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beaver
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ST. LOUIS COUNTY

County plans new public works facility south of Tower

City in talks to acquire existing county public works facility on Marina Drive

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

KUGLER TWP- A new \$8 million facility here is expected to combine operations from the St. Louis County Public Works garages in Tower and

Embarrass into one centralized location. The new public works "campus" is set for a construction start late next year and is expected to be built just north of the intersection of Hwy. 135 and County Rd. 26 on county tax-forfeit property,

pending environmental review.

"This location was chosen because it is at the geographic center of the road network that will be maintained from this new public works campus," said James Foldesi, county

public works director. "It will allow us to operate more efficiently and provide a higher level of service."

According to Foldesi, the new facility will replace

See...**COUNTY** pg. 9



Tower officials have been in discussions with the county for more than a year about acquiring the current county garage facility, located on Marina Dr., for city use. photo by M. HelMBERGER



LAKE VERMILION

Life of Riley Resort adapts after fire

Restaurant and cabins untouched by blaze

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

LAKE VERMILION- An alert guest and the quick actions of staff, guests and emergency responders averted a major disaster when a fire broke out early Sunday at the Life of Riley Resort on Norwegian Bay. Even so, they couldn't keep four buildings devoted to guest services from burning to the ground.

"The guests first saw the fire at about 1:10 in the morning," owner Rock Gillson said on Tuesday. "It was in the gazebo, and he started to raise the ruckus as the fire

Above: The store at the Life of Riley Resort smolders after a weekend fire. submitted photo

Right: The fire apparently started in the resort's gazebo. submitted photo

burned through the building."

As Cook Fire and Ambulance units, a Department of Natural Resources tanker, and others raced to the scene, resort staff and guests deployed two pumps in the lake that fed inch-and-a-half hoses that they used to

See...**FIRE** pg. 12



CITY OF ORR

Council rejects Dollar General store proposal

Lack of information to support stormwater variance request

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

ORR - Developers of a proposed Dollar General store in Orr experienced a setback on Monday as the Orr City Council denied two requests for zoning permits and a building permit, but they remained committed to finding a way to move forward with the store.

The action came after a roughly 45-minute public comment session punctuated by terse and sometimes contentious exchanges between those in favor of the development and those opposed. Council members scheduled the public meeting after choosing at their June 14 meeting to postpone acting on the requests presented at that time, and about 20 people were present at the Monday meeting, although only a few chose to speak.

See...**ORR** pg. 10

BABBITT

Charges pending in stabbing and shooting incident

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

BABBITT — Stabbing and shooting incidents in the city of Babbitt last weekend required assistance from several area law enforcement agencies.

A Babbitt woman was transported to Essentia Health in Virginia and then to Duluth on Saturday for serious but non-life threatening injuries after being stabbed multiple times at a Babbitt business, Anytime Anywear, according to Babbitt Police Chief Michael McGregor.

The victim, a 58-year-old Babbitt woman, was not identified by police. She reportedly suffered stab wounds to various parts of her body. The stabbing suspect is a 21-year man from Grand

See...**BABBITT** pg. 11

ELY BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL

The whole town is going crazy for blueberries

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Community prepares for return of signature summer event

ELY - After a year on hiatus because of public health concerns due to the coronavirus pandemic, the community's signature art and craft event, the Blueberry/Art Festival, is back for 2021, hosted by the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

The Blueberry/Art Festival

begins on Friday, July 23 and runs through Sunday, July 25.

"This year's festival will concentrate on arts, crafts, and food," said Ely Chamber of Commerce Event Coordinator Ellen Cashman.

Public health guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic

led Chamber officials to downsize the festival this year. The 2021 Blueberry/Art Festival and Experience Ely Expo will be capped at a total of 220 vendors, down from a high of 300 vendors prior to 2019.

"We are going to put an additional six feet between

each of the vendor which is decreasing our space," said Chamber Executive Director Eva Sebesta.

"There may be fewer booths this year, but the quality of artists, crafters, and makers

See...**ELY** pg. 11



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Community notices

RSVP for Art On The Lake Gala by July 16

TOWER- Mark your calendars for Art On The Lake, a fundraiser for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. The event kicks off with a preview Gala on Friday, July 23 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Gala includes appetizers, a variety of beverages, and an opportunity to meet the artists. Tickets can be purchased at Eventbrite.com for \$35. Search for Art On The Lake. Tickets are limited, so RSVP by Friday, July 16.

