



Busy summer...See /8B

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# the TIMBERJAY

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ISD 696

## Ely school project hit with rising costs

Building renovations may be scaled back

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY —No turning back now. Demolition of the Ely school Industrial Arts building started Monday afternoon as the \$20 million facility renovation project moves forward for ISD 696.

School board members gathered a couple of hours later and were briefed on how they hope to proceed with a project that was bid millions of dollars over budget.

District leaders formally rejected

**Demolition of the Industrial Arts building at ISD 696 started this week.** photo by K. Vandervort

the entire second phase construction bid package that came in last month at more than \$8 million, twice the amount that was estimated.

School officials and project managers are now facing the prospect of working through possible major reductions of as

See...ELY pg. 9



CITY OF COOK



**Cook-area residents celebrated their Annual Timber Days weekend June 11-13 with three days of events including a parade, above, treats for the kids, right, and a Firefighters challenge. Other fun activities included a bean bag tournament, Elvis tribute show, and lawnmower races.**

photos by D. Colburn



CITY OF TOWER

## Council begins search for new clerk-treasurer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here, on Monday, accepted the resignation of Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua and formed an ad hoc committee to begin the search for her replacement. Ranua announced earlier this month that she would be leaving her position to pursue a business venture she’s been planning for more than a decade.

She will continue in her employment as both a Tower firefighter and an emergency medical responder.

The council also voted to approve the immediate posting of the position in local newspapers and with the League of Minnesota Cities, which has a widely-used job posting service for city positions. City attorney Mitch Brunfelt told the council that they could advertise the position prior to drafting a new job description. Ranua, in an agenda brief she prepared on the subject, had suggested the council refine the job description before posting, but Brunfelt argued that wasn’t necessary.

The draft job description prepared by Ranua highlighted the all-encompassing nature of the position as it has evolved in Tower over the years. The position oversees all administrative functions of the city, oversees all city departments, utilities, public works, parks and playground, 2,000 acres of forest land, a busy airport, and emergency services. The

See...TOWER pg. 11

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Developer wants to bring Dollar General store to Orr

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

ORR- A new Dollar General store on the former Wally’s Auto Service site in Orr could be under construction as soon as September if a Michigan developer’s requests for zoning variances and a building permit are

Variance requests to be decided at special public meeting

approved by the Orr City Council.

But no such action was taken at Monday’s council meeting, as councilors had more questions than answers for Dan Hinzmann, an engineer with SEH Inc., who was present representing the

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

developer.

“We’re not going to vote on this tonight,” Mayor Joel Astleford said. “We’ve never

granted a variance without a public hearing.”

The applicant, Midwest MN, LLC, is connected to Westwind Construction, a Grand Haven, Mich., industrial and commercial construction company that has

been working with Dollar General for almost two decades.

According to the application. “The project developer has developed hundreds of sites for Dollar General with this exact building template.”

Hinzmann said this is the

See...ORR pg. 10



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Community notices

Lake Vermilion Pow Wow, June 25-27

VERMILION RESERVATION- The Lake Vermilion Traditional Pow Wow will be held Friday, June 25 to Sunday, June 27. Grand entries will be at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday and at 1 p.m. on Sunday. 2 Step Championship, winner takes all.

Ride, Raffle ‘n Roll seeks volunteers

EMBARRASS- Ride Raffle ‘n Roll is in search of volunteers for the pancake breakfast on Aug., 14, 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 more at [www.neversurrenderinc.org](http://www.neversurrenderinc.org).

St. Louis County launches online permitting for septic systems

REGIONAL- St. Louis County has expanded its online permitting options to now include septic system permits. The newly launched online septic permitting system allows contractors and homeowners to fill out the application, provide any necessary attachments and submit payment - all online. It can be accessed at [stlouiscountymn.gov/septic](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/septic). The online system accelerates the process for both the applicant and county staff, resulting in permits being issued faster. For applicants, it saves them a trip to a county office or to the post office, and gives the option of paying online by credit card, debit card or e-check. Once the application is submitted online, there is less data entry needed to be done by county staff, which means application review can begin sooner.

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:crystal.phillips@alslib.info).

Midwest Healthy Ag Project seeks volunteers

REGIONAL- The Midwest Healthy Ag project announced today that it is visiting Saint Louis County as part of a year-long project studying the relationship between Midwest agriculture, the environment, and community health. The project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a national philanthropic foundation that supports studies of the health of individuals and communities. The Midwest Healthy Ag project is comprised of farmers and researchers who are conducting a series of site visits and online interviews in twelve rural counties across the Midwest to hear more about the possible connections between farming and community life. The project’s research team is looking for 7-15 farmers to interview who live and work in Saint Louis County. The project also is looking to convene three groups of community members from across the county to participate in group discussion. These groups will be made up of 4-10 people and can include anyone from the greater community, including long-time residents, new arrivals, teachers, clergy, business professionals, community leaders, letter carriers, and anyone else who cares about where they live. More information can be found at the Midwest Healthy Ag website, [www.midwesthealthyag.org](http://www.midwesthealthyag.org).

NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

NLMF to perform Rossini’s Cinderella

Performances of full opera and special children’s version scheduled July 15-18



Alyssa Martin will star as Cinderella and Norman Shankle as Prince Ramiro in the upcoming performances of Rossini’s opera Cenerentola (Cinderella). submitted photo

REGIONAL- The Northern Lights Music Festival will bring classical music to the Iron Range from July 1 to July 25. The extensive offerings in July will include Rossini’s opera, La Cenerentola (Cinderella), in two versions: a full-length performance and a one-hour adaptation for children. In addition to NLMF’s Festive Fourth concerts and chamber music events, it will also offer a series of lectures and concerts called “Sharing the Range,” which highlight the contributions and history of the people who have lived and worked in this fascinating region. Ecuadorian director Chia Patino will re-create Rossini’s comic opera, La Cenerentola (Cinderella), joining forces with Maestro Gavriel Heine. The creative team has also crafted a special one-hour

version with a narrator for an audience of children. Cenerentola and its children’s opera counterpart, Cinderella, will be staged at Mesabi East High School and at the Discovery Center’s Ampitheater on the weekend of July 15 to 18. Mezzo soprano Alyssa Martin will star as Cinderella; Norman Shankle is Prince Ramiro; and Andrew Hiers will be Don Magnifico. The roles of the Stepsisters, Tisbe and Clorinda, will be played by Katherine Henly and Cara K. Collins. Full-length performances of Cenerentola will be Friday, July 16 at 7 p.m. at Mesabi East School and Sunday, July 18 at 3:30 p.m. at Minnesota Discovery Center. Children’s performances will be Thursday, July 15 at 3 p.m. at Mesabi East and Saturday, July 17 at 4 p.m. at Minnesota

Discovery Center. NLMF presents two exciting performances to celebrate the Fourth of July. Festive Fourth will be presented at the Discovery Center Ampitheater on Saturday, July 3 at 3 p.m. The NLMF Orchestra, conducted by Gavriel Heine, will present Bernstein’s West Side Story: Symphonic Dances, a set of Sousa Marches as a tip of the hat to the day, and Opera Arias by the cast of NLMF Opera’s production of Cenerentola. The concert will be repeated on the Fourth of July at Aurora’s Veda Zuponic Auditorium at 4 p.m. Check the NLMF website, [www.northernlightsmusic.org](http://www.northernlightsmusic.org), for complete information about all NLMF events or to purchase tickets. Tickets will also be available at Valentini’s Restaurant in Chisholm, Schmitt’s

Music in Virginia, Bradach Lumber in Aurora, and at Pebble Spa in Ely. Funding to this date has been made available by the Minnesota State Arts Board, Explore Minnesota Tourism, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, IRRRB, the Donald J. Gardner Trust for the Humanities, Minnesota Energy, Lake Country Power, the Chisholm Community Foundation, and many other corporate and private donors, including Minnesota Power Foundation, the Hilligoss Family Foundation, 3M, Johnson & Johnson, IBM, and Genentech. 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 fund.

BUSINESS

Bluebirds Salon now open in Wuori Twp



Stylists Alex Wardas and Anjelica Avelsgard are taking new clients at Bluebirds Salon in Wuori Twp. submitted photo

WUORI TWP- Stylist Anjelica Avelsgard has recently opened Bluebirds Salon in Wuori Twp., just north of Virginia. This charming salon, with all of the glam, offers a variety of services including hair color, cuts, extensions, perms, waxing, eyelash extensions, lifting and tinting, make up, and updo’s. A full list of services and prices is available online at [bluebirdssalon.com](http://bluebirdssalon.com). Bluebirds Salon is located at 6864 Willow

Rd., Virginia, MN 55792 and is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. Saturdays will be open by appointment only. Call Anjelica at 218-966-1140 to schedule. Stylist Alex Wardas of will be working alongside Anjelica. To schedule with Alex, call her at 218-404-6724. Bluebirds Salon is a hidden gem whose country feel will make clients feel relaxed during their visit.



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BUSINESS

# New pup added to Ely Wolf Center exhibit pack

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—After a one-year delay due to COVID, the International Wolf Center here was finalizing plans this week to add a new pup to its ambassador exhibit wolf pack. Details were slow to emerge and an official announcement was pushed back again earlier this month.

In an email to the *Timberjay* last Thursday, International Wolf Center Communications Director

Chad Richardson wrote, “(The) bottom line is that we will have one pup and she will be joining us next week.”

On Tuesday, a notice on the IWC website, [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org), revealed a bit more information. “We expect that she will be visible to the public on approximately June 18, but these dates are approximate. We will share more information here as our timeframe gets clearer.”

Finally, the Wolf Center conducted a webinar Tuesday night to introduce

the new female pup. A naming contest is underway this week for the exhibit pack’s newest member. Her name will be announced on Friday, June 18.

The International Wolf Center is a non-breeding exhibit, so when pups are added, they coordinate with another professional animal organization. The source is dependent upon reproductive plans within their facility and availability. They always acquire captive-born pups.

“This year we are coordinating again with the

Wildlife Science Center in Stacy, Minn.,” said IWC Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt. “They collaborated with the International Wolf Center first in 2008 to provide pups Aidan and Denali and had pups ready for us in 2020, but the International Wolf Center had to cancel the transfer due to COVID-19.”

The International Wolf Center planned to integrate the northwestern subspecies into their exhibit pack this year.

“There are five subspecies of wolves in North America and we currently

manage three subspecies, *Canis lupus arctos*, (Axel and Grayson, born in 2016) *Canis lupus occidentalis* or northwestern subspecies (Denali, born in 2008) and *Canis lupus nubilus* or Great Plains subspecies (Grizzer, born in 2004),” she said.

The Wildlife Science Center has more than 100 wolves and is an active participant in both the Mexican gray wolf and red wolf Species Survival Plan program.



The IWC’s new wolf pup arrived this week. Her name will be revealed on Friday, June 18. photo provided by the International Wolf Center

See **PUP...**pg. 5

# From Sundays to sundaes, an ice cream business takes flight

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- When God spoke to Moses to deliver the Ten Commandments, Mount Sinai was heavily shrouded in clouds with lightning and thunder.

But when He had a message for the Rev. Brian Burton of Cook Covenant Church, He kept it simple. No theatrics, no list of commandments, no stone tablets. The message

## Pastor sees dozens of miracles in new business venture

was just two words: “Ice cream.”

“I’ve been driving a school bus during the year because I’m a ‘most time’ pastor and I need a little bit of supplemental income,” Burton said. “I was kind of wondering what I would do this summer. The Lord and I have a close relationship because I trust in Jesus Christ his Son, the Savior, and so He speaks to me and

I speak to Him, and one day he just gave me the words ‘ice cream.’”

Burton said he knew that didn’t mean to go get some ice cream, but to start an ice cream business. And that’s how the idea for Northern Grace Ice Cream was born.

“There’s Moosebirds, but the townspeople have to make a 20-minute round trip to get any good hand-

dipped ice cream,” Burton said. “They’re great and they do a great job, but right here in Cook there was none. And so, I went home and said, ‘Honey, guess what?’”

Honey is his wife, Liz, and she had the reaction one might expect.

“You want to open a what? When? How?” Liz



See **TREATS...**pg. 5

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### How the rich stay rich

ProPublica exposé reveals how our tax system shields the uber-rich

The rich get richer, and the rest of us pay taxes. That, in a nutshell, was the finding of a blockbuster exposé made possible by the leak of a massive trove of IRS tax returns of some of the richest people in the country, to the investigative news organization, ProPublica.

Many Americans have long suspected that the truly wealthy pay very little in taxes, but the analysis by ProPublica demonstrated in stark terms how the tax system as it exists in the U.S. today is designed to leave the wealthiest Americans virtually unscathed.

Average Americans are taxed from virtually the first dollar they earn, because so much of the nation’s tax structure is focused on wage income. We pay both federal and state income taxes on our paychecks. We pay Social Security and Medicare taxes on our paychecks.

Most of the truly rich, however, are able to game the system to pay next to nothing, while the average American pays a significant portion of their income every payday. Now, thanks to the leak of these IRS documents, we can speak in specifics rather than generalities.

Forexample, Jeff Bezos, the world’s richest man, paid not a penny in federal income taxes in 2007, despite seeing his wealth grow by an estimated \$3.8 billion that year, according to Forbes. In 2011, he utilized tax investment loopholes to report he actually lost money and even claimed a \$4,000 tax credit for his children at a time he was reportedly worth \$18 billion.

ProPublica concluded that Bezos’ wealth increased by \$127 billion between 2006 and 2018, yet he reported just \$6.5 billion in income and paid just \$1.4 billion in personal federal taxes, or 1.1 percent of the increased wealth he experienced during that same period.

Bezos was hardly alone. Warren Buffet, who has argued for higher taxes on the uber-rich, saw his wealth grow by \$24.3 billion between 2014 and 2018, yet he reported paying just \$23.7 million in income taxes. That works out to a tax rate on his increased wealth of just 0.1 percent. Michael Bloomberg, Elon Musk, and other of the nation’s richest people paid similar amounts.

The richest Americans benefit immensely from a tax system that largely avoids taxing wealth. The

super-rich don’t really rely on wages to fund their lifestyles. Whether they actually work or sit poolside sipping piña coladas all day, makes little difference to their true income, since the vast majority comes from stocks, bonds, and other investments, most of which are handled by their money managers. The wealthy, in short, make money by being wealthy, whether their fortunes are earned or inherited. And because our system avoids taxing wealth, the rich just keep getting richer. While they are required to pay capital gains taxes on their investments when or if they sell them, the tax rates they pay are invariably less than the payroll taxes that average Americans pay.

The ProPublica analysis had other interesting comparisons. While the wealthy watched their riches grow immensely in recent years, while paying only a tiny percentage of that increase in taxes, that was not the case for average Americans. In fact, according to ProPublica, the average American family saw its wealth increase by just \$89,000 from 2006-2018, most of that due to increases in the value of their home. During that same period, that family paid an average of \$142,000 in federal taxes. No wonder so many Americans feel they’re going backward.

The situation makes the current debates in Washington over income tax rates seem like a sideshow. Even if the income tax for the nation’s richest billionaires were set at 100 percent, it would matter little because their increased wealth doesn’t come from sources subject to that tax. That’s one reason why some members of Congress, most notably Sen. Elizabeth Warren, have urged adoption of a wealth tax, that would enable the treasury to collect at least a small amount of the increase in wealth from the very richest people in the country. Such a tax is long overdue, if only because the current tax structure is dangerously unfair. Americans have long felt that the ultra-rich weren’t paying their fair share, but few of us realized how bad it really is. If Washington wants average Americans to continue to pay their taxes, it’s about time they demand the same of the richest Americans. Right now, they’re getting off virtually scot-free.



### Letters from Readers

#### Thanks for the neighborliness

I am a Vietnam Vet and I’m having some problems. A neighbor came over and mowed my lawn. Thank you. God bless you.  
**Dave Crego Soudan**

#### A few things about Tower’s cemetery

Back in 1890, 32 people signed to form a cemetery to bury the deceased located in Tower.

Back in 1922, cemetery plots were \$30, \$35, and \$40. Today, these plots go for \$400, \$800, and \$1,600.

Back in 1930, the grave digger was paid \$10-\$14. Now the grave digger gets \$400.

Back in 1950, it was agreed to pay the cemetery caretaker one dollar an hour. Other employees were paid 50 cents or less an hour.

Back in 1954, The Oliver Mining Company gave a donation of land adjoining the east and west side of the cemetery plots.

Back in 1933, the cemetery receipts for a year were \$723. For last year, total money in receipts paid out was \$16,227.54.

**Leonard Stefanich Financial Secretary Tower Cemetery Association**

#### I-Falls needs a source of reliable news reporting

After searching online recently for coverage about the *International Falls Journal’s* upcoming closure, I was glad I found the story and editorial in the *Timberjay’s* June 11 edition.

The *Timberjay* had the most in-depth coverage I came across, to include media outlets in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Bemidji, etc.

As someone who was the *Journal’s* sports editor for five-plus years from 2011 to 2016, I had the opportunity to share sports photos and stories with a then *Timberjay* editor, Tom Klein, who has since

passed away and previously was an editor in International Falls before I arrived there.

Tom and I were able to do this when North Woods played against teams from International Falls and Littlefork-Big Falls.

I enjoyed working at the *Journal* under the previous ownership before I left to be closer to home in Wisconsin in another journalism job.

It’s sad to see the *Journal* closing, slightly more than a year after it was sold to a megacorporation. This isn’t the first time a big company drove a perfectly good local newspaper into the ground.

The company that bought the *Journal* went “on the cheap” cutting staff shortly after the sale was announced in February 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic took an economic toll on newspapers and other businesses in the United States.

Misguided company decisions, coupled with a global pandemic and the loss of advertising, put the newspaper into a proverbial “death spiral” to result in a community becoming a so-called “news desert.”

Hopefully someone else will start a community newspaper in International Falls or have an enhanced online presence to fill the void of local news and sports coverage.

**Kevin Boneske Sturgeon Bay, Wis.**

#### Open carry has changed my view of family events

Have you noticed a change in family gatherings such as graduations, weddings, birthdays, and other family events that have been our heritage for hundreds of years? A family gathering has traditionally been a place to renew acquaintances with relatives and close family friends and acquaintances. A time to relax, share stories, acquaint with folks we haven’t seen for a long time, and laugh over the antics of the young kids. A picture of friendly relationships and a safe place to escape the tough day-to-day world.

Recently at a few gatherings

in my family something big has changed. Some of the attendees are now displaying open-carry weapons. Side arms in holsters conspicuously carried on the hip. Carried to family gatherings with children, family, and close friends.

