years contributing his time cooking and teaching young people how to enjoy this delicacy.

Clark and Barb spent many great years traveling and fishing together, sharing many wonderful memories with a great group of friends and family. Clark cherished time spent with each and every one of you who had the opportunity to know him.

Clark will be sadly missed by his wife of 54 years, Barb; two daughters, Amy Nelson (Joe Shermer) and Cindy (Jason) Palm; four grandchildren, Gunnar and Olin Nelson and Kayla and Nathan Palm; brother-in-law, Ron (Trudi) Schaefer; nephews, Rick (Diane) Brenna, Randy Brenna, Gerald (Becky) Schaefer; and niece, Debbie (Ron) Peterson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sanford and Pearl (Johnson) Brenna; daughter, Teri Brenna; brothers, Richard and Roger Brenna; sister, Faye Brenna; sisters-in-law, Etta (Haugen) Brenna, Beverley Schaefer, Judy Schaefer and Marlene Schaefer.

Graham W. Grilley Celebration of Life

A celebration of life for Graham W. Grilley (1936–2021) of Orr, will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 12 at the Orr American Legion in Orr. Military Honors will be accorded by the Cook VFW Honor Guard, Post 1757 and the Orr American Legion Honor Guard, Post 480. Services are by Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.



William C. Ketola

William Charles “Bill” Ketola, 82, passed away on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in Virginia. A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Bill was born on Dec. 30, 1938, in Virginia, to Edmund and Florence Ketola. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1957 and attended Macalester College in St. Paul. On Aug. 5, 1961, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Judith Wallis, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Gilbert. Bill then served two years in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colo.; he was honorably discharged in 1963.

Bill worked with his father at the family-owned Ketola’s Department Store for many years. He often shared stories of his many co-workers and friends from the store. After Bill left the store, he had a number of occupations, including owning and operating Bill’s Bottle Shop, roofing, and selling real estate. In retirement, he continued to work and spent 11 years as a cashier

at Fortune Bay Casino. Bill was an avid curler for many years and won the MN State Mixed Championship in 1971 and MN State Men’s Championship in 1974. He enjoyed playing in bonspiels all around Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and in Canada. Those who knew him would recall his friendly demeanor and blue Bauer curling shoes.

Bill enjoyed hunting, fishing, and the great outdoors. He loved the waters of the Vermilion River and Lake Vermilion and made many memories throughout the years with his family and friends. Camping on Trout Lake was an annual event.

Bill will be remembered by all who knew him for his generous spirit, twinkling blue eyes, sense of humor and “sisu”.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife of almost 60 years, Judy; children, Kraig (Lisa) Ketola, Kim (Barry) Carlin and Kurt (Lisa) Ketola; grandchildren, Karen and Bill Ketola, Cale (Clarissa), Jace (Kenzie Hart) and Brady Carlin, and Ben, Charlie and Lily Ketola; great-granddaughter, Briar Mae Carlin; sister-in-law, Joan Wallis; and several nieces and nephews who will remember their Uncle Bill fondly. Bill loved his family beyond measure, and they loved him. He and his smile will be dearly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edmund and Florence; brothers, Jerry and John; brothers-in-law, Robert, Marvin and Albert Wallis; and sister-in-law, Rebecca Ketola.

Joann Gonier

Joann Suihkonen Gonier, 71, of Hibbing, originally of Embarrass, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 22, 2021, after a short illness. At her request, there will be no services.

She is survived by her children, Daren (Kari) Gonier, Donyelle Gonier; bonus son, Justin Melin; grandchildren, Sidney and Simon Caroon, Dominic and Nathan Gonier and Devina Melin; brothers, Lee Suihkonen and David (Babe) Suihkonen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Geraldine R. Foster

Geraldine Rose Kochevar Foster, 81, of Ely, passed away at M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis on Thursday, May 27, 2021. A visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, June 4 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. A private family funeral will be held on Saturday, June 5. A burial service will be held at 12:45 p.m. on Monday, July 19 at Fort Snelling.