Art On The Lake is a sale of original paintings with work emphasizing the area's natural beauty. The artists are summer residents along with year-round artists. The paintings are ready to be hung in your home or cabin and are both watercolor and oil media.

If you are unable to attend the Gala, the sale continues on Saturday, July 24. Doors will be open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. to view and purchase fine art. The cultural center is still under renovation but the Halunen Lobby will be available for the show.

Pavement sealcoating is underway

REGIONAL- MnDOT contractors will begin sealcoating pavement on Hwy. 169 from Hwy. 53 to Pike River Bridge from July 14 through 16. Work zones will require single lane traffic with flaggers and pilot cars. Striping will occur in August.

Important reminders for motorists regarding work zone safety:

- ▶ Slow down when approaching every work zone, then navigate through with care and caution.
- ▶ Stay alert; work zones constantly change.
- ▶ Watch for workers and slow moving equipment.
- ▶ Obey posted speed limits. Fine for a violation in a work zone is \$300.
- ▶ Minimize distractions behind the wheel.
- ▶ Be patient; expect delays, especially during peak travel times.

For more information on projects in northeast Minnesota, check Facebook at <https://facebook.com/groups/MnDOTnortheast> and Twitter at @mndot-northeast. For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org.

Operation Round Up® gives nearly \$46,000 to community programs

COHASSET- Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Electric Trust Board recently approved \$45,940 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 31 grant applications and distributed funds to 28 projects and programs this past quarter. Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$2.6 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs.

All funds generated through Operation Round Up® are set aside in a trust fund. A voluntary Trust Board of nine co-op members administers the trust.

Recent local recipients include Fishing with Vets, St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Cook Housing Authority, Project Care Free Clinic, Lake Vermilion Traditional Pow Wow Committee, ElderCircle, HOPE: Advocates Against Domestic Abuse, Volunteers in Education, Boy Scouts of America Troop 116, and North St. Louis County 4-H. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up® program by calling the cooperative at 800-421-9959 or using an online form at lakecountrypower.coop. Applications are available online at www.lakecountrypower.coop (My Cooperative > Community > Operation Round Up®). The next application deadline is Aug. 15.

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COMMUNITY

Old Settlers Picnic set for July 17



file photos

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. Don't be late; booyah is dished up promptly at noon, and it disappears quickly. Bring your own bowls and utensils.

Membership in the organization is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range (Tower-Soudan and Ely areas).

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

Membership is \$10 the day of the picnic (if not pre-registered in advance).

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.



Homer's Odyssey picnic operetta performed July 31



EMBARRASS-Mixed Precipitation presents a new production, traveling and performing on a pickup truck. The creators of the Picnic Operetta continue their tradition of summer

fun and lively music in the beautiful outdoors. Mixed Precipitation returns to the Iron Range with a new show following performances in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

This year's production is an adaptation of Homer's Odyssey, featuring a musical mix of baroque melodies and Dolly Parton tunes. Using the music of Claudio Monteverdi's 1639 opera, Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria (The Return of Ulysses to His Homeland) and the spirit of a country carnival, this adventure is filled with summer fun and the joy of being together following difficult and scary times.

The production features the journey of Ulysses and his crew returning from 10 years of war. They encounter monsters, vengeful gods, sirens, and cyclops in a colorful carnival fashion. His wife Penelope contends with intruders in her home while holding out hope for Ulysses' return. Their son Telemaco faces the future: inheriting a world recovering from war, families coping with long separation, and hopeful reconciliation.

Mixed Precipitation's mini-residency on the Iron Range will feature free pop-up performances for residents at Carefree Living, the Tower Farmers Market on Friday, July 30 and area parks and beaches. The company is joined by

local youth performers, Sova and Etta Meyer.

The finale performance is at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 31 at Early Frost Farms in Embarrass. This hobby farm, founded by Ericka and Jack LaMar, has ice cream treats, berries, honey, chickens, and it's a short walk from the Darwin Myers Wildlife Management Area, on the Mesabi Trail.