The bearers don’t need to point out that they are carrying. Most of the attendees notice in short order and immediately there is a buzz as the word is passed among the other attendees. That becomes the topic of the day. Carrying weapons at the event divides and changes the mood. Some seem not to notice or care. Others are uncomfortable. Some speak of not attending future events if so-and-so will be in attendance. Others wonder what message is given to the children attending.

As you think to your earliest recollections of family events and gatherings, do you recall ever being aware of weapons? In my family it would have been unthinkable.

Today, same family, but larger and with new members. Also, some of the long-term family members are now carrying when they had not felt a need to do so for the previous 50 or more years. I wonder, what is the intended message of carrying at a family event? Who is the intended message recipient? Why is it needed now? What are the dangers we are being protected from? Should my grandchildren be at an event where firearms are present? How great a threat does the person carrying pose to others? Should I say something to the person carrying about my discomfort?

I don’t claim to have any of these answers, but I can say that I’m now hesitant to attend events where either I know attendees who carry weapons will be attending or there will be attendees that in my opinion are likely to carry. I frankly do not think guns at family events are necessary and in fact feel they are terribly inappropriate for so many reasons.

I feel powerless to stop the behavior. It has changed my feeling about family events. Maybe I need to rethink the place family gatherings have in my life.

**Keith Steva Cook**

## Simply delightful and fun adventures

Life is good! I recently bought a RadRunner electric utility bicycle online and it has been great to ride again and not feel defeated by huffing and puffing up any hills. There are four levels of



SCARLET STONE

over twenty-inch wheels.... pedal assist on the bike so all I do is twist the right handle grip and power is engaged. Zoom! The bike was largely assembled when it arrived and is real sharp looking in olive green matte finish with black fenders

great for short people. It can go 45 miles per battery charge and 20 miles an hour on level ground but will go further if you pedal assist. This girl got some fun gear, too, like a really “Rad” black helmet, black open finger-padded palm gloves, a water bottle holder and a comfy seat. Next comes a set of black saddle bags for light cargo and an odometer to monitor distance. It has been delightful cruising the paved Mesabi Trail system

that is right across the street from my house in Soudan. I love breathing in scents of warm pine needles and flowering plants as I move down the trails through the woods, plus, it reminds me of being a carefree kid. I even have a little bell to alert unaware pedestrians of a possible onslaught. My first trial ride was doing circles through soft grass in my empty second lot to gain balance and an acceptable level of skill before hitting the pavement. What a

great summer toy it is and so thrilling to finally be able to reach the top of the hill with breath intact and no intensely burning calf muscles.

So aside from being a biker-chick...I am on the cusp of yet another adventure! This time it will be to visit my brother and sister-in-law in Maryville, Mo. Due to the COVID-19 intrusion, it has been a year and a half since I last saw them. I asked if we should wait for August

to give me time to bolster my finances following my other recent vacation to the Upper Peninsula. The answer was, “No, we need you now!” I loved hearing that...who wouldn’t?” My brother Paul is driving north to collect his sis and haul me south where I get to laugh, shop and play for several days before flying back from Kansas City, Mo., to Minneapolis. I am so excited and grateful

See **TRIP...pg. 5**



PUP...Continued from page 3

Schmidt said earlier in June that the delay in obtaining the northwestern subspecies that originated from British Columbia is because of the later birthing period.

“They did not have a litter born until May 23,” she said. “They won’t be transported to us here in Ely until they are at least a month old. We will get them up and ready on the (feeding) bottle, and then get them closer to where they have antibodies for parvovirus. Most other wolf pups are born closer to the end of April, but because they originate far north in British Colombia, they have a later breeding season.”

A big part of the Wolf Center’s mission of wolf education, and of advancing survival of wolf populations in the wild is through the use of ambassador wolves.

“There are countless benefits when visitors experience the Wolf Center’s socialized wolves that offer a glimpse into the

individual traits of wolves, showing the social nature of the species that makes it successful as a top-level predator,” Schmidt said. “So often people portray wolves for their predatory behavior and don’t appreciate the intricate pack life and social organization that keeps them together as a social unit. As curator, it is my job to maintain a socially cohesive unit of wolves in the exhibit, and we recognize that to do this, new life must be added to the exhibit.”

How to see the pup

The coronavirus pandemic and public health protocols still in place do mean there will be some changes at the Wolf Center this summer.

The 2021 pup will not be part of the Wolf Center’s hourly indoor programs.

“Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we will be offering outdoor viewing opportunities that will require pre-registration to participate in a 15-minute pup viewing opportunity,” said Interpretive Center

Director Krista Harrington. “We will do our best to accommodate everyone, but safety of our guests, our staff, and the wolves is paramount and opportunities may be weather dependent.”

Another way to see the 2021 wolf pup is with a one-hour behind the scenes tour. These tours are only available for members of the International Wolf Center. Information about membership is available at wolf.org.

Advance tickets required

Everyone who visits the Center in 2021 must purchase advance tickets. To get tickets, click the Book Now button on the lower right-hand side of the page at wolf.org. For members of the Wolf Center, entrance tickets are free. Members are also required to book tickets in advance so that they can ensure everyone’s safety.

TREATS...Continued from page 3

said. “He said it was a clear voice from the Lord, and I said, ‘How clear?’ No, I’m kidding. We follow God’s calling, and this is truly a calling.”

Getting a new \$20,000 to \$25,000 concession trailer was out of the question, but Brian thought they could convert a cargo trailer to work. The question was, where would they find one that they could afford? The answer, of course, they left up to the Lord.

“It was like the next day, after we prayed about it, saying ‘Lord, just show us,’” Brian said. “We weren’t planning on going to Virginia that day, but somehow we were led to go, and boom, right on Highway 53 we saw this trailer and decided to inquire about it.”

And in one of the “lots of little miracles” Brian said have happened along this path, the seller had exactly the same price in mind as what the Burtons had to spend.

Brian did most of the conversion himself, and the new ice cream trailer passed the required health inspections and was ready to go. Before the Burtons went in search of a trailer, they didn’t know where it would go, but another one of those “little miracles” took care of that, too.

“At first, we were wanting to do a brick-and-mortar place, and one downtown sold before we had a chance to really digest what we were going to do,” Brian said.

But then they spied a possible location, a build-

ing that was next to the North Woods Auto Parts store, and while it didn’t have plumbing, it had something better – a Cook Covenant Church connection that Brian didn’t know about.

“It just so happened that somebody in our church owns it,” Brian said. “Dave and Christine Hampson, he runs Timbuktu Marina. Someday he wants to open a boat showroom here, but he said in the meantime to go ahead and put our trailer up here.”

“I could name you ten dozen little miracles along the way, but we’re open, we’re here,” Brian said. “And the whole church has said ‘We’re behind you on this.’”

Business has been brisk since Northern Grace

opened, and Brian said they’ve been getting a lot of repeat customers as well as new ones.

And perhaps of surprise to no one, it’s not at all clear how much Brian will take away from Northern Grace Ice Cream in the way of supplemental income. He and Liz have already committed to supporting at least three different community and faith missions – the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the Cook Community Food Shelf, and a mission in Africa to help members of the Masai tribe shift from cattle to crop production to stave off a devastating famine. Some money will also go to pay the Burtons’ daughter, Sydney Bell, who is working at the ice cream stand to earn

money to attend Vermilion Community College in the fall.

“There’s a lot of provision in a lot of ways for many people,” Brian said. “And being real honest, how it turns out for us is somewhere down the chain from there.”

To take care of all of that, Northern Grace needs to sell a lot of ice cream, and the first step was committing to carry a dozen flavors of premium Cedar Crest and Kemp’s ice cream.

“We offer very generous portions,” Liz said. “Shakes, floats, and a huge, colossal build-your-own brownie sundae.”

“There’s no bad ice cream or sherbet here,” Brian said. “We are absolutely crazy about every one.”

And quite appropriately, the brand of ice cream cones they settled on is named Joy.

“That fits with Northern Grace, and our little tagline ‘Just a little taste of Heaven,’” Brian said.

Northern Grace opens for business at noon, Tuesdays through Sundays, and is closed on Mondays. They’re open until 8 p.m., with extended hours until 9 p.m., on Wednesdays. For more information about Northern Grace Ice Cream, stop by the stand, check out their page on Facebook, or send an email to [northergraceicecream@gmail.com](mailto:northergraceicecream@gmail.com).

TRIP...Continued from page 4

that I am worth the cost of a one-way ticket thanks to the two of them. I am traveling with carry-on luggage only, so if I buy anything big it will travel north with Paul when he heads back to northern Minnesota later this summer. Sis and I love to hit antique and thrift stores so one never knows, however we are both paring down our households these days as we try to be more selective about what we buy.

Getting ready to go on any trip is lots of work partly because I can’t leave my house a complete mess. I always clean very well before Paul comes to visit even though he doesn’t care about dust in corners or a random hair in a bathroom sink. I’ve adopted the adage I saw on a plaque in a shop one time, “Dust is just a country accent!” I am checking things off my to-do list like sucking up the cat-hair tumble weeds that were collecting in corners on my wood stairs so Paul won’t have hairy build-up on his socks. I do joke, but I am amused how cat hair forms tumble-puffs. There is also packing to do, and my three bathrooms need to

be tidied. Paul is focusing more on being newly retired than on surface issues and is easing into a very relaxed mode. I totally get it and am so proud of his long career as a Professor of English Literature at Conception Abbey in Missouri. In addition to being a teacher, he is a talented writer, painter and guitarist, too. I imagine he will hang out on my deck in the comfortable northern Minnesota air and drink plenty of coffee and do much reading while he is here. He will enjoy Chewie, the tame chipmunk that now visits my big log feeder up on the deck railing. In the winter it’s for the birds or whatever....but now it seems to be Chewie’s private platter. He lets people pet him. I haven’t done that yet because I remember as a kid, while feeding one, it thought my thumb was a peanut and grabbed and bit it. This was followed by the 13-mile car ride to town listening to my dad rant about me getting bit. He was so mad and to make things worse he said if the thing had rabies I’d probably be dead by the time he got me to the Cook Clinic for painful shots in


the stomach. The practice of petting chipmunks immediately triggers memories of that unfortunate situation.

So, if all goes as planned, Paul and I will soon wheel out of Tower and drive the 11 hours south to Maryville. Our plan is to split the driving, and get there with little delay so the three of us can have as long a visit as possible. Sis booked a hotel room in Kansas City, two hours south of Maryville, for one night and we will hopefully visit my nephews and niece, too. The plan sis is plotting out is to hit River Market Antiques, check out Ophelia’s Restaurant for a visually stunning and fresh salad, the downtown square, some thrift shops and Pride’s Kitchen store... and wait...I could sure use a trip over to Penzey’s for spices. We are also planning to take in a drag queen show at a great place called Hamburger Mary’s. I have a fistful of one dollar bills to tip the queens and am excited to see their flashy costumes! Hey, it’s a great big world out there and this Iron Range girl enjoys it. While sis and I shop and carry on...overdosing on the

delights of being together again, brother Paul will visit favorite bookstores and coffee shops. Like so many men, shopping falls at the heels of his list of favorite activities. He has always been an avid reader....while I am an avid “doer,” and he is a fine coffee connoisseur, often traveling with his own beans and grinder. What a fine blend of siblings we are. We also plan to drive to Independence and tour the Vaile House Museum... built in 1881 by Colonel Vaile and his wife. It was once touted by the *Kansas City Times* to be the “most princely house in the entire west.” I love history and look forward to seeing the Gothic style exterior, the showy gardens, followed by the fineries inside. We will spend some time north in Maryville, too, at their house and when the vacation ends, Paul will drive me south to the airport in Kansas City and I will fly to Minneapolis where my sunny-tempered friend Linda will pick me up from the airport and return me to the far north. She deserves a present for arranging her schedule to accommodate my

vagabonding. My former husband, since converted through trial and tribulation to a close friend.....Bill, will stay at my house and take care of my two kitties. I lost my oldest cat, Colby just a few weeks ago and won’t be replenishing my livestock. Two will do! My mornings will be totally meow-free for a bit and I am looking forward to that. Isn’t it such an added treat to know beloved pets

are being cared for while they pout in abandonment? This favor from Bill warrants the gift of a nice T-shirt or hat instead of a vintage souvenir fridge magnet or kitschy Lewis and Clark tourist miniature. I predict this is going to be a stress-free vacation ...from start to finish, and I have no doubts it will provide new stories to tell.



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TIMBERJAY

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Level Three offender moves to Angora

ANGORA- In compliance with Minnesota statutes, the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office is notifying the public about a Level Three predatory offender.

Timothy Alan Scott Davich moved to Angora Township on June 7. He is a Level Three offender with a history of sexual conduct with known male children and teenagers that includes exposure, sexual touching and penetration. Davich was convicted of two related felonies in 2009 and sentenced to five years in prison.

Level Three offenders are subject to community notification upon changing addresses and are considered to be of higher likeli-

hood to reoffend.

Angora Township residents and community members who have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter further are asked to call Sgt. Steve Borchers at 218-749-7169.



The best source for local news

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

218-753-2950 or timberjay.com



Week of June 21

**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.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center on June 14

**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 July 20.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Tower AA- Open Basics- 7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.

**Thursday**  
AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open). 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, use the rear side door entrance.



**Vermilion Country School Fourth Quarter Honor Roll**  
**“A” Honor Roll**  
Caleb Ramponi  
Emilie Wojcik  
Danny Anderson

**“B” Honor Roll**  
Kierra Debelak  
Trinity Haworth  
Brody Anderson  
Talyn Hedin  
Connor Hanson  
Jaicee Krings  
Mariah Mitchell  
Alliyah Zapata  
Todd Zibrowski



TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



**Kindergarten graduation at Tower-Soudan Elementary was held on June 2. Above: Students wait for the ceremony to begin.**

**Left: Students sang songs during the program.**

**Below (from left) Principal John Jirik hands out graduation certificates to Cecelia Majerle, Loveyah Boshey, and Axel Koski.**

photos by S. Ukkola



COLLEGE NEWS

**Hannah Lehti graduates from UMN Crookston**  
CROOKSTON- The Office of the Registrar at the University of Minnesota Crookston recently announced its list of spring 2021 graduates. Students completed their degree requirements during the spring session 2021. Spring session graduates include Hannah Lehti, of Tower, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing.

**Local students named to Iowa State University spring 2021 Dean’s List**  
AMES, IOWA– Brooklyn Mae Berg, of Tower, and Luke Zobitz Palo, of Tower, were among the more than 10,500 Iowa State University students

recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the spring semester 2021 Dean’s List. Students named to the Dean’s List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework.  
Berg is a junior, majoring in Kinesiology and Health. Palo is a senior, majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

**Several area students named to College of St. Scholastica Spring 2021 Dean’s List**  
DULUTH- The College of St. Scholastica is proud to announce its Spring 2021 Dean’s

List recipients. Dean’s List members have achieved a 3.75 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale. The College of St. Scholastica would like to commend these students for their honorable academic achievements. Keep up the excellent work!  
Students in our area included:  
► Lori Huseby of Babbitt  
► Brandon Mackai of Embarrass  
► Alyssa Scherer of Embarrass  
► Madeline Zupancich of Tower.

St. Scholastica is a 109-year-old private, independent college founded in the Catholic Benedictine tradition. It is nationally recognized for quality and value. It has been named the top Minnesota college for economic mo-

bility, and U.S. News & World Report includes it on its Best National Universities and Top Performers on Social Mobility lists.

**Melissa Nelmark earns honors at University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point**

STEVENS POINT - The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,270 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the spring semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.  
Melissa Nelmark, a senior from Embarrass, received an honors citation for having a GPA between 3.50 to 3.74.

COMMUNITY NEWS



**OPEN**  
Friday, June 18  
4-6 PM  
at the  
Train Depot

**St. James Men’s Breakfast on Thursdays at Good Ol’ Days**  
TOWER- The Men’s Breakfast sponsored by St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower will begin meeting at Good Ol’ Days each Thursday at 8 a.m. All men are invited to join us.

**Movie Night at St. James on Sunday, June 20**  
TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will host a movie night on Sunday, June 20

at 6 p.m. This month’s movie is “The Secret - Dare To Dream.” All are welcome, and there will be free pop, popcorn, and candy.  
Based on the groundbreaking best-selling book by Rhonda Byrne, The Secret: Dare to Dream follows Miranda (Katie Holmes), a young widow trying to make ends meet while raising her three children and dating her boyfriend (Jerry O’Connell). A devastating storm brings an enormous challenge and a mysterious man, Bray (Josh Lucas), into Miranda’s life. Bray reignites the family’s

spirit but, unbeknownst to Miranda, also holds an important secret – one that will change everything. With its timeless messages of hope, compassion, and gratitude, The Secret: Dare to Dream is an inspiring and heartwarming film.

**Tower-Soudan Recreation Board rescheduled to June 22**  
TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will be held on Tuesday, June 22 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol’ Days. Requests must


be received prior to the meeting in writing to Terri Joki-Martin, Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

**Fourth of July Donations**  
The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and families for their donations this year.  
**Donations are still needed and can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.**  
Thank you to:  
Nick & Faye Tekautz  
Dick Johnson  
Bergetta & Mike Indihar  
Brent Peterson  
& Jen Manick  
Rod & Judy Politano  
Bill & Karen Majerle  
Tower Firemen’s Relief Association  
Pamela Tezak  
Susan Krause  
& John Kauppila  
Harlan & Adeline Broten  
Jerry & Susie Chiabotti  
Jim Nelson  
Eric & Carol Norberg  
Steve Abrahamson  
Anonymous  
Judy Carlson  
Sara & Bernie Pelstring  
Roger & Susan Harju

**Tower Cemetery Association is asking for your continued support.**  
**THANK YOU**  
**Checks are to be made out to:**  
**Tower Cemetery Association**  
**PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790**

Thank you,  
The Tower Cemetery Board

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



**Your support is needed for this year's Fourth of July in Tower-Soudan.**  
Please support, and encourage others to support, this event by sending your tax-deductible gift to:  
**Tower/Soudan Events Board**  
**PO Box 461**  
**Tower, MN 55790**

You can also use the donation cans at area businesses or by buying raffle tickets. **THANK YOU!**



SUMMER SPORTS

# American Legion baseball returns to Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - Legion ball is back after a hiatus last year. The American Legion season was canceled statewide and on a national basis in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, but numerous Legion programs in the state, including Ely's, played independently last summer.

"There were no official state, district or region play-offs last year, but that all changes this year as we leave COVID behind and get back to normal," said Ely Legion Coach Tom Coombe.