She is survived by her brother, Francis Kochevar of Duluth; children, Jacalyn (Rob) Swanson of Isanti and David (Jennifer) Foster of Columbus; stepchildren, Douglas Foster of Rice Lake, Wis., Peggy Foster of Bloomington and Deanna (John) Joyer of Hood River, Ore.; and grandchildren, Shelby, Randella, Jana, Gabriel, Gideon, Alexander and Madison.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

**2021-2022 and 2021-2023
Cook Hospital Bids
For Propane**

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 pm, June 21st with contracts to begin October 2021.

Propane Bid #1: 180,000 gallons for 2021-2022
Propane Bid #2: 360,000 gallons for 2021-2023

A contract for 24-hour emergency service and biannual maintenance of vaporizers must be included in Bid #1 and #2. Must be able to provide backup propane tank of 2,000 gallons or more and keep it filled in the event of an emergency or main propane tank failure.

The sealed bids must be marked “Propane Bid #1 and Propane Bid #2” and be delivered to Cook Hospital, Teresa Debevec, CEO, 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723.

Bids will be opened at the Board Executive Committee Meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 22nd at 4:00 PM.

Teresa Debevec, CEO

Published in the Timberjay: June 4, 11 & 18, 2021

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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. ttn

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or call 218-365-6553 ttn

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 6/4

**POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Head Football Coach**

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Head Football Coach for the 2021 fall season. Background check required.

Application and full job description is available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- Copy of credentials declaring appropriate License (per M.S. 122A.22)

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

Stipend: \$5,600

Deadline to apply: June 15, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, June 4 & 11, 2021

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More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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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.

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HAIR CARE

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 vhhpdirector@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).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS- East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or www.district8online.org.

AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

Adverstising PAYS OFF!



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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

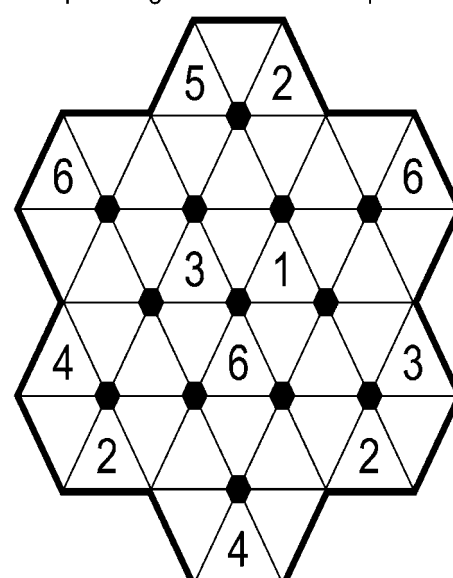
HELP WANTED

SATURDAY CLEANERS WANTED- Come clean with our amazing team on Saturdays at White Eagle Resort. Competitive wages offered based upon experience. Contact us at 218-666-5500 or apply online at Whiteeaglesort.com. tfn

HELP WANTED- Construction and masonry worker. Training provided. You need transportation, a valid license, and hand tools. Good starting pay, equal opportunity employer. Call or text 218-290-5370. 6/11

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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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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**YAMAHA**

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ACROSS

1 Ukraine's capital

5 Tehrani, e.g.

10 Iowa city

14 Hay bundler

19 Black-and-white bite

20 First Hebrew month

21 Fine rain

22 "You can't beat me!"

23 Chess or charades

25 Hibachi, often

27 Grind, as grinders

28 Dorm VIPs

30 Otherwise

31 Six, in Roma

32 Tell the judge you did it

36 Financial aid option

38 Ordinance

39 Verizon Fios, e.g.

40 Reply to "You're a stinker!"

42 Hugs, in a love note

43 Wet expanse

45 Bygone flight inits.

46 Stack messily

49 It, in Italy

53 Air rifle

56 Waters off Qatar

59 Word div.

60 Refined find

61 Long-nosed swimmer

62 Year, to Livy

63 Taint

64 Research into a political foe's weaknesses, in slang

66 Silky casing

68 2015 Bryan Cranston film

70 She's a symbol for a cause

74 Window material

76 1974 hit subtitled "Touch the Wind"