You can see the full listing of performances throughout Minnesota and make reservations at <http://mixedprecipitation.org/summer-2021-dates>.

The performance is offered for a suggested donation of \$10 - \$25 per person. But no one will ever be turned away for lack of funds. This performance is family-friendly and fun for all ages, approximately 75 minutes in length.

C O V I D PROTOCOLS: We will follow CDC guidelines for outdoor public events. Masks, social distancing, and a great attitude are encouraged. (Vaccinations are great, too.) Our entire adult company is vaccinated and we will be singing without masks.

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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Breitung to re-establish police department

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG- At the Tuesday special meeting of the Breitung Town Board, the supervisors voted to start the process of hiring a police chief for the township. Breitung and the city of Tower currently have no local police service after the full-time officer and police chief both left the Breitung Police Department for jobs with other departments.

Members of the Tower-Soudan police committee recommended local policing to the town board, possibly managed by a joint police commission in the future. The committee also recommended that off hours be serviced by St. Louis County's 911 service, instead of having Breitung officers on-call 24/7, to prevent officer burnout. The committee made their recommendation after ten

weeks of research, a community open house, and a survey.

Supervisor Greg Dostert made the motion to start the hiring process, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, and the vote was unanimous. There are currently two applicants for the position who will be called in to interview on the evening of Thursday, July 22.

The township will

begin by hiring the chief of police and then add another full-time officer if a contract for policing can be made with the neighboring city of Tower.

"The risk of Tower joining or not joining is minimal if we are just hiring a chief," said Tekautz.

Results of the community policing survey are reported on in another story in this edition of the *Timberjay*.

Projects

The township was awarded \$150,000 from the DNR to renovate the bike trail from the Soudan wastewater ponds to McKinley Park. Chairman Tim Tomsich said they are hoping to get one contractor for the Breitung trail, manhole replacements, and sewer work.

Bids for the sewer/manhole project were opened. Bids were Jola

and Sopp Excavating of Eveleth for \$435,780, TNT Construction of Grand Rapids for \$484,800, and Utility Systems of America of Eveleth for \$516,407.

John Jamnick recommended accepting the low bid of \$435,780 from Jola and Sopp. However, Tomsich said he would like time to speak with Frandsen Bank to secure gap funding

See **POLICE...pg. 5**

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Greenwood Annual meeting to resume July 22

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOODTWP- Residents here will resume their annual meeting on Thursday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m., after residents decided to continue the annual meeting begun in March due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. Next week's meeting will be held in person at the Greenwood Town Hall.

In February, the board had passed a motion

asking voters to approve a \$150,000 levy for 2022, plus an additional \$25,000 to set aside for future broadband projects.

At the board's regular monthly meeting, on July 13, Chairman Mike Ralston asked the board to consider revising that request, upping the amount to \$200,000.

"We are \$49,000 deficit spending right now," he said. "Last year we asked for \$200,000, but got \$150,000."

"It was a close vote," Ralston said, "probably swung by an ineligible voter." Ralston did not elaborate on his claim.

At the 2020 meeting, a motion for a \$250,000 levy failed on a tie 32-32 vote, taken by written ballot with voters being checked off on the voter registration list. A second motion for a \$150,000 levy, passed 33-31, again on a written ballot.

The township has been levying less than its annual

spending the past several years, as they chipped away at what once was more than a million dollars in reserves. The township currently has \$515,779 in its accounts as reported in the June treasurer's report, which includes \$252,332 in long-term investments and \$53,577 in restricted funds.

Ralston said that MAT advises townships to keep between one-and-a-half and two times its annual budget in reserve, but that number has been disputed

by others on the board.

"We have very little to do besides the fire department and the town hall area," said Supervisor Barb Lofquist. "Everything we have is insured."

Ralston did not have any updates on the 2022 budget to present to the board but said the budget would be presented at the annual meeting. The preliminary budget presented to the board in February estimated spending of \$331,800 in 2022, up just

slightly from the 2021 budget of \$330,833.

The board voted 3-2, with Lofquist and Sue Drobac voting against, to ask for a \$200,000 levy.

The township's annual levy is set by residents, not the board, though the board does set the actual budget and oversee all the spending.

See **ANNUAL...pg. 5**

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Editorial

Leaving planet Earth?