The Timberwolves started the season last week by hosting a double-header at Veterans Memorial Field against Barnum. The Timberwolves won both games, 14-4 and 10-0. A win at Eveleth on Monday, 11-4, put Ely at 3-0. Virginia defeated Ely 8-5 on Tuesday.

At the DQ Classic this weekend, Ely will

## DQ Classic tourney on tap this weekend



**Ely High School junior Logan Loe is extending his baseball season this summer on the American Legion team.** photo by K. Vandervort

host Kenyon, Barnum, Minnetonka and Cook County over three days of baseball action on Friday-Sunday, June 18-20. The Timberwolves are scheduled to play the last games of each day, 8 p.m. Friday

against Minnetonka, 7 p.m. Saturday against Kenyon, and 3 p.m. Sunday against Barnum.

Ely has a couple of college freshman age-eligible players back in Dalton Schreffler and Bryce

Longwell who figure to anchor Ely's pitching staff. "Both of them were top pitchers a year ago and key contributors on the 2019 Ely Legion team that hosted the state tournament," Coombe said.

Also back are returning starters and graduating seniors Will Davies (C) and North Woods senior Zach Cheney (3B-SS-P). "They were both starters last year and on the 2019 team," he said. Cheney will play college baseball at Vermilion Community College this year. Three other seniors, Chris Chaulkin and Tate Cly, both from North Woods, and Ely's Cameron Kienitz will compete for playing time this year, according to Coombe.

"Behind them we are filing in with many first-year Legion players. We'll have a young team and I hope we progress as the summer moves forward and that we can be competitive within our district."

Ely also fields Junior Legion and Junior League (14U) teams this summer. "We have 46 players registered - the most in many years," he said.

Ely will host another Legion tournament, Sir G's Classic, July 9-11.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Does the Ely community need a Chamber of Commerce?

ELY - What is a Chamber of Commerce, and why does the Ely area need one? A Chamber of Commerce is a collective of businesses and organizations working together to provide support to a business community through programs, initiatives, and advocacy, according to Eva Sebesta, executive director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

"As a representative of multiple companies, the Chamber can provide a unified voice, enhanced marketing exposure, and initiatives that would be challenging for individual businesses to accomplish independently," she said.

The Ely Chamber's recent Shop Local survey is an example of an initiative that provided real-time feedback from both residents and the business community. "Responses indicated that there is a solid shop-local mentality," Sebesta said. "In addition, many residents appreciated the support businesses provided for area events, fundraisers, and organizations."

However, while internet shopping occurs, local shopping is not as prevalent as first imagined. Instead, shoppers will visit neighboring communities, such as Virginia and Duluth. Why? The two most significant reasons given were prices and selection.

"Those participating in the survey offered suggestions to businesses for increasing local spending. Price matching, weekly or monthly specials, bulk purchasing, or resident discounts were a few of the ideas provided. The overall sentiment was that supporting area businesses is essential," she said.

The Ely Chamber is partnering with the Ely Area Tourism Bureau on the new website, Ely.org. The new and improved website features a number of new pages, including Business Development, Employment with a Job Board, and Relocation. "The Tourism Bureau is adding a blog, experience articles, and numerous other engaging features to the website. The many additions will keep visitors and residents returning to Ely.org for information and resources," Sebesta said.

"We are very excited and grateful to participate in the Tourism Bureau's Ely Brand. The Tourism Bureau spent a huge amount of time researching and gathering feedback on the Ely Brand concepts. There were previous attempts to create a common logo and brand. We appreciate the clean, crisp look and overall concepts," she said.

Additional features of the new website include enhanced listings.

Businesses and organizations can have photo galleries, coupons, and feature events they are hosting. There are also links to social media pages and video clips. In addition, owners and managers can access their listings to update their information and review listing analytics.

Another initiative of the Ely Chamber of Commerce is business development workshops. For the last two years, the Chamber has partnered with the city of Ely through a grant from the Blandin Foundation to offer free workshops to the Ely business community on various human resource and marketing topics.

Ely Chamber Board President Dafne Caruso said feedback is critical for any member-based organization. "We encourage our members to actively participate in planning, meetings, and discussions. Member-based means member-driven," she said.

Other Chamber activities include the Blueberry/Art Festival, Harvest Moon Festival, and WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race. "This past year provided some challenges as we navigated through the pandemic," Ely Chamber Event Director Ellen Cashman said. "The WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race was only one of two races run in Minnesota

this year. Adhering to the many state restrictions was challenging, especially with the number of volunteers required to make the race happen. Mushers were grateful for the opportunity to race and deeply appreciated the health and safety measures we put in place, along with the many hours of planning required to get everything to the start line. Many events, not just sled dog races, didn't happen because of the restrictions."

The Blueberry/Art Festival is moving ahead for 2021 after taking a year off in 2020. "We are planning a food court, and instead of the traditional picnic tables, we have three picnic areas located throughout the park for festival-goers to consume their food. We are also increasing the number of waste receptacles and portable toilets. All vendors must have at least two bottles of hand sanitizer at their booth for public use. These modifications are challenging and costly; however, we feel public safety for our community, festival-goers, and vendors is far more important," Cashman said.

In conjunction with the Blueberry/Art Festival, the Chamber is hosting "Operation Blueberry" event for the second year. Businesses throughout Ely can participate by creating

a banner or storefront window display with a blueberry theme. Businesses are asked to provide incentives to shoppers, such as a "pick a blueberry discount" or special offers on blue items, etc.

"We will resume holding our Northwoods Business Incubator monthly meetings and our quarterly Chamber Business Breakfast this fall as in-person events. We recognize the importance of in-person meetings, and we are glad to put these events back on our calendar," Sebesta added.

"For decades, the Chamber has operated the area's only visitor center. We've found it's a great way to welcome visitors to the area, assist them with finding lodging, suggest places to eat and shop, as well as other activities," she said.

So, why does Ely need a Chamber? "We focus our efforts on doing all the things individual businesses do not have the time or finances to do. Through our collective of businesses, our time and energy is focused on efforts that directly support our members and our local economy. We invite all area businesses to explore the supports and resources the Ely Chamber of Commerce can provide," Sebesta said.

Higher Ed

## Nicholas Montana graduates from Ohio University

ATHENS, Ohio - Nicholas Montana, of Ely, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Communication majoring in Media Arts and Studies - Integrated Media from the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University.

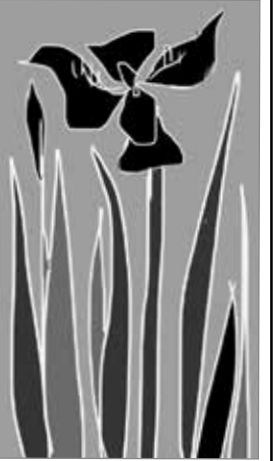
## Omerza honored at MSCTC

ELY - Minnesota State Community and Technical College named 572 students to its Dean's List for the 2021 Spring Semester, including Eric Omerza, of Ely.

Students on the Dean's List earned a GPA of 3.50 to 3.99 while completing a minimum of six college-level credits.

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



sudden glory pops  
elegant leaves share purple  
a summer delight

Libraries

### Ely library

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

### Babbitt library

Monday	Noon-6 pm
Tuesday	Noon-6 pm
Wednesday	Noon-6 pm
Thursday	Noon-6 pm
Friday	Noon-5 pm

Phone: 827-3345

Support groups

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA** - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**BABBITT AA** - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church  
**AL-ANON** - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.  
**BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.  
**CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.  
**ELY FOOD SHELF** - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.  
**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED** - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.  
**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:** Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

# Ely Police Department Activity Report - May 1-15, 2021

### Arrests/Citations

- Threats- Individual arrested for Terroristic Threats.
- Traffic Stop- Individual arrested for 3rd Degree DWI.
- Traffic Stop- Individual arrested for 4th Degree DWI.

### Complaints


- Vehicle Damage- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that had a hood opened. This case is under investigation.
- Threats- Officers were contacted about threats made between two individuals. This case was referred for charging.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about an individual yelling at another individual. This case was

- referred for charging.
- Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency attempting to locate a vehicle. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.
- Garbage- Officers were contacted about a residence with garbage on the lawn. Officers contacted the owner and the owner was advised to clean it.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about an offensive hotspot name. Officers located the owner and the name was changed.
- Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual that was not answering their phone. Officers located the individual who left their phone in the car.

- Parking Complaint- Officers were contacted about a vehicle parked in the roadway. Officers located the owner and the vehicle was moved.
- Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual back to their residence.
- Garbage- Officers were contacted about illegal dumping of trash. This case is under investigation.
- Structure Fire- Officers assisted the Ely Fire Department with a fire.
- Check Welfare- Officers were contacted about an intoxicated individual. Officers located the individual and gave him a ride home.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a tenant and land-

- lord dispute. Officers mediated the situation.
- Mental Health- Officers were contacted about an individual expe-

riencing a possible mental health crisis. Officers determined the individual was not a harm to themselves or others.



## 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

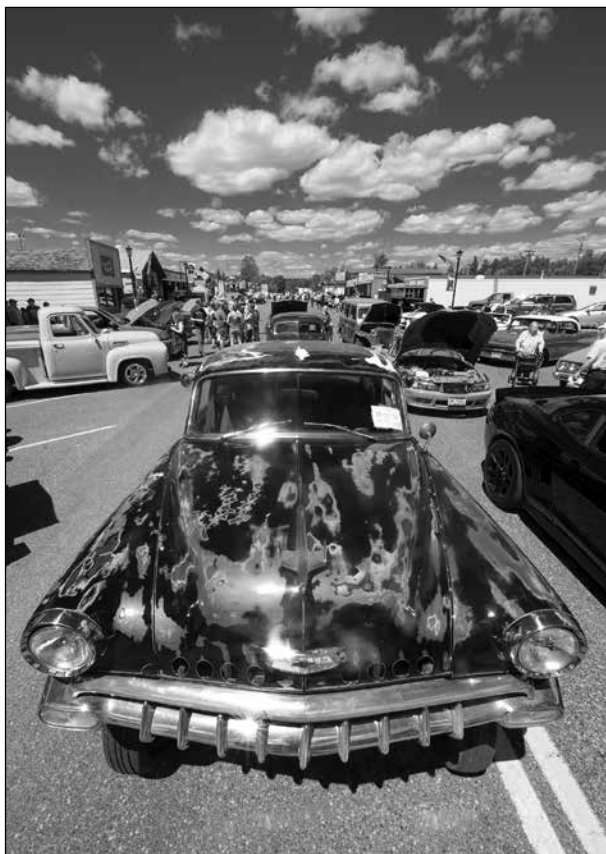
**Deadline is Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

Forms are available online at [happydaysely.com](http://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 [mandyjnpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:mandyjnpetersen@gmail.com)





# Three days of Timber Days fun

People flocked to Cook's Annual Timber Days celebration in seemingly record numbers this past Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Vendors reported strong sales, and many said Sunday's 40-minute parade was the longest they could recall.

Top left: Friday's bean bag competition was friendly but intense. Top middle: Lawnmowers bolt from the starting line during Sunday's races. Bottom middle: The Old Muni had a prize-winning float in Sunday's parade. Top right: Saturday's car show attracted 85 entries from across the region. Right: Pastor Brian Burton led worship in the city park on Sunday.



## NORTH WOODS FOURTH QUARTER HONOR ROLL

<b>A Honor Roll</b>	Sean Morrison Jacob Panichi Olivia Udovich	<b>Eighth Grade</b> Addison Burckhardt Alex Burckhardt John Carlson Ryder Gibson Aidan Hartway Sierra Schuster Amber Sopoci Adyson Van Tassell	<b>B Honor Roll</b>	Cole Snidarich Arianna Swinson	Mya Kinsey Benjamin Koskela
<b>Seniors</b> Monique Benner Emily Fosso Olivia Fultz Aubrey Koskovich Joey Lakoskey Andrew Peak Brynn Simpson Cassandra Villebrun	<b>Sophomores</b> Cooper Antikainen Kohen Briggs Kaden Ratai Karah Scofield Steven Sopoci Skyler Yernatich	<b>Seventh Grade</b> Lincoln Antikainen Isaiah Briggs Lauren Burnett Josephine Carlson John Danielson Mya Goggeleye Isabelle Koch Victoria Mathys Isabel Pascuzzi Marley Peak Payton Scofield	<b>Seniors</b> Zachary Cheney Jack Cook Megan Cote Samuel Frazee Natalie Shantz Austin Sokoloski Elijah Squires Cole Thiel Zoe Trip Dallas Villebrun	<b>Sophomores</b> Brielle Hujanen Hannah Kinsey Grace Koch Garrett Lappi Elias Smith Jacob Swanson Emily Trip	Jasmine Munson Louie Panichi Ethan Ploof Richard Swinson Lydia Trip
<b>Juniors</b> Erik Aune Morgan Burnett Joshua Copeland Ty Fabish Trey Gibson Alex Hartway Sierra Jensen Taylor Jones Abby Koch Michaela Luecken	<b>Freshmen</b> Jonah Burnett Annabelle Calavera Brandon Cook Addy Hartway Evan Kajala Helen Koch Riley Las Autumn Swanson Madison Taylor Trinity Vidal		<b>Juniors</b> Tyler Chiabotti Bryce Chosa JessieAnne Drift Erik Hagen Joseph Hoagland Carter Holman Katrina Jackson Nathan Palm	<b>Freshmen</b> Madison Dantes Sean Drift Emily Grahn Zefrym Mankowski Victoria Olson Jessy Palmer Destiny Weiss Jacob Whiteman	<b>Seventh Grade</b> Sophie Arvila Levi Chaulklin Brynn Chosa Marriah Glowaski- Kingbird Brittin Lappi Blaze Markwardt Sadie Spears Megan Taylor John Warren
				<b>Eighth Grade</b> Rory Bundy Ella Cornelius	

## NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

### Register for NWFA summer art classes

COOK- It's time for summer art classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River Street in Cook. Register at the gallery, which is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., call Alberta at 218-666-2153, or email [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com). Each adult class has a fee of \$10 for NWFA Members and \$20 for non-members. Children's classes are free. A single NWFA membership is \$25, and a household membership is \$40.

**July**

**Drawing for Beginners**

Introduction to contour drawing, shading and composition using a pencil. Supplies provided. Bring your own lace up shoe. Must be 12 or older. Saturday, July 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lyn Reed, instructor.

### Six Greeting Cards

Using stamped images, messages, colored papers and embellishments, design six greeting cards. Envelopes provided. \$5 material fee. Wednesday, July 14, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Cecilia Rolando, instructor.

### Twig Weaving

A weaving created using a sturdy forked branch, string and yarn. Thursday, July 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Jennifer Barr, instructor.

### Gyotaku Fish Print

Using a fish and oil-based printing ink, print a fish. Enhance a fish print with mixed media. Must be 12 or older. \$5 material fee. Saturday, July 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lyn Reed, instructor.

### Fabric Bowl

Using bits of fabric and glue, create a fabric bowl. Tuesday, July 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Alberta Whitenack and JoAnn Anderson, instructors.

### Photo Collage Creation

Using magazines, colored paper, fabric markers and pencils to make a photo collage. Examples pro-

vided for inspiration. \$5 material fee. Friday, July 30, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Cecilia Rolando, instructor.

### Three Styles of Art

Create a composition incorporating realism, abstract and nonrepresentational styles. Explore different media including pencil, colored pencil, oil and chalk pastels, watercolor and markers. Must be 12 or older. Saturday, July 31, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lyn Reed, instructor.

### August

#### Ceramic Bowl I and II

Make a ceramic bowl in week one, glaze it in week two. Or join in on week two and choose a bowl already made by Lyn Reed to glaze. Designs for bowls will be created with an underglaze. \$15 material fee per bowl. Thursdays, Aug. 5 and 12, 6 to 9 p.m., Lyn Reed, instructor.

#### Cartoon Family Characters

Some drawing fun! With paper and pencils and markers draw family and friends. Friday, Aug. 13, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.,

Cecilia Rolando, instructor.

### Making Your Mark

In this mixed media project, have fun exploring multiple methods of making a mark to create a thoughtful composition. Saturday, Aug. 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lyn Reed, instructor.

### September Jewelry

Make creative jewelry using beads, bangles and many other interesting items. \$5 material fee. Friday, Sept. 17, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Cecilia Rolando, instructor.

### Kids classes

#### Elements of Art

Kris Musto, instructor, Thursday, June 24, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### Notan: Positive and Negative Art

Alberta Whitenack, instructor, Thursday, July 8, 10 a.m. to noon.

#### Single point perspective

Alberta Whitenack, instructor, Thursday, July 22, 10 a.m. to noon.

### Workshop for writers coming up in July

COOK- Aspiring and more advanced writers will find new inspiration and pointers in a writing workshop by noted poet and author Sheila Packa that will be on Tuesday, July 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Packa, a poet, writer, and teacher with Minnesota and Finnish roots, has published four books of poems, "The Mother Tongue", "Echo & Lightning", "Cloud Birds", and "Night Train Red Dust: Poems of the Iron Range" and served as Duluth's poet laureate from 2010 to 2012. She has an MFA in creative writing and taught writing at Lake Superior College. She leads poetry and writing workshops and performs her work in music and media installations.

During the three-hour

session, participants will do guided writing exercises that use personal memories, family history and even music to create a memoir, poem or story. Participants will explore tips that make a piece of writing more vivid, immediate and powerful. There will be time to share new works at the end.

Registration is open for beginners and more advanced writers. What moves you? What has marked you? Come to this half-day workshop.

The cost for the workshop is \$40 for NWFA members (a membership is \$25) and \$55 for non-members. Register at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153, or emailing [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com). More information about NWFA is available on their webpage at [nwfamn.org](http://nwfamn.org) and on Facebook.

### Music in the Park to feature Duluth trio on June 23

COOK- A musical group new to Cook's Music in the Park series and certain to delight, Duluth-based "Sugar on the Roof" will take to the gazebo stage on Wednesday, June 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.

"Sugar on the Roof" blends traditional Americana music from the 1920s, 30s and 40s with their own signature sound.

Enjoy duetted harmonies that will make you want to two-step, fiddle-driven stringband tunes to stomp your feet to, a well-placed trombone to make it swing, and old country waltzes that will make you cry," says the note accompanying their digital album "Hat Drop".

The trio is made up of Megan Orwig Reynolds on guitar and vocals, Jefferson Reynolds on banjo and trombone, and Clancy Ward on fiddle and vocals.

The Wednesday Music in the Park summer series will feature nine different groups across its 13-week run. St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church will have a burger and brat stand available. In the event of rain, the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

Music In the Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1157, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Timberwolves

Snowmobile Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and freewill community donations.