77 Signaled "yes"

79 Cambodian currency

80 Slugging stat

81 Stats, e.g.

83 Hi- — (some stereos)

84 Roget's entry: Abbr.

85 Aunt's sis, maybe

89 Dry white wine of Italy

92 Small, loose stones for a walkway

94 Bit of a climb

95 Adversities

96 Chop down

97 Singer Baker

98 U.K. mil. fliers

101 Yet to come

103 Dudes

105 Novelist Deighton

106 Acted omnipotent

111 Jail official

114 Stable grain

115 Big brawl

116 Suffix with planet

117 The planets, e.g.

118 Societal welfare

121 Film rating that's apt for this puzzle's theme

126 Babble on

127 Designer Saarrinen

128 Prayer place

129 Jazz singer Fitzgerald

130 NFL gains

131 Romanov royal

132 Snaring loop

133 Result of a falling-out

DOWN

1 Keystone —

2 Novelist Levin

3 Always, to a bard

4 Long Russian river

5 Wearing tattered duds

6 Throws together

7 Japanese beer

8 '60s conflict site

9 Resistance to change

10 Gig gear

11 Actress Farrow

12 Cosmetician Lauder

13 Quiet

14 Narcissist's quality

15 Pt. of ETA

16 Verdi's "— Miller"

17 Page of films

18 Sparked anew

24 2009 Colin Farrell film

26 Capital in Scandinavia

29 Novelist Rand

32 Sinks heavily

33 "Cagney & —"

34 Actor Tom of "The Seven Year Itch"

35 Croquet site

36 Landing site

37 Film director Nicolas

41 Things to show a trainee

44 Divvies up

45 Certain day of the wk.

47 Yoga pose

48 Golf marker

50 — cum laude

51 Thick cuts

52 '60s hairdos

54 Highest ladder part

55 Limey's drink

56 Lobbying gp.

57 Ponying up, in poker

58 26-Down's country, to its natives

61 Aquarium favorite

65 — four (small cake)

66 — —Magnon

67 Antique

69 Funnywoman Tracey

70 Criminals, to cops

71 Go around

72 Tuna net

73 How tuna may be packed

75 "— little harder"

78 The Divine, in Genoa

82 Three days after 45-Down: Abbr.

84 Darn, e.g.

86 Teresa of —

87 39.37 inches

88 — flowing with milk and honey

90 "Grand Ole" venue

91 Happy

92 Mani- —

93 Forest figure

96 Under-soil layer of clay

99 Eagle nests

100 Bank door abbr.

102 Lead-in to Pen

103 Starbucks selections

104 Total

106 Red flower

107 Dern of films

108 Being tried in court

109 Fetch

110 Siouan tribespeople

112 — voce

113 Total

116 Bad smell

119 U.K. "Inc."

120 Man-mouse link

122 Mop & —

123 Yalie

124 Fairy

125 Rebel Turner

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Running for root beer

TOWER- First-grade teacher Jo Holen has been working hard to instill a love of running in students at Tower-Soudan Elementary. Each spring, elementary students can choose to participate in the Dorothy Molter Rootbeer Run, an event that is part of the Ely Marathon in September.

This year she has 25 students who are committed to running 25 miles before marathon day on Sept. 25. On race day, the children complete the final 1.2 miles of the actual marathon course and finish at the actual marathon finish line in Whiteside Park. Students have been



Jo Holen logs the miles for each of her runners. Students will finish up their 25 miles the first couple of weeks in the fall to be ready for the Sept. 25 run.

running one mile most school days, usually during recess time, heading out on a variety of one-mile loops, wearing their bright yellow safety vests.

The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association picks up the \$15 cost, per child, of all the Tower-Soudan students who participate.

Finishers receive the Ely Marathon medal, a bottle of Dorothy Molter Root Beer, and a special finisher's t-shirt. This race is held in coordination with the Dorothy Molter Museum.