As billionaires head to space, the rest of humanity faces a planet in trouble

Could it be the billionaires know something we don't? Is it a coincidence that three of the richest men on Earth are all making plans to free themselves from this planet as soon as possible? Richard Branson just returned from his maiden flight into orbit aboard his own Virgin Galactic space plane, while Jeff Bezos is planning his own trip to space in his Blue Origin rocket this coming week. Elon Musk has already set his ultimate sights on Mars through his SpaceX program, where he hopes to establish an off-planet colony.

Perhaps we should be listening to what these three visionary people are trying to tell us. Or, perhaps, we could all, for a moment, let go of our ideological constraints and listen to what Mother Nature is trying to tell us.

Earth is in trouble. If you don't believe it, then consider 121 degrees Fahrenheit.

In British Columbia. Or consider the summer of wildfire that has already descended on the West weeks ahead of schedule and the exceptional drought that has engulfed much of the western U.S. An analysis released by a group of climate scientists and published by the journal *Science* this past week concluded that the unprecedented heat that engulfed the Pacific Northwest earlier this month was made at least 150 times more likely as a result of human-caused climate change. Indeed, they concluded the temperatures reached in that region would not have been possible had humanity not amped up our atmosphere with heat-trapping gases like carbon dioxide and methane.

But that is just one weather-related event. Climate change is supercharging hurricanes and other rainfall events, is intensifying drought, heat, and even, in some cases, cold outbreaks as the breakdown of the polar vortex has caused a kind of wobble in the system that allows cold that used to be bottled up near the poles to descend further south than in the past. Meanwhile, the polar regions are seeing warmth like they've never seen before, causing permafrost to thaw, which releases more greenhouse gases as it does. Just to the south of that, the taiga, that ring of coniferous forest that straddles the northern

hemisphere is burning like never before. We've been breathing in the results of it in recent days right here in our region.

We know there are some who will continue to deny climate change until they die from it. There's no longer any point trying to convince them. We don't need to argue the science with those who are informed—they already understand what's at stake. What we need is to push our political leaders to take the coordinated steps necessary to reverse the current circumstances that threaten the very future of this planet. We can't address this through individual action alone, and those who claim otherwise are actually limiting progress, or attempting to shift blame where it doesn't belong. Addressing a global crisis of this magnitude will require the full and sustained attention of governments across the world and major investments in a new energy, transportation, and housing future.

Only governments can muster the resources and initiative to address what most of us now recognize for the existential crisis that it is. Only governments can head off the wrong kind of investments, such as new fossil fuel infrastructure. Lip service won't cut it anymore.

In some respects, we're already too late. Our global climate crisis will get worse. That's a reality that's already baked into the cake because of poor decisions our governments have made in the recent past and continue to make, even today. But it's not too late to head off the kind of catastrophic climate future that threatens most life on the planet.

Can we, as a species, mount an effective, collective response to the most serious threat in human history? Some of our most visionary billionaires appear to be betting against us. They're investing billions in an escape plan for themselves, their descendants, and the cream of the global elite, betting that the rest of humanity won't be able to save this precious planet and the glorious diversity of life that has evolved here.

While the billionaires may have an escape hatch, there is none for the rest of us. We have only one home and if we can't muster the fortitude to save it, the rest of us will face a very unpleasant future.



“THAT'S THE LITTLE DIPPER... THAT'S THE BIG DIPPER...
AND THAT'S A COLOSSAL EGO-TRIPPER.”

Letters from Readers

Answering some questions in Ely

I find myself concluding that I probably should respond to a lot of questions and comments made to me since I lost my bid for re-election for Mayor in November. The first question I want to address is why I accepted the position as Mayor Pro Tem in January's first meeting. I have always supported what is in the best interest of the entire city of Ely. When Mr. Urbas said he would not take the position as Mayor, the city was left with a dilemma because the city charter states that all checks must be signed by the Mayor of the city. No sitting councilors stood up to take the position because that would require them to give up their position as a councilor.

Many fine citizens of Ely have stated they are going to write my name in on the ballot for the Aug. 10 special election and have asked what my response would be to that proposition. I would accept the position of Mayor if that's what the final results say. I would continue to work my senior level federal and state contacts pressing for additional funding to take care of the city's priorities.