### Free community meal on June 24 will be a picnic

COOK- The monthly free community meal at Trinity Lutheran in Cook has a welcome new wrinkle this month. With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, patrons will now be able to enjoy a picnic option on site.

The meal on Thursday, June 24 from 4 to 6 p.m., is also still available as a drive-through option. It will feature hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad and baked beans.

As always, the meal is free and open to the public.

### Cook students make dean's list

DULUTH- Two College of St. Scholastica students from Cook, Olivia Niska and Macy Viita,

have been named to the spring 2021 dean's list.

Honorees have achieved a 3.75 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale.

Read It  
HERE



OUTDOOR RECREATION

# Ely clarifies access for off-road vehicles

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Several recommendations from the new ATV Trails and Ordinance Task Force for the city of Ely were approved by the city council here Tuesday night, giving the off-road vehicles more access to city streets.

The task force was formed last month to review and update city rules pertaining to off-road vehicle operation on city streets and to bring the city rules in compliance with county and state laws.

With a new recreational trailhead in the works on the west end of town, the task force’s main goal is to ensure that Ely is “ATV friendly while maintaining a high level of safety.”

Task force members include Ely Police Chief Chad Houde, city council members Ryan Callen and Al Forsman, Conservation

Officer Sean Williams, and DNR Trail Representative Brad Dekkens. A city resident and two members of the Prospector Loop Alliance are also part of the task force.

With agreement from the city’s projects committee, a new four-way stop sign will be added to the intersection of West Harvey Street and 3rd Avenue West. Several streets were designated as corridor access trails within the city, and once an ordinance is passed, off-highway motorcycles will be allowed to operate on those corridors.

Regarding the new four-way stop sign recommendation, council member Heidi Omerza inquired as to any discussion held concerning winter travel up the hill on 3rd Avenue as vehicles make their way

east into the health facilities parking lot.

Chief Houde said the two-way stop at that intersection is uncontrolled.

“There is a little bit of danger as it is now with ATVs operating in the area. We think the safest way is to have a four-way stop,” he said. “There is a little hill there, and there may be times when someone could roll back, depending on the road condition. I don’t believe a stop sign will prevent someone from getting up the hill there.”

Interim Mayor Chuck Novak noted that the stop sign action is not part of an ordinance and can be changed back at any time by direction of the council to the public works department.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski noted

that a sign indicating a four-way stop at that intersection will help people get used to the change.

Council members also agreed with the recommendation to change the city ordinance to clarify references to ATVs as Class 1 and Class 2, in alignment with state statutes.

As many as eight ATV corridor access trails within the city, on West Harvey Street, Central Avenue, Pattison Street, 8th Avenue E, White Street, 19th Avenue E, Old Airport Road and Pioneer Road, will allow for uniform routes as ATV operators make their way around town. “ATVs are allowed on all city streets, except Sheridan (state highway right of way) and 17th Avenue (Highway 1),” Forsman said, “but we need

trail routes for riders to get around town and have access to our community.”

The task force also recommended adding off-highway motorcycles to the city ordinance to be in line with state statutes. Novak said the city attorney will need to amend the ordinance. Two ordinance readings and a public hearing will be required to adopt the changes.

## Other business

In other business, the city council:

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Projects Committee to submit a state bonding request of more than \$4 million for the completion of the trailhead and necessary infrastructure for the entire west end development project for the hospital expansion, workforce

housing and redevelopment of the former public works garage site.

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Projects Committee to have the city attorney draft an ordinance requiring all city residences to hook up to city electrical service.

➤ Langowski reminded the council that early voting for the mayoral special election begins on Friday, June 25. Election day is Tuesday, Aug. 10.

➤ Approved a request from Young Life for in-kind services for July 4th activities in Whiteside Park.

➤ Approved a resolution authorizing a raffle permit for the Jake Forsman Memorial Scholarship.

➤ Approved a street obstruction permit for the Blueberry Art/Festival and the Chamber of Commerce’s COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for the event.

HEALTH CARE

# Gwen Bakken marks 40-year milestone as BWCC culinary director

ELY - Boundary Waters Care Center (BWCC) celebrated a 40-year work anniversary last week for Culinary Director Gwen Bakken, who joined the BWCC team on June 7, 1981, and spent her entire career devoted to the well-being of the residents who call the care community home, as well as those residing in the greater Ely area.

“Forty years of service is a remarkable accomplishment. We are so grateful for Gwen’s dedication to the Boundary Waters

Care Center. She inspires all of us because she truly cares about everyone who walks through our doors,” said BWCC’s Executive Director Adam Masloski.

To recognize Bakken’s decades of hospitable service, the team at BWCC planned a special surprise on her anniversary. They presented her with a plaque and flowers. At the gathering, Bakken shared stories about her early days with BWCC and talked about how the community has evolved and grown throughout her career.

“The thing that doesn’t change is why we are all here, and that is for the residents,” Bakken said.

Under Bakken’s leadership, BWCC’s culinary team prepares approximately 5,000 meals per month. In addition to residents and staff at the care community, the culinary team also provides meals for the Ely Meals on Wheels program and the patients at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

Bakken says the menu has changed during her career to include more fresh

ingredients and globally-inspired menu items. She makes sure to visit with residents several times a week to gather their feedback on new items and offerings.

There is one meal that has remained popular over the years.

“Breakfast for dinner is the most popular meal. Waffles topped with fresh strawberries and whipped cream with a side of sausage is a popular request,” Bakken said.

BWCC is a vibrant care community where team members are focused on

upholding the well-being, dignity, and individual capabilities of each resident. The care community in Ely serves residents and their families with short-term rehabilitation services and long-term care designed to ensure residents may safely lead a lifestyle with as much independence as possible.

BWCC is managed by Minneapolis-based Health Dimensions Group (HDG). The values-driven organization manages 46 communities in seven states, serving more than 2,000 residents



Gwen Bakken

and 2,000 employees.

For additional information about Boundary Waters Care Center, visit <https://boundarywaterscc.com>, or call 218-365-8705.

## ELY...Continued from page 1

much as \$4 million in renovating the existing school campus buildings when they re-bid that portion of the project later this fall.

While the first phase of the project that includes the construction of a new building between the Washington and Memorial buildings came in at budget earlier this year, the second phase of the project was bid later in the spring just as building material and labor costs took a tremendous spike skyward as the post-COVID world reopened.

According to ISD 696’s project design consultant Scott Sosalla, of Architectural Resources, Inc., the prospects of construction costs “normalizing” anytime soon are dim.

“I don’t realistically think that (construction costs) will drop to what they were pre-COVID,” he said.

He cited two factors in trying to explain why the second phase construction bids were double, from \$4 million to nearly \$9 million, from what was budgeted. The current labor force market and cost of materials is one factor. The other is the scope of work that was developed for the renovation of the two existing school buildings.

“If it was just COVID and we kept with the original scope of work, my gut tells me we would be 30 to 40 percent over (budget), rather than 100 percent over budget,” Sosalla said. “We have to work with the school district to make this timeframe work and get those dollars to where they have to be. We only have so much money in the bucket, and unless we find more money, we have to work backward to see what we can afford and what the priorities are.”

Sosalla said as the

details became clear for the second phase of the project, the renovation of the Washington and Memorial buildings, costs kept rising.

“Part of the issue was that everybody dreams and wants more and more,” he said. “The fitness center, locker room area, that started as infilling the pool area, ended up with gutting the whole thing. The same thing happened with the bathrooms. At first we were going to refresh the bathrooms, and we ended up gutting everything and adding new tile, new everything. It is all great but it didn’t fit as far as the original budgets.”

He added that construction material costs have exploded.

“Three years ago you could buy a 2x4 for two bucks and now you pay \$12,” he said. Building material availability is a major obstacle for the project.

“The smart thing that was done by the district was getting that first phase bid when you did,” Sosalla said. “If we waited and bid the whole project together, some materials would not have been available until November of 2022. There is that much of a delay in materials now.”

Sosalla’s design group and the project manager, Kraus-Anderson, continue to work on “dialing back” the scope of the second phase to re-bid that portion within budget.

“As we redevelop this package there are things we need to consider, including the air quality improvements and new air handlers, and similarly, we have to do something with the bathrooms to make sure we eliminate the lead in the water.”

He noted that the city is working to get water main replacement and infrastructure funding through the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

“We don’t know where the market is going to be this fall,” Sosalla said. “We hope to have the project re-bid somewhere between October and January of next year. If we were in budget and moving forward, materials would still be delayed. For instance, if we were to order doors today, delivery is 22 weeks from now.”

The school renovation project is proceeding these days with a minimal staff on campus and a small summer school program. All that changes on the day after Labor Day with the start of the 2021-22 school year and 500-plus kids in the buildings.

The Early Childhood and Family Education program will be looking to occupy its new digs in the former Washington school library space. Also, the Memorial school media center will be demolished this summer to make room for the new building.

Sosalla assured school board members that any missing walls will be replaced before school starts in the fall.

“Those spaces will be able to be utilized, whether for choir or a temporary industrial tech area, when school starts,” he said. “Walls will be up and the building will be secured.”

Mike Dosan, of Kraus-Anderson added, “Our goal is to have the ECFE done for the start of the school year this fall. Also, the demolition of the elevated media center in the Memorial building will be secured.”

He added, “Today, moving forward we will be working with ARI to come up with the budgets (for the second phase re-bid process), and put a list together to bring forward. The number one goal is to create a set of drawings that represent the review and comments from day one, and make sure that we are managing your expectations.”

School board member Darren Visser said the expectation of the school district voters should be kept in mind when considering cost reductions for the project.

“The public voted for something, and we really have to analyze what the priorities are, and also what ways to save money. In the end we have to give them a project they are expecting to get. There is a lot of

## THANK YOU!

We’d like to say a HUGE Thank You to the following businesses/individuals who supported the 2021 MN Law Enforcement Special Olympics Polar Plunge! Their support helps amazing individuals right in our area. Thank You again to: Zup’s Northland Market, Ely Credit Union, Embarrass/Vermillion Federal Credit Union, Range Cooperatives, Lossing Building Center, Annie and Nial Blomberg, Candi Blomberg, and Glen and Marie Blomberg. (Team: Cup of Coco-C., H. & D. Nelson)



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INFRASTRUCTURE

New Echo Trail cell site supports first responders

ELY- When firefighters battled a wildfire that began May 17 near Bezhik Lake that burned 782 acres of forest, they were joined the next day by a partner that helped them communicate and coordinate their efforts.

A new, purpose-built cell site located on the Echo Trail, northwest of Ely near Meander Lake and Lake Jeanette State Forest, went into operation on May 18, one of the first primarily powered by solar in the Midwest region.

This FirstNet site will

provide coverage when traveling along the Echo Trail. It will also give first responders on FirstNet – America’s public safety network – access to always-on, 24-hours-a-day priority and preemption across voice and data.

“For our first responders battling the Bezhik Fire, this new FirstNet tower provided critical wireless coverage necessary for communication in a very remote area where we previously had poor to no coverage,” St. Louis County Sheriff Ross

Litman said. “FirstNet is helping give public safety the connectivity they need to communicate and coordinate emergency response efforts, especially in remote wilderness areas of St. Louis County.”

“We’re pleased this new site could provide critical wireless coverage for the firefighters and first responders who battled and contained the Bezhik Fire near the Echo Trail,” AT&T Minnesota President Paul Weirtz said. “We have a responsibility unlike any other network provider and

couldn’t be more pleased to support the public safety mission by bringing first responders – and residents – greater access to the connectivity they need.”

AT&T and the First Responder Network Authority are collaborating in the cell tower expansion project to give emergency responders a major boost in their wireless communications. Other FirstNet sites already launched in Minnesota communities include Bagley, Blackduck, Cloquet,

See...CELL pg. 12



An aerial view of the new FirstNet solar-powered cell tower along the Echo Trail northwest of Ely. The tower provides dedicated and enhanced communication for emergency responders and also access to the AT&T commercial network.

ORR...Continued from page 1

same developer who built the Dollar General in Cook. The proposed \$675,000 project, which includes a 9,100-square-foot building and 30 parking spaces, would not be built or owned by Dollar General. As is typical with most Dollar General locations, private developers such as Midwest MN buy the land and build the facilities, which are then leased to Dollar General. Lease terms may vary from developer to developer, but according to Dollar General’s most recent annual report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, “... a significant portion of our new stores ... typically carry a

primary lease term of up to 15 years with multiple renewal options.”

Hinzmann confirmed that Midwest MN has not yet purchased the two lots owned by Wally’s Auto Service. The purchase is contingent, he said, on being able to obtain the necessary zoning variances needed for the site.

“They have a purchase agreement in place,” Hinzmann said, “but they’ve done these enough times in enough locations that if they hit a hurdle, such as a variance that doesn’t get approved, they don’t want to be stuck with a piece of property that they can’t develop.”

“How soon would they start construction once they make the purchase?” Astlford asked.

“I would say, in an ideal world, September,” Hinzmann said. “It might be a little aggressive. The purchase agreement, I believe, has an expiration date of Aug. 6, so we are absolutely hoping that at the July 12 council meeting we’re able to find a way forward here.”

Rumors that have been circulating in the community for months about a Dollar General apparently weren’t without some basis in fact, as a letter authorizing Midwest MN to act on behalf of the owners of

the Wally’s Auto Service property for site assessment and permitting was signed in November 2020.

**Variance requests**

Of the two variance requests submitted, one addresses a likely error in the zoning ordinance that requires three square feet of parking space for every one square foot of building space.

“We’re proposing a 9,100-square-foot building, and the way the zoning regs are written, that would require 168 stalls,” Hinzmann said. “Dollar General’s standard that they’ve used in many other locations, Cook included, is 30 stalls, and that has functioned very well for their operations.”

“I’m pretty sure they just have it flip-flopped; they wrote it wrong,” Astlford replied.

As the lots in question drain into Pelican Lake, they are considered shoreland zone. According to the city’s zoning ordinance, such areas may only have

30 percent of their surface covered with “impervious surfaces” such as buildings and paved parking lots that create water runoff.

“In order to achieve a useable site for this use a minimum of 50 percent imperviousness will be necessary,” the variance application said.

According to the application, the amount of impervious surface on the site would still be 15 percent less than Wally’s Auto Service, and less than other businesses along the highway corridor from North Country Inn to Lumber Orr Hardware. The layout also has been selected to protect sensitive wet areas at the south end of the property, it said.

But Tony Norman, owner property adjacent to the proposed development, aired his concerns not only about stormwater drainage but also other land issues since the fire that destroyed Wally’s Auto Service in September, 2019.

“We’ve had a stormwater runoff issue for. in September it will be two years, stuff that has run off that property and onto my property,” Norman said. “Nothing has been maintained. I’ve been trying to get answers for two years from the owner and he tells me it’s all on Dollar General now. Nothing has been done to control anything and we’ve got Pelican Lake which our whole town survives off of tourism on it. So where is the water going to go? And how do we do that and protect the lake and everything else we’re trying to do up here?”

“You want a building permit for something that to me is far from a building permit,” Norman continued. “It needs to be cleaned up for what’s there. You’ve got tires in the swamp, you’ve got footings still in the ground, nobody’s kept the sewer properly, no utilities have been abandoned. I smell sewer gas; I smell burnt products in my hotel rooms. I make a living there. I think there’s a lot more questions for the city engineer and city attorney and public meeting and we have to go a hell of a lot more.”

Astlford reminded the assembly that Midwest MN doesn’t have any responsibility for the property until they become the owners.

“If there are issues right now we need to hold the landowner responsible for any problems that we have there, which we’ve been trying to do for two years,” Astlford said. “This has left a bad taste in everybody’s mouth around here.”

Hinzmann affirmed the developer’s intent to take care of any issues once they acquire the property.

“I do think that this is a great step in getting the site cleaned up by allowing someone to come in there and build something,”

Hinzmann said.

“It’s probably the only chance the site is going to get cleaned up because they haven’t done it yet,” Astlford responded. “It’s disgusting the way they let it go.”

And while a variance is not needed, the city’s water main will have to be relocated by the developer at their expense, as the new building would cover it.

With site soil core samples still to be taken, incomplete stormwater drainage plans, lack of information about environmental testing and Midwest MN not yet owning the property, council member Bruce Black felt consideration of variances and a building permit was premature.

“You don’t own the property, all the testing has not been done, and you want us to grant you variances – isn’t that like putting the cart five feet in front of the horse?” Black said. “Tome, you’ve got the cart rolling down the hill and horses running behind.”

“We need to make sure that we can build our project before the developer makes the purchase of the property,” Hinzmann said. “I guess I was unaware that there was any requirement for soils information to be provided as it relates to these variances.”

Donna Hoffer expressed the only comment during the meeting that related to the potential economic impact of having a Dollar General store in Orr.

“Was there a feasibility study for a place like a Dollar General to come into this small community and how it would affect the other existing entities such as the (grocery) store, Norman’s, the liquor store?” she asked.

“We could do a feasibility study, but we can’t deny them a building permit if they’re within our laws,” Astlford said.

Councilors agreed to schedule a special council meeting prior to the regular July 12 meeting to allow for public comment on the variance requests. Astlford said it would be the intent of the council to take formal action on the variance requests and building permit at that meeting.

**About Dollar General**

By number of stores, Dollar General is the nation’s largest retailer, operating 17,266 retail locations in 46 states as of this past February. Approximately 12,800 of those stores are in towns under 20,000 in population, and according to CEO Todd Vasos, 75 percent of the U.S. population lives within five miles of a Dollar General store.

The company plans to open approximately 1,000 new stores in 2021, a rate of just under three new stores opening every day of the year.

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**June 2021**

More info at [www.stlouiscountymn.gov/hw](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/hw)

<p><b>Thursday, June 10</b> <b>Ely Joint Public Works Facility</b> 10am - 2pm 2210 E. Sheridan Ely</p>	<p><b>Thursday, June 17</b> <b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 10am - 2pm 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Cook</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, June 23</b> <b>Soudan Canister Site</b> 10am - 1pm 5160 HWY 169 Soudan</p>
<p><b>Virginia HHW Facility</b> <i>at the Regional Landfill</i> 5345 Regional Landfill Road Virginia, MN 55792 (218) 741-8831 <b>Year round hours of Operation:</b> <b>Tuesdays &amp; Saturdays</b> 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p>		<p><b>Hibbing HHW Facility</b> <i>at the Hibbing Transfer Station</i> 3994 Landfill Road Hibbing, MN 55746 (218) 362-5922 <b>Year round hours of Operation:</b> <b>Saturdays</b> 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p>

## SUMMER WELLNESS SCHEDULE

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**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.**  
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**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.**

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**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**

“You want a building permit for something that to me is far from a building permit,” Norman continued. “It needs to be cleaned up for what’s there. You’ve got tires in the swamp, you’ve got footings still in the ground, nobody’s kept the sewer properly, no utilities have been abandoned. I smell sewer gas; I smell burnt products in my hotel rooms. I make a living there. I think there’s a lot more questions for the city engineer and city attorney and public meeting and we have to go a hell of a lot more.”