More info on the children's marathon can be found at www.ely-marathon.com.



Top right: (from left) Nolan Lenci, Nico Lenci, and Thomas Aldrich still have plenty of energy to get up the final hill.
Left: Jo Holen paces Dylan Crego as he pushes on.
Below: Students assemble prior to the start of their run. photos by J. Summit



Memories of the Early Days

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

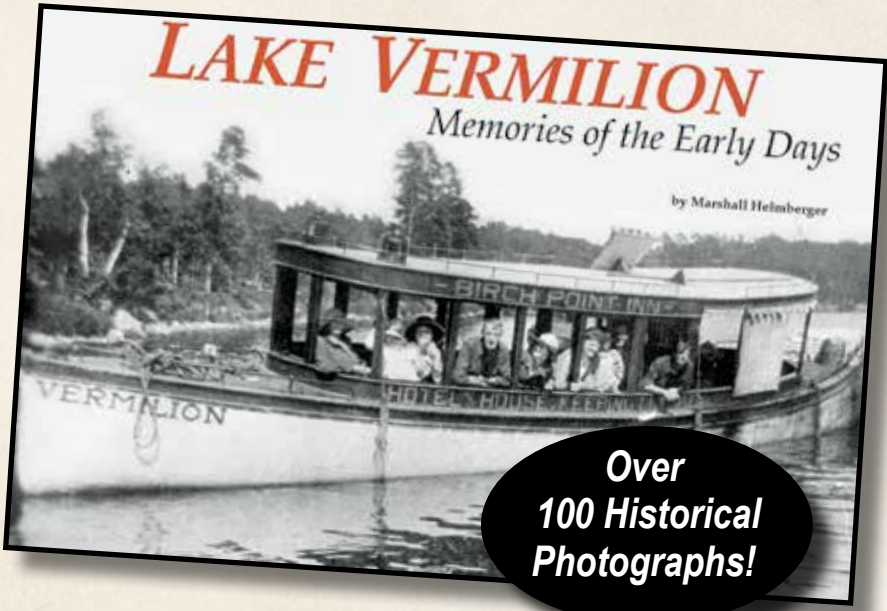
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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

LAKE VERMILION

Watch Vermilion loons on their nest

Vermilion Lake Association establishes live stream viewing on their website

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKEVERMILION— Would you like the chance to observe common loons on their nest? Then you’ll want to check the website of the Vermilion Lake Association, which is offering a live stream of a pair of loons on their nest, located right on

the shore of Lake Vermilion. The sprawling lake is home to more than 200 loons during the summer, the largest population of any lake located entirely within the borders of the state of Minnesota.

The lake association launched a team in March to establish a live link at a loon nest and their effort

has paid off, with the recent successful launch of the loon cam. The camera provides live action so you can keep tabs on the loon’s nesting progress throughout the day.

The association is keeping the location of the nest private to protect both the loons and their human neighbors, but it appears to be located along a low

marshy point, where it’s surrounded by willows, alders, and other low shrubs and marsh grasses. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, male loons select the nest site, preferring quiet, protected locations, typically in the lee of an island. “Loons can’t walk

See LOONS...pg. 9B



A loon was visible sitting on its nest in this nest cam live stream now available on the Vermilion Lake Association website. Courtesy VLA



Supporters of a four-walleye statewide limit hope it will lead to more big smiles from anglers through reduced pressure on the fish resource.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

A four-walleye limit still in play

Measure to reduce walleye limit statewide from six to four is in discussion in House-Senate conference

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A bill that would lower Minnesota’s walleye limit to four remains alive in a House-Senate environmental conference committee, as lawmakers work to finalize omnibus bills ahead of an expected special session later this month.

The measure appears to have broad support in the fishing community and is not opposed by the Department of Natural Resources, which would be responsible for implementing the new four-walleye limit.

The law would require the DNR to adjust the walleye limit through adoption of a new rule, that would adopt existing limits already in place on Lake of the Woods, which limit anglers to no more than four walleye and two sauger, with only one walleye over 20 inches.