The choice for Mayor is yours and I hope this satisfies your questions.

Chuck Novak
Interim Ely Mayor

Maybe we need to reconsider our values

No doubt we all have our unique take on what makes the world go round. We're citizens of the world, our nation, and our own backyard. Right now it seems that much is mixed up in a unique configuration—all confusing, a state where misinformation reigns.

Nationally, Congress is unable to move on most matters because of Republican obstructionists, loyal to their idol. Even an overt and well-documented insurrection at the Capitol on Jan. 6 was declared 'a normal tourist day,' while a *New York Times* documentary details the destruction of property, mob action, and murder by masses of

Trump followers.

Devotion to the former president prevails, acceptance of his leadership in the insurrection, self-serving motives and misdeeds, the illegalities while in office. Why many citizens OK all this is beyond understanding.

Republicans desire to disrupt the normal flow of congressional action. They are not doing what they get paid to do. Why is this allowed?

Locally, people booed Sen. Amy Klobuchar when walking by a Sheridan Street bar and other spots along the route in the Fourth of July parade. A woman, with Ely roots, officially elected to work for the state of Minnesota and Ely, can't be shown mature respect in our parade? Why?

Although one can't assume all the boos came from locals, what does this say about a town the Smithsonian voted 1 of 15 top American towns to visit in 2021; a place previously selected as one of the "coolest towns" in America; a town Charles Kuralt mentioned in his travel book as a place to visit; one of 50 places to visit in the world! Is disrespect for a U.S. Senator "cool"?

Is Ely celebrated because we had mines here? Do those thousands who visit come to see the mines? Well, some do visit the old Pioneer, yes, as one thing to do here. And yet the City Council has proclaimed July 23-25 Twin Metals Days because of the \$550,000 they've shared—and promise of a rosy future—to various local organizations. Ever wonder why this money was given?

When invited to a local cabin in St. Louis or Lake County, oft times one is stunned by the investment families have put into these. Many are locally owned. Those really extravagant ones are truly something to behold, often the treasures of non-residents. After brief visits to such places, one is reminded how much these folks spend in Ely through first building here, county taxes, grocery and liquor store purchases, hardware and lumber items, eating at local restaurants, buying gas, hiring locally, etc., etc. Not to mention the visitors who shoot through to the BWCA!

Do they come to Ely to visit the mines? No, they come here to stay at their cabins, or camp in the BWCA because of their appreciation of nature: to fish, to camp, for recre-

ation! It's for sheer appreciation of natural beauty—and how our town benefits! Most locals also partake of the recreational opportunities this area offers. Such a paradox to then be in favor of an industry that will harm the environment!

So, why is the Council supporting mining, and a specific South American company, which will provide a minimal number of jobs to locals? Why not pursue additional employers like the state Department of Revenue office and the Veterans Clinic? Why are locals booing our respected Senator? Why are locals supporting a former president who lost the election (a fact proven many times by recounts), who approved a takeover of the government by mob rule, who wanted to hang his vice president, and who denied the severity of an insidious virus? These questions are answered with lies and confusing responses.

And, then, of course we should throw in the climate change issue, as we see the deadening heat this summer—also something denied by our previous leader.

Don't the people need to reconsider our values? Remove Congress members who refuse to function on our behalf, come to an understanding that a former president who leads an insurrection is committing treason, realize that our support for tourism is better placed than in destructive mining, that global warming is real.

The planet is showing its contempt for its biggest resource consumers—people. Perhaps we've overstayed our welcome.

Sure, this town was built on mining. The mining companies left us when our ores no longer were of value to them. The world is now interested in Ely because of rare resources, like clean water, green space, and fresh air. Perhaps we've just grown too used to such things?

Cecilia Rolando
Ely

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Sounds Off!

A few constants in a screen-printer's changing life

My recent trip to visit my older brother, his wife, and family in northwestern Missouri and Kansas City was one of those times to wring out the laughter, hugs and joy from each moment. I was the one



SCARLET STONE

brother back in 1979 and she has been one of the few constant people in my ever-changing life. I have made her laugh and she has given me strength to keep-on-truckin... through four

parents and my younger brother. She is on the other side of the phone for all of the moments I need to talk. She is the older sister I never received at birth.