Astlford reminded the assembly that Midwest MN doesn’t have any responsibility for the property until they become the owners.

“If there are issues right now we need to hold the landowner responsible for any problems that we have there, which we’ve been trying to do for two years,” Astlford said. “This has left a bad taste in everybody’s mouth around here.”

Hinzmann affirmed the developer’s intent to take care of any issues once they acquire the property.

“I do think that this is a great step in getting the site cleaned up by allowing someone to come in there and build something,”



FESTIVAL SEASON

Blueberry/Art Festival will be smaller, safer this year

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Continuing public health guidelines are forcing Ely Chamber of Commerce officials to downsize the Blueberry/Art Festival this year, and local nonprofits are not too excited about the new Experience Ely Expo format.

The Experience Ely Expo, designed to run in conjunction with the Chamber’s two main arts and crafts festivals, Blueberry/Art Festival in July and Harvest Moon Festival in September, was first announced in late 2019, but the new format was put on the shelf last year when the festivals were canceled because of COVID-19.

“We didn’t receive as many applications as we thought there would be,” said Chamber Executive Director Eva Sebesta. “I think last year, many of the nonprofits were hit very hard with any level of fundraising, especially if they didn’t have a membership base that paid dues or supported the organization

Just ten nonprofits applied for new Experience Ely Expo space

in other ways.”

She said just ten area nonprofits applied to be part of the Chamber’s festivals this year. She said she had figured on twice that number, based on prior participation, when revamping the festival grounds layout.

Festival organizers are in the midst of again re-organizing the Whiteside Park venue to accommodate the ongoing State of Minnesota’s public health and social distance guidelines due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic. “We are decreasing the number of vendors as well as the number of Expo participants, to follow those state guidelines,” Sebesta said. “Even if things do switch at a later date, we are still going with the new model we are creating.”

She said the Blueberry/Art Festival and Experience Ely Expo will be capped at a total of 220 vendors this year, down from a high of 300 vendors prior to 2019.

“We are going to put an additional six feet between

each of the vendors, which is decreasing our space,” Sebesta said.

Festival goers can also expect a reduction in the number of food vendors this year as that area of the park is also spread out.

“We also have to modify the way the food court is laid out. That is always a huge congestion point,” she said. “We are trying to make sure we have a safe event, and we are giving vendors and our visitors the space to be safe.”

The Chamber’s removal of the nonprofit category for participation in the city’s general festivals affected more than a dozen local organizations that have relied on the Blueberry/Art Festival and Harvest Moon Festival for a large portion of their annual fundraising efforts.

“Creating space in the Blueberry/Art Festival was extremely challenging,” Sebesta said earlier this year. “We literally had outgrown Whiteside Park. We

originally had 303 booth spaces, and as of 2019 we were down to about 290 usable spaces.”

Both of Ely’s premier festivals are promoted as art and craft events, and visitors come to town by the tens of thousands.

“We need to remain true to the mission of both events, which are economic drivers bringing people to Ely for the event, and exposing them to our retail businesses, restaurants and lodging facilities,” Sebesta said in 2019.

The Chamber’s answer was to develop the new nonprofit expo event that offers nonprofits the opportunity to purchase booth space in a separate area of Whiteside Park during the Blueberry/Art Festival, July 23-25, and/or the Harvest Moon Festival Sept. 10-12.

The creation of the separate space for the Experience Ely Expo on the southern side of Whiteside Park resulted in the discontinuation of the children’s attractions, according to

Sebesta.

“We remapped the southern half of the park and literally used every square inch,” she said.

To take part in the Experience Ely Expo, organizations must fit into one of the following categories: Sport and Recreation, Art and Craft, First Responder, Attractions and Museum, or Service. Qualifying organizations can promote the organization itself, an event it hosts, or its activities.

Nonprofits remaining in the festival as part of the food court, according to the chamber, include the Ely Fire Department, Ely Jaycees, and the Ely Kiwanis Club.

“The Ely Hoop Club will continue to support the festival with trash and recycling efforts,” Sebesta said.

The Experience Ely Expo has its own policies designed to better fit to the needs of the nonprofits.

“We created the Experience Ely Expo as an opportunity to include non-

profits in Whiteside Park during the two festivals while freeing them from the constraints of policies designed specifically for our art and craft festivals,” Sebesta said.

The new Experience Ely Expo policies and guidelines will bring year-to-year turnover, enabling more nonprofit organizations a chance at participating from year to year.

“Just because a nonprofit is in the festival in 2021 does not guarantee they will be in one of the 2022 expos,” she explained. “Every year we will have a jury process to fill booth spaces. We have dozens of amazing nonprofits representing countless activities, events, and causes. Every qualifying nonprofit deserves the opportunity to participate in one or both of the expos if they choose to do so.”

“We have our COVID-19 Preparedness Plans in place and will continue to monitor all state and CDC guidelines, making modifications as needed.”

TOWER...Continued from page 1

position oversees approximately 40 employees and an annual city budget of about \$3.9 million.

The position currently pays about \$53,000 per year.

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad suggested that the ad hoc committee would want to consider possible adjustments in the wage range for the position, although other members of the council seemed to argue against a new look at the wage. The council was generally not receptive to Ranua’s arguments earlier this year for a pay rate commensurate with the responsibilities of the position. The council did provide her a three-percent raise this year yet she will leave her post after more than a year and a half still earning about \$3,000 less than her predecessor, Linda Keith.

The council did take

action to appoint members of a hiring committee, including Kringstad, Nancy Larson, the city’s grant manager, former Clerk-Treasurer Ann Lamppa, current Deputy Clerk Treasurer Terri Joki Martin, and council member Joe Morin. The council set no timeline for the search and will keep the application date open-ended. Ranua has agreed to continue in her position until a replacement can be trained in. “There would be a great benefit to having some overlap,” said Morin. “The length of that would be dependent on the qualifications of the new person.”

In other business, City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt introduced Karl Sundquist as a new attorney with the Colosimo firm, who would likely be providing legal assistance to the city. Sundquist most recently

served as an Assistant St. Louis County Attorney, based in Virginia. Brunfelt noted that recent retirements had left the Colosimo firm shorthanded and that has created some delays in their ability to respond to issues and questions raised by city officials. Brunfelt said the hiring of Sundquist is part of the firm’s effort to provide quality legal services to its clients.

The council also heard from Dave Rose under public input, who reported on progress at his RV park. He said he received the “go-ahead” from the Department of Labor and Industry for his utility and plumbing design, but is still waiting for the sign-off by the Department of Health. He also said he has a letter from the Department of

Natural Resources granting permission to remove river pilings in front of a portion of his property, to allow for campers to dock boats along the river.

In other action, the council:

➤ Approved a resolution authorizing application to the Office of Management and Budget for additional bonding funds for the joint Tower-Breitung water treatment plan and the city water main improvement project.

➤ Received a report from recent sewer line camera work, which indicated two areas that are likely sources of significant inflow and infiltration into the wastewater treatment system.

➤ Heard an update on the police advisory

committee, which will be hosting public meetings this coming week to take input from the public. Those meetings are set for Wednesday, June 23 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Breitung town hall, Thursday, June 24, at 6 p.m. at the Herbert Lamppa civic center, and Friday, June 25, at 9 a.m., also at the civic center.

➤ Approved a resolution allowing for the temporary transfer of money from the city’s general fund to the special ambulance fund to cover a \$21,000 payment to the state, which will result in reimbursement of approximately \$49,000, according to Ranua. Once paid by the state, she said the ambulance fund would reimburse the general fund. By approving the fund

transfer by resolution, Ranua noted that the city is following the provisions of the charter.

➤ Heard a report by Morin on a quote he received for approximately \$6,000 to extend a 60 amp electrical service to the harbor area to allow for the operation of food carts or musical entertainment as a way to draw people to the area. He said he would try to obtain additional quotes.

➤ Took no action on the suggestion by Ranua to consider replacement of one of the large garage doors at the fire hall. She said a garage door tech who came to conduct some minor repairs said the city should consider replacement as soon as possible due to the age and condition of the door.

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CITY OF COOK

HRA director counters negative claims made at council meeting

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

Resident survey, documents paint different picture

COOK- When complaints and allegations about Cook Housing and Rehabilitation Authority Executive Director Reed Erickson were aired by four disgruntled tenants at the May 27 meeting of the Cook City Council, Erickson wasn't there to respond.

However, Erickson and Housing Manager Paula Erickson agreed to meet with the *Timberjay* recently to share their reactions to some of the major issues raised at the council meeting. The issues were all familiar to the Ericksons – whether at board meetings or city council or in communications with local media and government officials, a small group of individuals have been voicing their complaints for more than a year. The Ericksons have responded before, with no success in quelling the tenants' discontent.

"It's very difficult to do your job, because these questions have been asked and answered, asked and answered," Reed said.

"They're almost interfering with our day-to-day operations, grant writing, whatever we want to be able to do to make this place even better than we already have," Paula said.

Reed said a group of six residents among the 83 people who live in CHRA housing account for the ongoing complaints, and the friction continues because of various violations of CHRA and HUD rules covering appropriate and inappropriate resident behaviors.

"We hold everybody accountable for their actions or inactions," Reed said. "I think the biggest thing that's so frustrating is they're not raising the issue of what they're being cited on. They're raising the issue of who was citing them, which is me."

"The residents don't

talk about what their issues are, what we say the violations on the lease are, and we can't discuss that because of privacy laws," Paula said. "That's a very difficult thing."

Satisfaction survey

Reed turned to the results of a CHRA resident satisfaction survey conducted in December 2020 to support the idea that the complaints are isolated to a small group, while the majority of CHRA tenants are satisfied with management and their living situations.

Survey forms were sent to each of the 60 CHRA units to be completed anonymously and returned to CHRA Board Chairman Brian Gramling. Just under half of the surveys were returned, which is considered to be a fair response rate for mail-based surveys.

Tenants were asked three questions about how they felt the HRA was doing, what CHRA could do to improve their residency, and if they had recommendations, suggestions, or comments.

In the compiled results provided to the *Timberjay*, 24 respondent answers were listed for each question.

When asked how CHRA was doing, 21 of the responses, 87.5 percent, were positive, with three specifically listing positive comments about Reed and Paula, saying they "are always there when I have a problem," that they "have been excellent," and that "they do a wonderful job, they are always pleasant and helpful."

With the other two questions overlapping in their focus on improvements and recommendations, 13 respondents to each question had no suggestions, with many specifically expressing their satisfaction. Most suggestions were related to possible property or main-

tenance improvements, but there were a few directed at management, including "Fire Reed and Paula" and "Too little too late let the lawsuits begin." The lengthiest single response to the survey detailed dissatisfaction with multiple items, concluding with, "We miss not being heard! Why is that! This is our home! Thank you. Are we asking too much? I don't think so."

HUD review

Erickson also provided the *Timberjay* with a letter written by Michele Smith, director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development field office in Minneapolis, that addressed a lengthy list of complaints the office received about the Pioneer Building and Cook HRA. Erickson said the letter was sent to the office of U.S. Senator Tina Smith, and he received a copy from constituent services director Miranda Morgan Lilla on March 30.

"Our Public Housing staff investigated each of the complaints and has addressed them in the paragraphs below," Smith's letter said.

The complaints included ones raised at the May 27 Cook City Council meeting, and no violations of HUD regulations were reported from the investigation. Notably, the investigation countered claims made at the meeting that residents' civil rights were being violated.

"Neither HUD nor the Cook HRA are aware of any Civil Rights or Vulnerable Adult violations," Smith wrote. "None of the complaints made in the attached letters fall under HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity laws. Our office is continuing discussions with the Cook HRA Executive Director and Board of Commissioners regarding interactions with the residents and how that

can be improved."

Financial issues

One of the more inflammatory claims made by Jim Obidowski at the May 27 meeting suggested the possibility of financial mismanagement by Reed Erickson, using the word "embezzlement" and citing a Minnesota Court of Appeals ruling he distributed regarding a dispute over unemployment compensation between Erickson and his former employer, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Obidowski said CHRA should be audited. While Erickson said his separation from the agency in 2012 was by "mutual agreement," the Court of Appeals upheld the denial of unemployment benefits, finding that Erickson "was discharged for employment misconduct" by seeking "reimbursement for expenses that were either not incurred or incurred for non-business purposes."

The Court of Appeals ruling noted that Erickson's attorney had submitted new evidence that could not be considered due to it being "outside the record" of the initial hearings.

"That was the ruling, without allowing my attorney to submit the other documentation," Reed said. "After that, I met with my attorney and they said, 'They'll just keep dragging this out, and it's going to cost you 20, 30 grand and you win. But do you have 20 or 30 grand to pay?' I said no, and they said just let it go. There was no evidence of wrongdoing in administration or anything like that."

Since embezzlement of public funds is a crime in Minnesota, *Timberjay* inspected online court records and confirmed that Reed had never been charged with any violations, including embezzlement, stemming from

the DEED unemployment dispute over personal expense discrepancies.

As far as financial practices at CHRA, Erickson noted that they have a required financial audit annually and provided a copy of the most recent audit which found no issues with CHRA finances and accounting practices.

"There are more checks and balances in the HRA than anyone can imagine," Reed said.

The HUD field office investigation report from March backed this up in an item that also addressed the false claim by tenants that Reed and Paula being married was a violation of state law.

"We are aware of the relationship between Reed and Paula Erickson and they have addressed the concerns. There is no evidence of mismanagement, based on audit, fee accounting, HUD reports," the summary letter stated.

Before the pair was ever married, Paula was hired by the CHRA board, not Reed, based on 25 years of experience working with public housing that made her the most qualified for the job, Reed said.

"She worked with the city of Minneapolis public housing, with the city of Plymouth and Plymouth HRA public housing," Reed said. "It's not like this person fell off the truck. It's a non-issue."

Reed also addressed the claim made at the council meeting that CHRA's security cameras were equipped with microphones and that Reed and Paula were monitoring conversations in public areas. He pulled up the system on his computer to demonstrate, confirming that there was no audio feed accompanying the individual videos. The HUD investigation report also determined that the security cameras were installed appropriately and

were authorized by the CHRA board.

The Ericksons also talked about the improvements they've made to CHRA housing units, funded largely by grants Reed has secured, as HUD provides a limited amount of funds for maintenance and renovation of units when residents move out.

"We want to reiterate what we've done here – all new windows, a new elevator, new boilers, water softeners and furnaces in all our duplexes," Reed said. "Board members will comment that more work has been done, and we have more money in the accounts than we ever have, and that's a credit to Reed's background in knowing what grants to apply for and what programs to go through," Paula said.

A comparison of CHRA financial figures reported in board minutes from 2012 and 2020 support Paula's assertion. In December 2012, the CHRA's bank balance and investments totaled about \$20,000. In January 2020, bank accounts and investments totaled nearly \$140,000.

Board minutes from meetings conducted under former executive directors also indicate that resident complaints are nothing new to CHRA. What perhaps is different is the manner in which the current complaints are being aired.

"If they want to bring in a housing advocate, they want to bring Legal Aid, they want to bring anybody for the legalities of things and if what we're doing is legal, they can, but they don't do it," Paula said. "Instead, they go to the newspaper, they go to the city council, they go to the mayor."

"Why are they actually trying this in the court of public opinion, like at city council meetings, or in the boardroom?" Reed asked. "I can't answer that question."

CELL...Continued from page 10

Finlayson, Graceville, Grygla, Hovland, Isabella, Lewiston and Williams.

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SECTION 7A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

# Runners-up

Grizzlies take second in sectional tourney

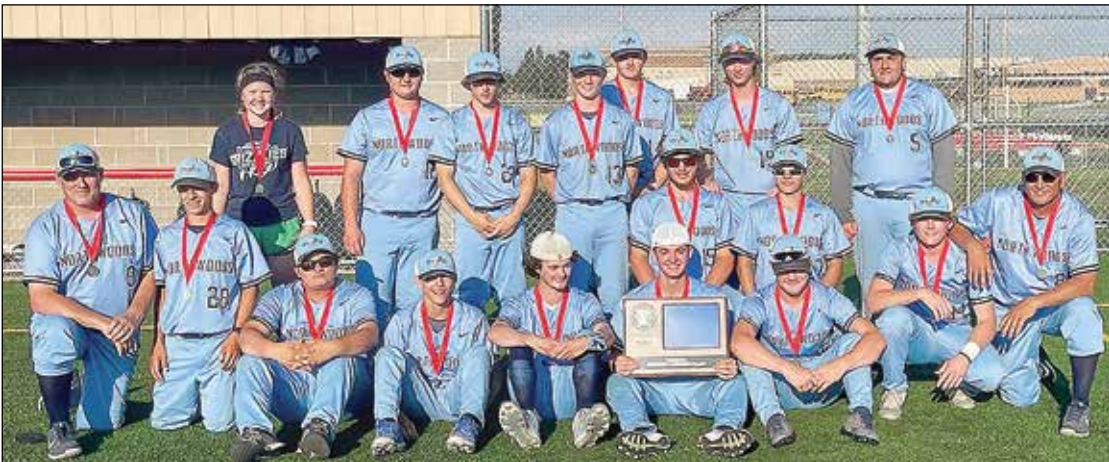
by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- No doubt the North Woods Grizzlies would have liked a better showing last week in the Section 7A baseball tournament finale than the frustrating 14-0 loss the South Ridge Panthers dealt to them, but behind this cloud there was a silver lining. Reaching the sectional tournament championship game is the

best finish ever for a North Woods baseball team, accomplishing a goal coaches and players were focused on from the start of the season.

“On the first day of practice, when we were in the gym, I told them to look at the banners,” Head Coach Jeff Smerud said. “Under baseball, there’s nothing. I’ve been telling them all year it’s

See **TOURNEY**...pg. 2B



The Grizzlies baseball team poses with their Section 7A runners-up trophy, marking the end of their most successful season to date. Pictured: (front row, l-r) Ass’t Coach RJ Kruse, players Alex Burckhardt, AJ Zakrajshek, Talen Jarshaw, Andrew Zika, Cole Thiel, Zach Cheney, Ben Kruse, Head Coach Jeff Smerud; middle row: Chris Chauklin and Logan Nurmi; back row: Manager Abby Koch, players Kohen Briggs, Austin Sokoloski, Louis Panichi, Ty Leinonen, Jake Panichi, and Caleb Uchal.