The proposed four-walleye limit would have no impact on anglers who target the state’s largest and most popular walleye lakes, such as Lake Vermilion, which have had four-fish limits in place for several years.

Supporters of the four-fish statewide limit note that the Legislature adopted the current six-walleye limit in 1956 and that conditions have changed

dramatically since then. Nate Blasing, the president of the Walleye Alliance, Inc., based in the Brainerd area, noted that boats are much bigger and faster today than in 1956 and often come loaded with high-tech electronics, none of which existed for anglers in the 1950s.

Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls

“People’s attitudes are changing. I think the time has come.”

Rep. Rob Ecklund
DFL- International Falls

International Falls, agreed.

“The capabilities of the electronics today are just amazing,” said Ecklund. “You can tell everything that’s down there.” Such technology has given anglers a real edge, said Ecklund, who is convinced it’s impacting the walleye resource.

At the same time, supporters of the limit reduction note that the growing popularity of ice fishing is also contributing to the pressure.

Such concerns prompted Ecklund to author the new walleye limit bill in the House. While House Environment Chair

Rick Hanson never took up the bill in committee, Ecklund said he didn’t push the matter because he knew the Senate version could well end up in the final bill that is expected to emerge from the conference committee next week. Ecklund said he focused his efforts on legislation to address chronic wasting disease, which continues to edge closer to his far northern Minnesota district.

Ecklund said he did face some heat over the bill from outfitters along the North Shore, but has found that most stakeholders in the resort and fishing sectors are supportive of the change. “People’s attitudes are changing,” said Ecklund. “I think the time has come.”

The closure of the Canadian border is another factor that has prompted lawmakers to look seriously at the change. “With the enormous pressure on the resource, it’s now time to be proactive,” said Sen. Carrie Ruud, R-Breezy Point, the bill’s Senate author. While the Canadian border could well reopen before the new walleye rule would take effect, Ecklund said he expects many of those anglers who opted for Minnesota trips over the past year, rather than visiting Canada, will be back. “A lot of people have found out how nice many of our big lakes are up here and

what a great resort industry we have in place,” he said.

Positive feedback

Ruud said she had introduced the measure last year to start a conversation on the subject and said she’s since had multiple conversations with groups across the state.

Blasing, who has been part of that conversation, said the feedback he’s received has been overwhelmingly positive. “Neighboring states and provinces already have lower limits in place,” he noted during testimony on the Senate bill back in March. “The four-fish limit is already in place on many of the state’s largest lakes, and it has not impacted tourism. In fact, it has made it better.”

Blasing argues that fishing has become more of a social and recreational activity, and less focused on food gathering, which means anglers are more interested in catching lots of fish, than keeping them. The lower limit is intended to return more fish back to the water, making them available for other anglers in the future.

“It makes sense to me,” said Ecklund, who noted that walleye fishing at his favorite destination, Rainy Lake, has been spotty for some time.

Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
FRINGED POLYGALA



It’s always a treat to find a patch of **Fringed Polygala**, *Polygala paucifolia*, one of the North Country’s more spectacular early June wildflowers.

Also known as Gaywings, the flowers, with a little imagination, appear like a bird in flight. This flower has an orchid-like appearance, but it’s actually a member of the milkwort family. In Minnesota, it’s found almost exclusively in northeastern Minnesota, most often in shady locations, especially under pines. The flower most closely resembles the orchid Rose Pogonia, but its broader leaves distinguish it from an orchid. Also, Rose Pogonia grows almost exclusively in boggy areas, while Fringed Polygala is confined to higher ground.

WEATHER

Dry spell has water levels falling fast

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A dry May has continued the overall pattern that’s been in place across the region since late last summer and it has sent river levels tumbling again, to levels far below average for this time of year.

While April precipitation eased the drought conditions somewhat, it appears it wasn’t enough to build reserves to maintain water levels. And with barely half the area’s normal rainfall in May, the decline in water levels has continued in recent weeks.