Above, right, and lower right: Dancers go through their routines during the Sah Gii Bah Gah powwow held earlier this month at Nett Lake.

photos by D. Colburn



NETT LAKE TRADITIONS

# Sah Gii Bah Gah powwow returns

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- In the Anishinaabe language, “Sah Gii Bah Gah” means “moon of the bursting buds,” according to a trivia post on the Bois Forte Nutrition Education Facebook page.

But in the life of the Bois Forte Band, and particularly those living at Nett Lake, it means the renewal of the traditional three-day Sah Gii Bah Gah pow wow, traditionally held the first weekend in June, that was canceled last year due to concern over the coronavirus

It’s like a breath of fresh air. It’s like having our heartbeat back again.

Michael Dunkley Jr.

pandemic.

The spiritual significance of the observance was not overlooked entirely last year, however. A Nett Lake drum circle still gathered with a small group of dancers to sing the songs inviting the blessings of

the spirits upon the re-emergence of life.

“Every spring we have that ceremony after the lake opens and before the leaves come out,” tribal elder Gene Goodsky said last year. “We’re asking for growth of all plants, rebirth of all the animals and the birds. We’re asking for rebirth of everything. We’re asking for regrowth of the wild rice. What we’re doing is feeding the lake.”

This year there were far more than a handful in attendance at Sah Gii Bah Gah. In fact, several attendees said they couldn’t remember ever

seeing so many tents encircling the pow wow grounds, and organizers brought in a semi-sized mobile shower unit to accommodate the overnight crowd.

Michael Dunkley Jr., who is originally from Red Lake but now lives in the Vermilion sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, has been dancing “for many decades” and was glad for the return of Sah Gii Bah Gah.

“It’s like a breath of fresh air,” he said. It’s like having our heartbeat back again. This is

See **POWWOW**...pg. 2B



OOPS!

# Mixer mayhem

Driver error blamed for Main Street cement spill

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — A trainee driver for a Duluth area ready-mix company accidentally dumped a considerable volume of cement on the Main Street here last Friday noon, creating a major headache for public works crews who had to clean up the resulting mess in the midst of heavy traffic ahead of the weekend.

Tower Public Works Director Ben Velcheff caught sight of the truck, owned and operated by Duluth Ready Mix, as it was about halfway through town. “I saw the rocks and cement falling out the

back and realized what was happening,” said Velcheff, who was in his city pickup at the time and turned around to speed off after the truck in hopes of flagging it down.

Velcheff caught up with the truck and said the driver, who was headed east, had accidentally triggered the discharge of cement after downshifting as he hit the speed zone at the west entrance to town. He left a line of cement down the middle of the eastbound lane of Main Street, from about Benchwarmers to the end of the speed zone at the east end of town.

See **CEMENT**...pg. 2B



Left: Vehicles on Tower’s Main Street kicked up dust and created a kind of fog that hung for a time over downtown in the wake of a cement spill that ran the entire length of Tower last Friday. Coming just ahead of the weekend, city clean-up efforts were hampered by heavy weekend traffic.

Above: A heavy-duty street sweeper from Breitung Township assisted with the clean-up effort.

photos by D. Colburn



## Students put to the test with accessible fish house project

Veterans on the Lake is located on Fall Lake and provides outdoor recreation opportunities to veterans year-round. Veterans on the Lake was started for the sole purpose of creating a recreational facility for disabled veterans to enjoy vacations. As a non-profit facility, this recreational location was designed to serve the needs of disabled veterans, able bodied veterans, active-duty military, their families, and friends.

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## EMBARRASS

# Celebrating sauna the Sisu way...

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

EMBARRASS- Over 200 people came together at the Nelimark Homestead in Embarrass to celebrate the Finnish tradition of sauna, last Saturday, for National Sauna Day.

"It went really well," said Sisu Heritage President Marlin Bjornrud, "after having to cancel last year, this looked like a good turnout. The only glitch was that the wind blew over a few canopies, but it kept the bugs away." All the mojakka (beef stew) and pulla (cardamom bread) sold out.

In addition to the two saunas on-site at the Nelimark, Christensen Sauna of Duluth brought a traveling sauna and Lamppa Manufacturing of Tower displayed their world-class stoves.

The highlight of the day was the boot-throwing competition. Boot throwing is much like throwing horseshoes; the goal is to throw a boot as close as possible to a peg. The tradition began with a love story, a man and wife in Finland who came across a swamp while walking through the woods. The poor couple only had one pair of water boots between them, so the man crossed

and threw the boots back to his wife, and thus the legend was born.

Shannon Gunderson entertained the crowd on her keyboard.

Sisu Heritage is raffling a handmade cedar strip canoe made by Donovan Strong to raise funds for restoration and upkeep of historic buildings. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the summer at \$5 each and a winner will be announced at the Embarrass Region Fair.

National Sauna Day is organized by Sisu Heritage. Sisu is also hosting a Diane Jarvi concert at the Apostolic Lutheran Church on Sunday, July 11 and a Community Night Out on Sunday, Sept. 12.

**Pictured (clockwise from top left) Logan earned the kids boot-throwing title. Old farm machinery is on display throughout the grounds. A traveling saunas was on display. This cedar strip canoe is being raffled off as a fundraiser. The Nelimark Sauna is on the National Register of Historic Places.**

photos by S. Ukkola



## Community notices

### Old Settlers set for the third Saturday in July

BREITUNG TWP- The 107th Vermilion Range Old Settlers Annual Reunion and Picnic is back on track for Saturday, July 17 at 12 noon at McKinley Park Campground.

Last year's picnic, which would have been the 106th year, was canceled due to the pandemic, but this year the committee feels they can safely serve up booyah to all who attend.

Membership is \$8 in advance by June 30, and \$10 the day of the picnic. Pre-registrations are greatly appreciated and can be mailed to: Vermilion Range Old Settlers Association, PO Box 724, Tower, MN 55790.

Steve Solkela, the one-man accordion band, will be this year's entertainment. If you haven't seen Steve in action, check him out on YouTube; he is definitely fun for all ages and a unique musical talent. Steve is no stranger to Old Settlers. He has family in the Tower-Soudan area, and he sang the National Anthem one summer when he was a youngster.

### Tables available at Greenwood Rummage Sale on June 26

GREENWOOD TWP- A group rummage sale will be held on Saturday, June 26 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Tables are \$10 each, fees will be donated to the Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Other tax-deductible donations will also be encouraged!

Organizers hope that everyone will come out to support this fundraiser for a wonderful community cause.

Call Pam Lundstrom at 218-753-3006 to reserve your table. There will be a set-up time on Friday, June 25 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### Vermilion Run gets underway July 3

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](http://www.rangerunners.org). A chip timing system will be used.

Runners are urged 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 to 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@vermilion-country.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilion-country.org).

### Police Committee Open House for Breitung-Tower residents set

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Breitung-Tower police committee has set Open Houses on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, June 23 at the Breitung Community Center at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Thursday, June 24 at the Tower Civic Center at 6 p.m.; and Friday, June 25th at the Tower Civic Center at 9 a.m.

At the open house, members of the police committee will share facts, figures and findings they have gathered with the public. Members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions, share opinions and fill out a survey. The committee will use the comments and surveys to make a final recommendation to the Breitung Town Board and

Tower City Council.

### Initial rehearsal set for June 24 for Midsummer singers

TOWER- A preview rehearsal will be held at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower on Thursday, June 24 at 7 p.m. for all who wish to sing at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center's Midsummer Festival in the Civic Center in Tower on August 28. Regular rehearsals will take place during the two weeks leading up to the gala. If you have any questions, or need more information, email director Larry Reynolds at [larryreynolds52@gmail.com](mailto:larryreynolds52@gmail.com).

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**38th Vermilion Walk & Run**

**Saturday, July 3 • Tower Main Street/Fire Hall Area**

• 10K Run - 8 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk - 8 a.m.  
• 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

**REGISTER/PAY ONLINE AT [www.rangerunners.org](http://www.rangerunners.org)**

Range Runners is providing Chip Timing this year!

10K/5K-\$20 • 12 & under free w/paid adult • Kids Run is FREE

Family Pricing for 5K Run/Walk is \$40

T-Shirts \$15 in advance/\$20 on race day

Registrations accepted race day 6:30 - 7:45 a.m.

For more information, call or text Jodi Summit at 218-750-3513 or email [jsummit@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org)

Sponsored by the Friends of Vermilion Country School

**Scenic Rivers Clinics**

**COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available**

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

**Cook Medical Vaccine Scheduling**

20 5th St SE  
(218) 361-3297

**Tower Medical Vaccine Scheduling**

415 N 2nd St, Suite 2  
(218) 753-2405

**1-877-541-2817**

[www.ScenicRiversHealth.org](http://www.ScenicRiversHealth.org)

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Obituaries and Death Notices



**Richard A. Nelson**  
Richard Andrew “Rick” Nelson, 73, a lifelong resident of Tower-Soudan, died on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, in Essentia Health Virginia Care Center. A memorial service was held on Thursday, June 17 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. Pastor Liz Cheney officiated. Private inurnment was in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the Immanuel Lutheran Church roof project. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.  
Rick was born on Dec. 26, 1947, in Soudan, the son of Richard O. and Elsie Bertha (Falk) Nelson. He was a graduate of, and swam competitively for, Tower-Soudan High School, and was a graduate of the University of Minnesota - Duluth. Rick served in the United States Army from May 1981 to May 1985. He attained the rank of Sargent (E-5) while stationed in the

Republic of Panama and was awarded the following medals: Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Achievement Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Parachutist Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Expert Badge with M-16 BAR, and Expert Badge with Hand Grenade BAR. He returned to Tower to look after his mother while she was ill.  
Rick was a creative writer and an artist; he enjoyed classical music, poetry, animals, and community service. He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, and the Potter’s Field project at Lakeview Cemetery. He cared for the grounds and sidewalks of many, many businesses and churches in Tower. Rick was a conscientious man with a beautiful soul, and a heart for helping others.  
Rick would like to thank everyone who crossed his path and showed him kindness. He will be missed by many.  
Rick is survived by his cousins, Andrea (Dan) Alto of Mt. Iron, Mike Alto of Mt. Iron, Linda Trucano of Virginia and John Craig Nelson of Oregon; friends, including Kay (Richard) Hanson of Tower; and all others who supported him through the years with caring donations.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, David.  
**Michael R. Salo**  
Michael Richard Salo, 81, of Babbitt, passed away in the presence of family on Monday, June 7, 2021. Per his wishes, there will not be a formal service, but a time to celebrate his life. Please join the family at Tank’s Bar & Restaurant, 14 Alder Rd. in Babbitt, on Saturday, June 26 from 1-3 p.m. to share your stories and memories. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in honor of Mike Salo may be sent to Embarrass Township, 7503 Levander Rd., Embarrass, MN 55732, to be used toward the historical tours.  
Michael, Mike, or Mickey, depending on how you knew him, was born on Oct. 17, 1939. He had a long career in the railroad, starting at the DM&IR railroad for two years and followed by 40 years at Erie Mining/LTV Steel. He was an avid outdoorsman, teaching his children about hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and making wood. Other interests included building stock cars; he spent many weekends at the Hibbing and Proctor racetracks and tinkering with his machinery and tractors. He was known for his stories and lore about his Finnish heritage and the hunting shack. He could mesmerize his audience for hours on end, but you always

came away with some sage advice.  
Mike was well-known and published by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* for his deep knowledge and his engaging sauna tours throughout the Embarrass area. Everyone who knew Mike would say that the Lord blessed him with a heavy helping of sisu.  
Mike is survived by a brother, Doug (Nancy Grierson) Salo; sister-in-law, Judy Salo; five children, Teri (John) Hilden, Kim (Robin Barbeau) Salo, Jodi (Mike) Schefers, Michelle (Jared) Wagoner and Travis (Kaylyn Mattson) Salo; nine grandchildren; and a niece.  
He was preceded in death by his parents, Eino and Lillian Salo; and brother, Robb Salo.  
**Donna M. Miller**  
Donna Mae Miller, 90, of Tower, died on Friday, June 4, 2021, in the Essentia Health Virginia Care Center. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 18 at Bauman’s Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. Pastor Liz Cheney will officiate. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service. Interment will take place in the Restlawn Memory Gardens in Huron, S. D. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.  
Donna was born on July 6, 1930, in Huron, S. D., the daughter

of Geoffrey and Alice (Anderson) Biggerstaff. She lived in Cloquet and Coleraine prior to being a longtime Tower resident. She was employed by the Cluett-Peabody Arrow Shirt Factory, and was the cleaning woman for Tower State Bank and Tower City Hall. Donna attended Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower; she enjoyed knitting and crocheting.  
Donna is survived by friends, including special friends, Vickie (Gerry) Tucker of Forbes and Judy Anderson of Tower.  
She was preceded in death by her parents.  
**Patricia A. Paciotti**  
Patricia Ann “Patty” Anderson Paciotti, originally of Tower, has died. A visitation for family and friends will begin at 10 a.m. with a memorial service to follow at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 19 in Cron-Sheehy Funeral Home in Eveleth. Visitation with light refreshments will continue until noon. Burial will take place in the Tower Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Gillette Children’s Hospital Foundation, 200 University Ave. East, St. Paul, MN 55101. Those who loved her are grateful for your continued thoughts and prayers.  
She is survived by her brother, James; sister, Bonnie; stepchildren, Joseph Paciotti and Jennifer Harbor (née) Paci-

otti; grandchildren, Hannah, Gina, Rylee, Logan, Enzo and Breanna; nieces, nephews and other extended family.  
**Shirley M. Sarkela**  
Shirley Maria Kari Sarkela, 90, of Virginia, died on Monday, June 7, 2021, in Waterview Pines. A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 12 at Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church in Virginia. Pastor Amy Janssen officiated. Inurnment was in the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.  
She is survived by her husband, Russell Wiitala of Virginia; children, Susan (Larry) Kohanek of Shakopee, Terri (Doug) Elfstrom of Web Lake, Wis., Nick (Shelly) Sarke-la of Jordan, Bryan (Allison) Wiitala of Mt. Iron, Cheryl (Bruce Johnson) Wiitala of St. Louis Park, Cathy (Rob Heim) Wiitala of Isanti and Janelle (Jeff) Paschke of Andover; daughter-in-law, Sherry Wiitala of Mt. Iron; sister, Violet Moravitz of Ely; sister-in-law, Darlene Kari of Cedar; grandchildren, Jeffrey, Amy, Landon, Tanya, Renee, Heather, Matt, Mayme, Mikael, Alex, Reeve, Melanie, Angela, Kate, Leonard, Amber and Melissa; 34 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and extended family and friends.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce Invites You to be an Active Part of Your Business Community



**What is the Ely Chamber of Commerce’s purpose?** The Ely Chamber of Commerce leads a thriving, sustainable economic community through leadership and advocacy, strategic partnerships, career development of its workforce, and business diversity and education.  
**Why should I join/maintain a chamber membership?** As a chamber member, you can develop through networking, education and advocacy, and directly impact the success of the business community. Full membership enables you to vote on the direction of business and economic development opportunities, participate in those opportunities, enjoy business referrals and advertising opportunities, receive aggregate news and more.  
**How is the Chamber funded?** The chamber is funded through its membership dues and funds raised through the three chamber sponsored events . We are not funded by lodging, city, county or other tax dollars. To learn more visit Ely.org/membership or call 218-365-6123.