The drop has been most pronounced on the Little Fork River, which has fallen from a flow of 6,560 cubic feet per second (cfs) as of April 12, after the only significant rain outbreak of the spring, to just 361 cfs as of May 17. That’s far below the Q75 for May, meaning it’s almost certainly in the bottom 10th percentile for flow this time of year.

The term Q75 reflects a water level that is lower than 75 percent of the average reading for that time of year. The May

See DRY SPELL...pg. 9B

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing has steadily improved as anglers work out what walleyes are doing on their favorite lake. More and more anglers reported excellent early morning fishing and even better evening fishing for walleyes. Anglers have been finding walleyes shallow in 6 feet of

water or less over gravel or rock. Leeches fished under a bobber or on a jig pitched shallow has been very effective. Many cabin owners/resort goers also reported catching walleye right off the dock during the evening. Trolling minnow baits in 8-12 feet of water has also been effective during the evenings. There were also a few reports of crawlers

working well over the weekend. Some good lake trout reports have been coming in as of late. Anglers have been catching lakers trolling three colors of leadcore with medium size stick baits or trolling spoons with down riggers. Regardless of the lake, anglers have been reporting trout are about 20 feet down. Crappies were being caught

in shallow bays as they were looking to spawn very soon, but after the recent cold snap, anglers lost track of them. Warm stable weather this next week will get them back on track. A bobber was the ticket before the bite cooled off.

Courtesy Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

DEER MANAGEMENT

DNR temporarily bans movement of farmed deer

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has issued an emergency rule temporarily prohibiting the movement of all farmed white-tailed deer within the state, with the exception of deer being transported to slaughter. The rule takes effect Tuesday, June 1, and ends Saturday, July 31.

The rule is a temporary, emergency action to reduce further spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) and protect Minnesota’s wild deer. The action is in response to concerning developments following the discovery of CWD in white-tailed deer at a farm in Beltrami County in northern Minnesota.

The emergency rule will provide time to examine and respond to connections between this farm and other potentially exposed farms throughout the state. The DNR issued a similar emergency rule in 2019 following the confirmation of CWD at a deer farm in Douglas County.

“This is a serious disease that poses a growing threat to Minnesota’s wild deer, and our actions must reflect that,” said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. “The DNR is committed to proactively addressing CWD and doing everything we can to protect Minnesota’s white-tailed deer as part of our natural heritage. The CWD detections at the Beltrami County farm, its connections to other farms in the state and the additional contamination outside of the farm, pose a risk to wild deer that requires emergency action.”

Last week, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) confirmed that a total of 13 deer tested positive for the fatal deer disease in a herd of 55 deer. The initial detection was confirmed on April 7, 2021; additional testing of the depopulated herd confirmed that 12 additional deer had the disease. Deer remains from the farm were also discovered on adjacent, county-managed land; testing conducted by the University of Minnesota’s Center for Prion Research and Outreach indicated the presence of CWD-causing prions in at least one of the bones found there.

Additionally, the BAH has identified movements of deer to the Beltrami farm from three herds in Minnesota; these herds are considered trace herds. There were no deer movements from the Beltrami herd. Since May 20, BAH has quarantined an additional nine herds in eight counties because of possible CWD exposure. These additional herds are located in the following Minnesota counties: Crow Wing, Dakota, Hennepin, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower and Stearns. A Winona County farm has been under quarantine since October 2020.

As announced in a May 25 statement, the DNR is working closely with the BAH as the agencies investigate the Beltrami County discovery and trace the farm’s connections to other locations in the state. In an additional effort to reduce disease risk in the area, the DNR is coordinating with Beltrami County to construct a fence at the off-farm site of deer remains to prevent wild deer access to prions.