2020-2021 Chamber Membership Role

A Stay Inn Ely	Duane's Canoe Outfitters	Forest Concrete Products, Inc.	Northern Tier National High Adventure	Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters
Adventure Inn	Dutchman Tree Service LLC*	Frandsen Bank & Trust	Northernair Lodge	Spirit of the Wilderness Store
All Phase Construction	Echo Shores Resort	Front Porch Coffee and Tea Company	NorthRidge Community Credit Union	Steger Mukluks
Arrowhead Outdoors	Echo Trail Outfitters	Garden Lake Resort	Northwind Lodge*	Studio North - Dance & Fitness Center
Bear Head Lake State Park Campgd	Edward Jones, Jeffrey K. Sundell, Jr.	Gene Hicks Gourmet Coffees LLC	Northwoods Collision & Auto Sales	Sundell Eye Associates*
Bear Island Land Co., Inc.	Edwards Oil and Propane	G-Men Environmental Services	Northwoods Partners	Superior Fuel Oil/Starkman Oil
Big Lake Wilderness Lodge	Ely Area Credit Union	Grand Ely Lodge	OJ's HVAC & Refrigeration	The Art Corner
Big Lake Wilderness Outfitters	Ely Area Senior Citizens	Grand Ely Lodge Conference Center	OUT Mobile Escape Rooms	The Cabin
Boathouse Brewpub & Restaurant	Ely D.Q. Grill and Chill	Gruba Construction, LLC	Packsack Canoe Trips++++	The Chocolate Moose*
Boundary Cabin Getaway+*	Ely Echo+	Healthy Families Chiropractic*	Packsack Log Cabins++++	Timber Bay Houseboats
Boundary Waters Bank+	Ely Family Dental*	Holden Duluth Insurance Agency	Paddle Inn Motel	Timber Bay Lodge
Boundary Waters Guide Service+	Ely Fishing Guide Company LLC	Holiday	Park State Bank	Timber Trail Lodge^
Boundary Waters Journal	Ely Flower and Seed and Greenhouse	International Wolf Center+	Pengal's Basswood Trading Company	Timber Trail Motels^
Boundary Waters Outfitters^	Ely Folk School	Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation	Peshel Accounting	Trembath's Machine & Welding+
Brandenburg Gallery	Ely Golf Club	J & L Hardware/Ben Franklin & Rental	Pine Manor Townhouses	Twin Metals Minnesota+++
Burntside Lodge	Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club	Joe's Marine & Repair+	Pine Point Lodge	USFS Kawishiwi District
Camp Van Vac LLC	Ely License Bureau, Inc.	Klun Law Firm	Piragis Northwoods Co.^	Vermilion Community College
Camp Voyageur	Ely Log Cabin*	Kovall Construction+	Piragis Northwoods Outfitters^	Veterans on the Lake Resort
Canadian Border Outfitters	Ely Northland Market++++	Lady Bug Lodge	R & R Transfer	Voltz Technologies
Canadian Waters	Ely Outfitting Company+	LaTourell's Moose Lake Outfitters	Range Cenex Ely	Voyageur North Outfitters
Canoe Country Cabins++++	Ely Rotary Club	LaTourell's Resort	Range Design & Print+	Walker Giroux & Hahne
Canoe Country Campground++++	Ely Sportswear Inc.	Linda Fryer	Range LP Gas	Walsh Septic Systems
Canoe Country Outfitters++++	Ely Steak House+	Listening Point Foundation	Range Regional Airport*	Way To Go Canoe Outfitters
Carefree Living Ely	Ely Subway, Inc.	Lucky Boy Services*	Range Reliable Agency, Inc.	Wells Fargo+++
Central Avenue Business Park, LLC	Ely Surplus & Outdoor	Lucky Seven General Store	Raven Words Press	White Wolf Dog Sled Trips
Charles R. Zeugner CPA	Ely Timberjay+	Margaret Wood	Razor Edge Systems, Inc.	WildWoods Land Company
Chilly Dogs Sled Dog Trips	Ely Up North Retreat*	Mary's Spinning Wheel++	River Point Outfitting Co.	Williams & Hall Wilderness Outfitters
Cindy Harrison*	Ely Vision-Optometry Center, PC+	Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop	River Point Resort	Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge
City of Ely	Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital++	Merhar's Ace Hardware	River Point Villas & Chalets On The Lake	Wintergreen Northern Wear LLC
City of Winton	ElyLodging.com	Midcontinent Communications	Riverside Resort & Island Campsites	YMCA Camp du Nord
City of Babbitt	Ely's Historic State Theater	Mike's Liquors+	Rockwood Bar & Grill of Ely, Inc.	YMCA Camp Northern Lights
Cliff Wold's Outfitting Co.	Ely's Old-Fashioned Candy	Motel Ely	Schulze Excavating	Zone 3 Gardens*
Comfort Plus	ElyWear	NAPA Parts Center++	Scott Anderson, DDS++	Zupancich Trucking Inc.
CQ Squared*	Ely-Winton Historical Society	NIXTERIC*	Shagawa Inn Resort	Zup's Food Market++++
Crapola	Eric Sherman Images	Norshor Agency, Inc.	Shagawa Inn Resort Motels on the Lake	
CTC*	Espland's Resort	North American Bear Center+	Silver Rapids Lodge	<i>New Member*</i>
Cunningham Electric, Inc.	Evergreen Restaurant-Antlers Lounge	North Country Canoe Outfitters	Silver Rapids Lodge - Lakeside Suites	<i>Bronze President's Circle Member+</i>
Custom Cabin Rentals	Excel Business Systems	Northeast Title Company	Silver Rapids Lodge Campgrounds	<i>Silver President's Circle Member++</i>
Docks on Wheels	Fall Lake Campground/Rec Res Mgmt	Northern Grounds	Sisu Designs Yarn Shop	<i>Gold President's Circle Member+++</i>
Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust	Fenske Lake Cabins	Northern Lakes Arts Association*	Snowbank Lodge and Outfitters	<i>Platinum President's Circle Member++++</i>
Dorothy Molter Museum				<i>Greenstone President's Circle Member^</i>



ELY DOWNTOWN UPGRADES

Ely's new pocket park completed on Chapman St.

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - The city of Ely’s first pocket park was completed this week. The tiny green space was developed on a vacant lot previously occupied by the former Pamida building near the corner of 1st Avenue East and Chapman Street.

The project included the addition of extensive landscaping, lighting, seating, ADA access, a small concrete stage for music events, a play-ground climbing feature and public WiFi.

The lot is owned by the Ott Family and Alley A Realty, who partnered with the city of Ely to develop the new public community space on Ely’s main street. The Department of Iron Range Resources Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$50,000 Downtown Streetscapes grant. Total investment in the project was \$146,000. Other funding partners include Alley A Realty/The Ott Family, Incredible Ely and the Ely Utilities Commission.

“The Downtown Streetscapes grant is part of our agency’s commitment to the livelihood and stability of our rural communities,” said IRRR

Commissioner Mark Phillips. “Business corridors and main streets with attractive public spaces and amenities can play a significant role in attracting private sector investment, new residents and patrons.”

The Ely pocket park is part of a larger downtown beautification initiative that began in 2016 to complement ongoing storefront and building investments being made by Ely’s business owners, according to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

“Our streetscape improvements include LED decorative lighting, banners, hanging baskets and planters for flowers, new trash receptacles, sidewalk renovations, bike racks, information kiosks and benches,” he said.

Grants from IRRR are funded through taxes paid by Minnesota’s mining industry. For Downtown Streetscapes grant information, email Whitney Ridlon at whitney.ridlon@state.mn.us, or call her at 218-735-3004.

**The recently-completed park (above) was built in a formerly vacant lot (right).**  
photos by K. Vandervort



Pine Island parcels sell in county land auction

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- In the latest St. Louis County online forfeited property auction that wrapped up on June 10, water-only access was apparently either a boom or bust to prospective buyers of North Country properties.

Buyers weren’t deterred by having to take a boat to Pine Island in Lake Vermilion, as four of five residential-zoned properties there sold. Conversely, six properties on Ban Lake in Beatty Township with lake frontage but water-only access failed to attract any minimum bids.

Among the Pine Island properties, a 74-acre parcel east of undeveloped but platted Canfield Road in Breitung Township generated the most heated bidding, with William Kaper Jr.’s winning offer of \$61,105 coming in at well more than twice

the \$24,000 assessed value. The auction listing said the parcel contains some wetlands but adjoins an undeveloped platted road that leads to the lake. Two other inland parcels on Pine Island, also in Breitung Township, were sold for the listed appraised value, including a .77-acre tract to Steve Sauerbry for \$17,850 and a 1.14-acre parcel to Gregg Rosenberger for \$13,275. Both adjoin undeveloped platted roads.

A .48-acre Canfield Bay tract consisting of three lots with about 150 feet of total lake frontage was purchased by Alvin and Florette Hujanen for the appraised price of \$55,400. The tract is adjacent to 5762 Canfield Bay, also owned by the Hujanens, according to county tax records.

Away from the lakes, it was a 25-acre tract with a dilapidated barn on Forest Road 257 that drew the

attention of bidders. The property, east of and adjacent to 8071 Hwy. 53 in the unorganized township south of Angora, was appraised at \$20,400. It ultimately sold for \$55,200 to Jason Hancock, who also owns the 8071 Hwy. 53 property. The property is zoned Forest Agricultural Management.

Additional area sales included:

➤ A 10-acre tract south of Hwy. 22 on Sand Creek in Morcom Township sold to Bruce M. Sandberg for \$7,000, \$800 more than the appraised value. The tract is zoned for Forest Agricultural Management.

➤ A 40-acre parcel in Vermilion Lake Township north of Wahlsten Road with about 1,300 feet of

frontage on the Pike River sold to Dale Niemi for \$21,800, also \$800 more than the appraised value. The parcel is zoned for multiple use.

County Director of Land and Minerals Julie Marinucci said that 15 of the 29 properties sold in the online auction had competing bids. The auction results in \$903,575 in sales.

About 140 properties are available for sale on a first-come, first-served basis, including properties not purchased during the auction, Marinucci said. The list of those properties, along with results from the June 10 auction, can be found online at st-louiscountymn.gov/land-sales.

Janet Gensler Memorial  
ELY 4 on the 4TH

Sunday, July 4, 2021  
Miner's Lake Trezona Trailhead  
4 Mile Run and Walk

8 AM Fast Run / 8:05 AM General Run  
8:10 AM Walk

Parking and registration will occur in the parking lot at the corner of Central Avenue and Miner's Drive

Online registration is available at active.com.  
Day-of-race is available. Payment via cash or check only.  
Questions can be emailed to: jkdunn@hotmail.com

Race day July 4th  
registration  
opens 6:40 AM  
closes 7:40 AM

All proceeds go to fund  
the Ely Track Club.

BREITUNG-TOWER  
Residents:

The Breitung / Tower police committee has set Open Houses' on the following dates and times:  
Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at the Breitung Community Center at 10 AM and 6 PM  
Thursday, June 24, 2021 at the Tower Civic Center at 6 PM and Friday, June 25, 2021 at the Tower Civic Center at 9 AM.  
At the open house, members of the police committee will share facts, figures and findings they have gathered with the public. Members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions, share opinions and fill out a survey. The committee will use the comments and surveys to make a final recommendation to the Breitung Town Board and Tower City Council.

Subscribe (218) 753-2950  
or online at timberjay.com

Hope for Hospice

4K Walk / Run

Saturday, June 26 • 9AM

9447 Ashawa Road, Cook  
(Old County Garage)

• Register by June 3 to guarantee a t-shirt

• Adults \$40 in advance \$45 day of race

• Kids 6 to 13 yrs \$15 in advance \$20 day of race

• Kids 5 years and under FREE

Register at: [www.vhhp.org](http://www.vhhp.org)

When the sun goes down,  
the stars will shine!

16th ANNIVERSARY!

Mesabi Trail

The 2021 Bike Tour is Sponsored by

For families,  
casual and  
serious riders

Choose from three different tours!

Recreational Bike Tour  
Series on the Mesabi Trail

(Each tour is limited to 200 riders)

Tour #1 - July 31, 2021

Start/Finish - Chisholm, MN Discovery Center

Turn-Around #1 - 12 miles to Leetonia  
(a total of 24 miles out & back on the Mesabi Trail)

Turn-Around #2 - 22.5 miles to O'Brien Reservoir  
(a total of 45 miles out & back)

Online Registration OPENS - June 19, 2021

Tour #2 - August 28, 2021

Start/Finish - Gr. Rapids, Itasca Co. Fairgrounds

Turn-Around #1 - 12 miles to Taconite  
(a total of 24 miles out & back on the Mesabi Trail)

Turn-Around #2 - 24 miles to Nashwauck  
(a total of 48 miles out & back)

Online Registration OPENS - July 19, 2021

Tour #3 - September 18, 2021

Start/Finish - Virginia, Olcott Park

Turn-Around #1 - 14 miles to Buhl  
(a total of 28 miles out & back on the Mesabi Trail)

Turn-Around #2 - 26 miles to Hibbing  
(a total of 52 miles out & back)

Online Registration OPENS - August 16, 2021

\$45/Individuals \$90/Families  
Kids 16 and under ride FREE

For more info, call 877-637-2241  
or go to [mesabitrail.com](http://mesabitrail.com)



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., June 21 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 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Teresa Debevec, CEO

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

DECLARATION OF LAND PATENT  
Michael William Vittori©

Located on the Land and Soil  
St. Lous 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, June 18, 2021

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

FROM THIS... TO THIS!



To volunteer or for more  
information contact:

Sue Drobac at:  
sue.drobac@greenwoodtownshipmn.com

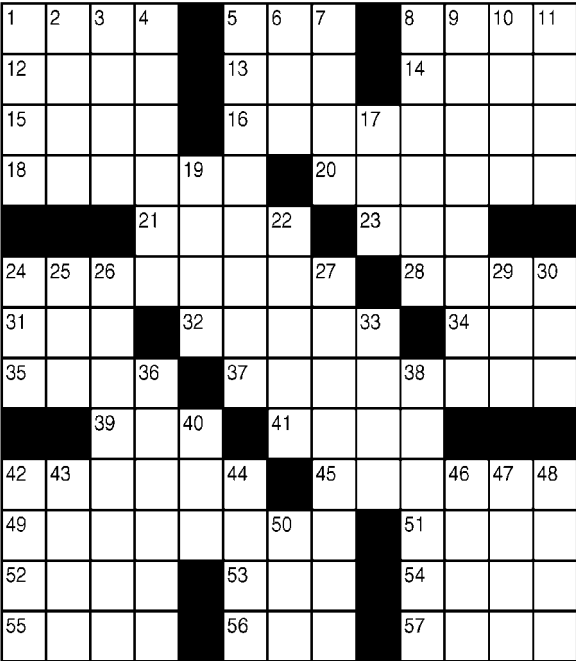
Barbara Lofquist at:  
barbara.lofquist@greenwoodtownshipmn.com

Legal notices online  
at timberjay.com

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian deity
- 5 Piercing tool
- 8 Probability
- 12 Lion's share
- 13 Hot tub
- 14 Stench
- 15 Unoriginal one
- 16 Home to the Buccaneers
- 18 Pizza topping
- 20 Wine container
- 21 Off-white
- 23 Dict. info
- 24 Spoofs
- 28 Pharma-ceutical
- 31 Playwright Levin
- 32 Leg bone
- 34 Mentalist's gift
- 35 Rhett's last word
- 37 Mildew cause
- 39 Scratch
- 41 Valentine flower
- 42 Molds
- 45 Foliage
- 49 Marshmallow toaster
- 51 Carousel, for one
- 52 "I cannot tell —"
- 53 Pair



- 54 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 55 Fork setting
- 56 Still, in verse
- 57 Orange veg-gies

DOWN

- 1 Apple com-puter
- 2 Former frosh
- 3 "Got it"
- 4 Meryl of film
- 5 Space rock
- 6 New Deal agcy.
- 7 Gentle soul

- 8 Gave a speech
- 9 Owing nothing
- 10 Transaction
- 11 Terrier type
- 17 Group of seals
- 19 Highlander
- 22 Release a deadbolt
- 24 Cover
- 25 Altar constel-lation
- 26 Abba-inspired hit musical
- 27 Buck
- 29 Constitution letters
- 30 Family docs
- 33 Church sec-tion
- 36 Caught some z's
- 38 Almost
- 40 Ump
- 42 "Lion King" villain
- 43 Sainly ring
- 44 Faction
- 46 Travel permit
- 47 Dutch cheese
- 48 Collections
- 50 Regret

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EMPLOYMENT



Sewing Staff

Wintergreen Northern Wear creates quality outdoor apparel on the main street of Ely, MN. We are looking for creative, talented individuals to sew our garments. If you love to sew, we'd love to have you on our team! Sewing experience is required. We'll train you on our industrial machines. Livable wages, a cheery, clean work environment and benefits included. \$16 an hour for skilled work. Call 218-365-6602 or email sola@wintergreen-northernwear.com for more information. Apply by email or at our store located at 205 East Sheridan Street, Ely, MN.

Retail Staff

Wintergreen Northern Wear creates quality outdoor apparel on the main street of Ely, MN and is looking for a friendly, outgoing and experienced individual to join our retail team! If you're looking for a dynamic position with competitive wages that will keep you busy full time and year round, email sola@wintergreen-northernwear.com or contact by phone at 218-365-6602. Preferred qualifications: Customer Service or Retail experience, love of the outdoors, and computer-savvy. \$15 an hour minimum after training with benefits included. Feel free to swing by for more information and to meet some of the crew! 6/25



City of Tower  
Clerk/Treasurer  
Salary: TBD  
Application Deadline:  
08/31/2021

Summary of Job Duties (full job description online)

- See that City Charter, City Ordinances, City Resolutions and other applicable laws are enforced
- Oversee all departments and employees
- Recommend to the Council for the adoption such measures deemed necessary for the welfare of the people and efficient administration of the City
- Keep the City fully appraised of the financial condition of the City

Have Experience in several of the following areas: Government Administrative Activities (Approvals, Public Notices, Minutes, Agenda and Agenda Material Preparation, Proper Execution of Motions, Minutes, and Ordinances); Finance (Budgeting, Claims Processing, Payroll, Contract Making / Bid Letting, Grant Processing, Taxes, Reporting Requirements); Human Resources; Real Estate and Zoning ; Grant Processing; Data Practice; Document Retention Policies and Storage; Elections; IT Support (computers, routers, servers, security system, electronic entry); Customer Service

For more information, contact:  
Deputyclerk@cityoftower.com , or online at  
https://cityoftower.com/positions-available

Published in the Timberjay, June 18, 2021



Steger Mukluks is Hiring!

Factory Work: FT Year-round  
Sales Work: FT, PT & Seasonal

Apply at 100 Miners Dr. in Ely  
or call 218-365-6553 tfn

POSITION OPENING  
Ely Public Schools  
Paraprofessional (2 positions)

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

Qualifications include:

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

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

A complete application must include the following:

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

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

Start Date: September 1, 2021

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: June 24, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, June 18, 2021

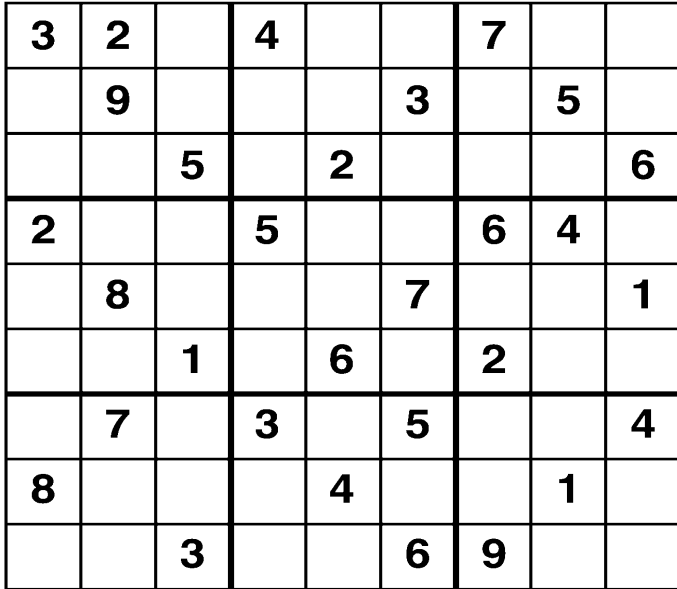
Super Crossword

Answers



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

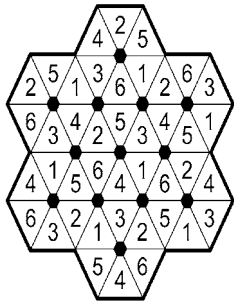
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

solution



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(218) 753-2950



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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS- 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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ELLY 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.

King Crossword

Answers  
Solution time: 22 mins.