Since CWD was first detected in Minnesota in 2002, the DNR has tested more than 90,000 wild deer in the state. Minnesota has taken an aggressive approach to managing CWD in wild deer. Disease prevalence in Southeast Minnesota where the disease was first detected in 2016 is low — less than one percent. In contrast, states that have not responded as vigorously as Minnesota have seen continued geographic spread and CWD rates high enough to have negative impacts on the health of their deer herds.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday

90 64

Saturday

91 69

Sunday

88 63

Monday

87 64

Tuesday

86 61

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.
05/24	49	43	0.02		05/24	48	42	0.00		05/24	48	44	0.02		05/24	77	43	0.00		05/24	50	42	0.00	
05/25	73	51	0.00		05/25	74	48	0.00		05/25	78	43	0.01		05/25	81	55	0.00		05/25	75	50	0.00	
05/26	82	41	0.00		05/26	82	39	0.00		05/26	81	39	0.00		05/26	54	36	0.00		05/26	81	39	0.00	
05/27	54	30	0.01		05/27	54	27	0.00		05/27	54	36	0.00		05/27	54	30	0.00		05/27	53	29	0.00	
05/28	54	22	0.00		05/28	54	20	0.00		05/28	52	29	0.00		05/28	64	25	0.00		05/28	53	21	0.00	
05/29	62	24	0.00		05/29	61	22	0.00		05/29	62	29	0.00		05/29	70	30	0.00		05/29	62	23	0.00	
05/30	69	31	0.04		05/30	70	45	0.04		05/30	68	29	0.02		05/30	68	46	0.00		05/30	68	35	0.08	
Total			5.69		YTD Total			5.30		YTD Total			5.59		YTD Total			6.05		YTD Total			6.54	

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fisherman drowns on Trout Lake trip

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- A 51-year-old man from rural Morrison County died Monday when he was submerged in water for two to three minutes after falling out of a boat on the north arm of Trout Lake, within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

St. Louis County Sheriff’s deputies received a 911 cell phone call for a water emergency at the lake at 2:20 p.m., according to a department press release. The unnamed victim was reportedly fishing from the bow of a boat and was not wearing a life vest when passengers heard a splash and turned to see that the man had fallen into the water and had immediately submerged.

Passengers pulled the man from the water with assistance from other boaters and began performing CPR as they reached the shore. They continued their first aid attempts until EMS personnel arrived. They continued life-saving efforts but eventually determined the man was deceased.

The incident remains under investigation by the sheriff’s department in conjunction with the Midwest Medical Examiner’s office. The U.S. Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources, and Tower and Ely ambulance services assisted with the call.

The Sheriff’s Office is advising boaters that despite warmer air temperatures, water temperatures remain quite cold. Life vests are critical aids in surviving water incidents at this, or any, time of the year.

DRY SPELL...Continued from page 8B

Q75 for the Little Fork River is 1,210 cfs, or nearly four times higher than the current river flow.

The Vermilion River has fallen sharply as well, from a high of 1,920 cfs to 461 cfs as of Monday. That’s barely half of the river’s Q75 of 828 cfs.

The Basswood River was just over half of its Q75 at a flow of 1,230 cfs.

With extremely warm temperatures for this time of year forecast for the weekend, with only scattered

chances of thunderstorms, water levels are likely to continue to fall over the next several days. June is traditionally the region’s wettest month, with an average of one inch of rain per week.

LOONS...Continued from page 8B

well on land, so nests are built close to a bank, often with a steep drop off that allows the bird to approach the nest from underwater,” according to the lab. Loons will often return to the same site year after year, refurbishing their old nests rather than building new.

Male and female loons build the nest together, typically in late May or early June, building it mostly out of dead marsh grasses. The nest is often just inches above the water surface, which can make them subject to flooding if June rains are especially heavy.

The loons lay 1-2 eggs with a typical incubation time of 26-29 days. The newly-hatched chicks will spend only a couple days in the nest before venturing off with their parents for life on the water. For the next several years, the only “dry” land they’re likely to encounter is the back of their parents, where they will often ride, most likely as

a protection against predators, like musky or bald eagles.

To find the Lake Vermilion loon cam, go to the lake association’s website at vermilionlakeassociation.org and scroll down to the bottom of the home page. The association’s dues pay for the camera equipment and Access Broadband, of Virginia, pays for the wifi link that makes the live stream possible.

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