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

**Adverstising PAYS OFF!**

**Call 753-2950**  
subscribe to the Timberjay!

BUILDING SERVICES

**All Out Contracting**  
Septic Systems, Site Preparation, Land Clearing, Brushing, Class-5, Black Dirt, Sand, Boulders

**Cody Wooster**  
218-290-6939  
ALLOUTLLC@outlook.com  
Licensed, Insured, Bonded

**EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC**  
"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"  
Superior Quality  
• Plank Paneling  
• Trim  
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings  
• Industrial Lumber  
**218-744-1788**  
8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

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 Whiteeagleresort.com. tfn

SATURDAY HOUSEKEEPING HELP NEEDED AT PIKE BAY LODGE, Lake Vermilion, Tower. \$15/hr. Call Jay at 218-753-2430. 6/25c

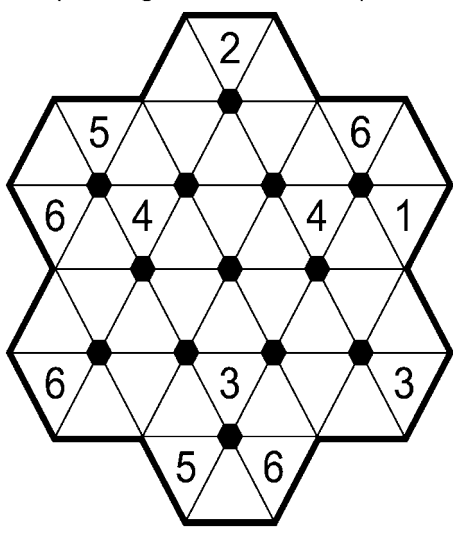
PAINTING

SUMMER SPECIAL ON EXTERIOR PAINTING & STAINING- Free estimated. A-FAB Carpentry. Licensed/Insured. Contact Mike at 218-235-7069 or a\_fab@icloud.com. 25 Years Experience. 6/25p

**Your ad here... call (218) 753-2950**

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

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

MARINE

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

**MERCURY OUTBOARDS**  
Frank's Marine Sales & Service  
Mercury, Crestliner, Lund  
www.franksmarinesales.com  
franksmarine@centurytel.net  
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

**Handberg's MARINA**  
ALLIANCE MARINE  
SALES • SERVICE  
RENTALS  
GENERAL STORE  
218-993-2214  
www.handbergs.com

RUMMAGE SALE

PERRAULT'S IN VIRGINIA- 302 4th St S (2 blocks south of Garden Bowling Lanes). 7:30 a.m. to ?, June 16, 17, 18. Come and shop before work. Plus-size clothes (like new), furniture, lotza bric-a-brac. 6/18p

HUGE ESTATE SALE- June 18 & 19, 8-4 both days. Park on road. 1233 Walsh Rd. on Eagles Nest Lake 2. Wide variety of items for sale. 218-365-2815. 6/18p

GREENWOOD RUMMAGE SALE- Saturday, June 26 at the Greenwood Town Hall from 9-6. Tables are \$10 each, with fees going to the Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Call Pam at 218-753-3006 to reserve a table. Set up times will be on June 25. Coffee an' will be available. 6/25nc

HUGE GARAGE SALE- June 25, 8-5, and June 26, 8-2. 6846 Pike River Rd., Tower. A HUGE variety of items! Lots of stuff! Something for everyone. 6/25

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

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

Super Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Austrian peaks  
5 MLB stat  
8 Mitch who wrote "Tuesdays With Morrie"  
13 Three-tone chords  
19 Toxin-fighting fluids  
20 Critter treater  
21 "The king," in France  
22 Popular social news website  
23 Extracted element #79 with a big hammer?  
26 Renée of silent films  
27 "Science Kid" of PBS  
28 Reinforcing eyelet in a hole  
29 Go out on —  
31 Chilling stuff  
32 Unfeeling  
34 Element #16 that's causing difficulty?  
37 Owls' prey  
38 Carrere of "Jury Duty"  
41 Fleming and McKellen  
42 "August: Osage County" playwright Tracy  
43 "That celestial object seems to be composed of element #5?"  
48 Tartan wearers, e.g.  
50 Some dashes  
51 Neighbor of Lithuania  
52 Off-road rides, in brief  
53 Before now  
56 Sea rovers plundering element #6?  
60 Big road rig  
63 Bismarck-to-Austin dir.  
64 — Tomè  
65 Overcomes  
66 Shawls, e.g.  
68 ICU worker  
71 Genetic ID  
73 Small sample  
74 Very virtuous  
77 Gaudy scarf  
79 Suffix with peace  
82 Prattle  
83 "Quit asking about my supply of element #83!"?  
88 Stew tidbit  
89 Birch, e.g.  
90 "Impossible for me"  
91 Small sample  
94 Twyla of dance  
96 Element #30 in a medicine cabinet?  
98 "George & —" (old talk show)  
101 Special glow  
103 "FWIW" part  
104 Gets the total  
105 Element #18 found in a city opposite Vancouver?  
110 Lightish sword  
111 Hub city for Israel's El Al  
112 Bad-smelling  
113 Narcissist's quality  
117 Biol. or anat.  
119 Combo punch  
121 Element #29 collected by actress Loni?  
124 Ancient Crete native  
125 To the point  
126 ETs' ship  
127 Gershon of "Face/Off"  
128 "— Wedding" (1990 Alan Alda film)  
129 Great Lakes tribespeople  
130 Go bad  
131 Crumb toters

**DOWN**  
1 Invites  
2 Russian Revolution theory  
3 Things made for sale  
4 Small pouch  
5 Unendingly  
6 Change  
7 Very little bit  
8 Change  
9 Without a — stand on  
10 Good pal  
11 "So chic!"  
12 Hanging to the calves, as a dress  
13 Brits' trolleys  
14 Popular energy drink  
15 Altar reply  
16 Free-floating  
17 Punched out, as jigsaw pieces  
18 Pilots  
24 CIA's onetime rival  
25 MLB arbiter  
30 Rescuee's cry  
33 "Give — call"  
35 Big box  
36 The, to Yves  
37 Fannie —  
38 Rows  
39 Lands in el océano  
40 Subsided  
44 MLB stat  
45 Raw rock  
46 Toys — (kids' chain)  
47 Bears, in Spain  
49 Suffix with opal  
52 Loads  
53 Put to shame  
54 "I — run!"  
55 First stage  
56 Brought (in), as music  
57 Voguish thing  
58 Rear, at sea  
59 Make it to  
60 Boggy area  
61 Bert's friend  
62 — Carta  
67 Surreptitious  
69 Double-reed instrument  
70 Bovine critter  
72 Aziz of "Master of None"  
75 Very little bit  
76 Small raisin  
78 Actress Kendrick  
80 "— one to complain ..."  
81 Accolades  
84 Disavow  
85 Net automaton  
86 I, to Wilhelm  
87 Hanks of film  
91 Slice-serve motion  
92 Not proper  
93 Windows 10 runners  
94 Blasting inits.  
95 To the middle point  
96 Drinking spot  
97 Microwave  
98 Poise  
99 Canadian dollar coin  
100 Passionate  
102 Comedian Gilda  
106 Long spans  
107 Fliers in V's  
108 Ugly beasts  
109 Tel. book collection  
110 Angsty rock genre  
114 See 123-Down  
115 News  
116 Kilt sporter  
118 Nest egg funds, for short  
120 How- — (DIY books)  
122 Soft & —  
123 With 114-Down, it includes the Brit. Open

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18
19					20				21						22					
23					24				25						26					
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83							84				85	86				87				
88						89				90								91	92	93
					94	95				96							97			
98	99	100					101		102					103				104		
105						106					107	108	109				110			
111					112					113				114	115	116			117	118
119					120				121		122							123		
124									125					126				127		
128									129					130				131		

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

CLIMATE

## On-again drought lowers water levels

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The region’s on-again, off-again flirtation with drought appears to be on-again, and that’s apparent in the continuing drop in water levels around the area. While scattered thundershowers have helped at times, the region continues to fall behind during what is normally the wettest time of the year.

The North Country relies on a five-month wet season, which runs

May-September, for nearly two-thirds of its annual precipitation, so shortfalls during the summer months are difficult to make up. May precipitation was well below average and most stations in the region are running below normal so far in June, as well.

That has left river levels continuing to fall, with all major Arrowhead watersheds now reporting low water levels.

The continuing below average precipitation is part of a dry pattern that has encompassed virtually the

entire western half of the country and has most recently moved into the Great Lakes region as well. The latest drought map from the U.S. Drought Monitor now shows all of Minnesota in various stages of drought, with drought conditions spreading east across much of Wisconsin and virtually all of Michigan. Just to the west, virtually all of North Dakota is currently experiencing extreme to exceptional drought, the most intense

See DRY SPELL...pg. 9B



High and dry. No water has flowed over the lip of the Pike River dam for the past few weeks, a testament to the low water levels around the region.

photo by M. HelMBERger



LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

## Full speed at area marinas

Skyrocketing demand and little supply has left area marine dealers scrambling

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The phones rarely stop ringing at Aronson Boat Works these days, and the conversations with would-be customers are pretty predictable. If you’d like to buy a boat, motor, or most any of the accompanying accessories, we’ll put you on the list — but it’s a long list.

It’s the same story at marinas across the region, as an unprecedented spike in demand for marine products, as with many other manufactured goods, has run head-on into a supply crunch that shows no signs of easing anytime soon. The situation has turned a business that is already busy for the mom-and-pop owners of many area marinas, into an all-consuming experience.

“April was especially over the top,” said John Niemiste, who operates Aronson with his wife Gretchen. “And it was the busiest fishing opener we’ve ever seen.”

The Niemistes are used to a hectic pace during peak season at their marina on Lake Vermilion, but they say they’ve never experienced such high demand for their product and services as they’ve seen since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic a year ago last March.

It’s not the only outdoor industry that’s been affected. Demand for a wide range of outdoor recreational gear jumped sharply as Americans adapted to indoor health restrictions by getting outside.

The trend caught many by surprise, which has only exacerbated the shortages. “When

COVID took off, I didn’t think I would sell anything last year,” said Chris Raridon, who owns and operates Frank’s Marine on Pelican Lake in Orr. “Instead, it went crazy. I think people were just tired of being locked in the house.”

At the same time, the stimulus packages passed by Congress over the past year have also put more money into the pockets of most Americans, notes Raridon, who believes some of those dollars trickled down to marine dealers.

If customers weren’t looking for new boats or motors, they were looking to service equipment they hadn’t used in a while. “We had a lot of people come in with boats that hadn’t been run in four or five years,” said Raridon.

Others opted for used boats and motors, given that new product isn’t available.

“The used market has gone crazy,” said Raridon. “I talked to one guy who said he put his used boat on Craigslist for five minutes and had ten calls from people with cash in hand who wanted it.”

If people can’t find boats to buy, they’re looking to rent. “Our rental business has been up like we’ve never experienced,” said Jeff Sanborn, who owns and operates Handberg’s Marine in Crane Lake with his wife Lori.

While they may be at the literal end of the road, that isolation hasn’t kept the impact of the product shortage at bay. “Boats we ordered for customers back in December haven’t even been built yet,” said Sanborn. “Outboards we ordered a year

**Above: Coming, going, and just arriving at Aronson Boat Works on Lake Vermilion. The marine operation can’t keep up with the huge spike in demand for boats, motors, and service.**

photo by M. HelMBERger

**Right: It’s been a hectic summer at Frank’s Marine in Orr as well.**

photo by D. Colburn

**Below: Gretchen Niemiste, at Aronson Boat Works, tries to track down a part for a customer.**

photo by M. HelMBERger



## Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower  
CANADA ANEMONE



It looks like an excellent year for **Canada Anemone** *Anemone canadensis*, which is blooming abundantly in many sunny locations right now. Look for this flower, which spreads through rhizomes, blooming in loose colonies. The plants stand 1-2 feet tall and sports deeply cut leaves in addition to its prominent five-petaled white flowers.

This is a plant that seems to prefer wet feet and seems to be most abundant in wet meadows, or along lakeshores or stream banks.

## Nature Notes

This week’s feature  
YELLOW-HEADED  
BLACKBIRD



An unusual and dramatic visitor has been showing up across the region. Yellow-headed blackbirds are typically absent from northeastern Minnesota, but they’ve been appearing in significant numbers here this year. It happens periodically, typically when the Dakotas and western Minnesota are experiencing drought.

Like their red-winged cousins, yellow-headed blackbirds nest predominantly in freshwater marshes, particularly those dominated by cattails. The ongoing severe drought to our west has likely reduced these birds’ favored habitat, so they’ve shifted to the east looking for suitable wetlands for nesting.

These are striking birds, with their prominent yellow heads and chests contrasting dramatically with their black lower half, combined with white wing patches. Be on the lookout. These birds only show up here once every decade or so.



MAKING PROGRESS



The newly reconstructed bog walk, in Orr, is nearly completed and could be open for visitors as early as next week. photo by D. Colburn

Fishing report

Kab-Nam area

Finally, a break from the heat! With the sun and record high temps lately, most of Kab is in the mid-to-upper 70’s. Doing a fishing report these days can be a challenge. We never know what Mother Nature is going to throw at us but one thing we are sure of is that the walleye bite has been inconsistent. The best fishing has been early mornings and evenings. Fish are still quite scattered throughout Kab in depths ranging from 6’-40’. I know, not much to focus on but with that being said, the shallow bite has been better with almost all presentations in play now. With the massive forage base still in the shallows, focusing on these areas is your best bet during low light hours. Deeper fish being found are lethargic and mostly unwilling to cooperate. Be willing to be on the move constantly and have a variety of presentations available.

On the bright side, small mouth bass and northern pike are still extremely active taking just about anything you throw at them. Shallow bays and shorelines are still producing best. Some smallies are still on the beds but that will be coming to an end any day now.

DRY SPELL...

Continued from page 8B category of drought. The weekend forecast offers mostly sunny skies, with only a chance for scattered showers. Temperatures will be seasonable, with highs in the upper 60s to low 70s.

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Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
68 47				72 50				69 48				63 42				67 44			
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.
06/07	89	55	0.00	06/07	90	54	0.00	06/07	89	58	0.00	06/07	84	54	0.00	06/07	88	53	0.00
06/08	88	58	0.15	06/08	87	54	0.58	06/08	83	60	0.80	06/08	84	61	2.61	06/08	88	54	1.05
06/09	89	60	0.01	06/09	88	56	0.00	06/09	83	60	0.00	06/09	88	61	0.00	06/09	86	58	0.00
06/10	85	61	0.02	06/10	86	60	0.00	06/10	88	59	0.12	06/10	82	59	1.27	06/10	86	58	0.08
06/11	89	59	0.00	06/11	87	60	0.00	06/11	80	59	0.00	06/11	77	61	0.01	06/11	84	59	0.00
06/12	71	53	0.01	06/12	73	50	0.00	06/12	75	55	0.01	06/12	79	55	0.00	06/12	73	50	0.00
06/13	79	45	0.00	06/13	77	43	0.00	06/13	78	54	0.00	06/13	73	52	0.00	06/13	77	44	0.00
Total			6.20	YTD Total			6.87	YTD Total			7.25	YTD Total			10.21	YTD Total			8.41

MARINAS...Continued from page 8B

ago have still not been delivered.” Sanborn said the industry is facing a combination of a huge and unforeseen spike in demand for products at a time when manufacturers are experiencing shortages of both the parts they need as well as manpower to assemble it all. “One of their big challenges is shipping [of parts],” said Sanborn. “Asian shipping is way up and companies can’t get [shipping] containers as a result.”

Since boat manufacturers rely on components manufactured in Asia in some cases, the shipping showdown has slowed their ability to maintain a steady production flow. “Even if you’re missing just one part, you can’t run a line,” noted Sanborn.

Niemiste notes that even when manufacturers have been able to obtain parts, they’ve also struggled to attract the workers they need. “Lund is looking into robotic riveters because they can’t find people,” he said.

The situation has created a quandary for marina operators, since they have seemingly endless demand for a product they currently can’t supply. For a time, Niemiste was traveling sometimes hundreds of miles to pick up product from other dealers who were willing to part with excess stock. But that’s not possible anymore, since virtually no marine dealer has any stock remaining. “We’re out of product to sell at this point,” said Niemiste. “And I know I’m not going to get anything else in this summer. Anything that does come in is already sold.”

Raridon agreed there’s little point in searching from other dealers at this point. “I have people calling from other parts of the country looking for things like motors. That tells there’s nothing available there, either.”

Upset customers

The situation is frustrating to customers as well as marina operators, and it that has added another layer of stress as owners and staff try to deal with potential customers who aren’t used to hearing “no” when they have cash they want to spend. “You have to get a little short with people at times,” said Niemiste.

Raridon acknowledges that some customers get frustrated, but he said most now recognize that the shortage of manufactured products is not confined to the marine industry. “You can’t get anything right now,” said Raridon. “Car lots are sitting nearly empty. It’s months of waiting to buy something like an ATV,” he said. “So, most people have been pretty good.”

The supply crunch in so many sectors has encouraged some customers to order earlier than ever. Niemiste said he’s had people putting down money in May for boats that likely won’t be delivered before next summer. Raridon said he’s seeing the same thing, and that’s why he expects no short-term letup in the intense pace being experienced by marinas across the region. “I think it’s going to be another decent year next year,” he said.

In fact, Niemiste notes that some forecasters for the industry see strong demand for marine products through at least the next 3-5 years. While the industry has certainly been impacted by the effects of the pandemic, Niemiste suggests there may be more to it. “We’ve basically changed to a new generation [of buyers],” he said.

Finding down time

While the marine business in the North Country has always been intense in the spring, and to a lesser extent in the fall as marinas

prep boats for winter storage, there were times for marina owners and workers to catch their breath.

Where do these business owners find time for a personal life? “Right now, we don’t have one,” said Sanborn. “You throw in some community service, like being on the fire department, and no, you don’t have a life outside of that.”

For the Niemistes, winter used to offer a break and they would often spend at least a month in Florida as a way to unwind from the hectic pace the rest of the year. “But we really didn’t get that this past winter,” said Gretchen Niemiste. “We did get to Florida, but we were on the email all the time, trying to keep up with everyone wanting boats and motors,” she said. “It certainly wasn’t the break it used to be. Our business has really become year-round.”

The intense nature of the business can be daunting at times. When first contacted by the Timberjay for this story, the usually cheerful and upbeat Lori Sanborn said she simply didn’t any time to talk. “I’ve got ten different things going on,” she said, sounding a bit exasperated.

It was a feeling that the Niemistes say they know well. John said he tries to take at least a moment out of the day to do something for himself, even if it’s just buying something he needs at the store. He and Gretchen are in the process of building a small boat access cabin as a kind of retreat. “We call it our mental health cabin,” he said.

Jeff Sanborn that the pace can be draining at times, and said there’s no end in sight. “You expect it to be busy in the spring, but now it looks like we’ll going at this pace at least through August,” he said.

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- Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
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**DRAIN**

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

**DRY**

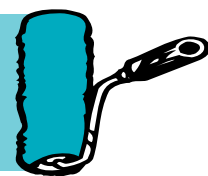
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