The fun-packed family visit ended with Delta Airlines zooming me back north on a calm morning, gliding through blue skies and puffy white solo clouds to get home to another constant in my life, my screen-printing business. I needed to prepare for the Tower July 3 event in which

I sell T-shirts and toys out of my big white tent. It's my own private circus, and this business has been a part of me since 1990 when my friend from Ely loaned me her four-color manual screen-printer to play with after she upgraded. She also sold me a Daytona-2-bulb ink curing heater and what a work horse the drab, green, metal unit has been. In the beginning, I was living in Chisholm with my second husband and we built most of the other equipment,

such as the wood screen frames—stretched with fabric, light exposure box, screen-storage box and the dryer set-up featuring the Daytona heater mounted on a heavy metal frame and pole that I could swing over a metal laundry table to cure my printed garments. We gave the business the name Evergreen Designs and in the roomy basement shop, we did lots of printing for bars, schools, Ironworld, National Steel Mining Co, Fena Advertising and so

many other individuals and businesses. I did all the artwork, rendering the designs entirely by hand, including color separations, until I bought my first Mac computer and learned to use Adobe software. After about four years, I came a mostly peaceful dissolution of that marital situation and the unfortunate loss of a trained set of good squeeze-pulling arms. I now needed to move my circus.

See CONSTANT...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Excellent care from local health services

Having had the occasion to use the local ER

and hospital recently, I feel obligated to report that my experience was very positive. Beginning with the EMTs, personnel were competent, caring, and quick to respond.

The ER personnel were exceptional, starting with the ER physician, Dr. Olsen. He made calls to my specialists and ordered important tests. Later when I was in the hospital, the

nursing staff showed itself to be equally impressive.

I believe Ely has an impressive response team of whom we should be proud. This is a relatively small remote community

with services here one might only expect in larger facilities. We have been a community that has long insisted on quality care despite many challenges. Area residents should feel

confident their health care is in good hands despite our size. It is the people here who make the difference.

David Kess Ely

ANNUAL...Continued from page 3

Broadband funding

Ralston told the board there is possible good news on the broadband funding front, with Greenwood's and Bois Forte's requests for funding included in Sen. Tina Smith's federal funding request. The request, if funded as currently written, would provide \$5.5 million for the approximate \$6.6 million dollar project. This would leave the project still about a million dollars short.

"Everybody wants to get broadband in," Ralston said, "and we are going to have to pay for it."

He asked the board to consider asking residents to add an additional \$200,000 to the levy for the next several years to make up the shortfall, but his motion failed for lack of a second.

Ralston did not give any additional information of possible bonding or loan options for the township. He has been talking with financial institutions about these options.

While the township probably will not be eligible for state Border to Border broadband funding, there are funding options with the IRRRB that have been discussed. Drobac also attended the last St. Louis County Board meeting, which was held at Fortune Bay, and asked the county to consider making grant funds available from their

American Rescue Act funding.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Was asked why the clerk's office was closed on three separate days in the last month, during regular office hours. "There was no posting that the clerk wouldn't be there," said Mark Drobac.

Clerk Deb Spicer said she was not there "because of the changes," and added that she doesn't know what the exact hours are.

► Heard from Spicer that the township copier was not working. Spicer had sent out the meeting agenda without the normal attached reports noting the scanner function was not working. Drobac said the machine was working and she had scanned in copies the night before, and made copies on the machine that morning. When the board was ready to approve payroll, Drobac asked that copies be made for the board to review before they approved it. Spicer said the machine was not working. Drobac then got up from the table, went into the office and made copies to distribute to the board members. Ralston thanked Drobac for making the copies.

► Heard some questions from Drobac on the new ADP payroll system, which had made changes

in the payroll withholding, along with a question on why payroll wasn't being done by the calendar month. Township officials are mostly paid on a monthly salary basis. Treasurer Belinda Fazio said she would look into the issues and make corrections.

► Clerk Spicer said that all requests for information from the clerk's office will need a written information request form filled out. She said that Drobac had again been asking for information when she was busy getting ready for the meeting. The written information requests, which are available on the township website, can take several weeks to be acted upon.

► Drobac asked training officer Rick Worringer to update the board on the training status of department firefighters, as to completion of the standard Firefighter I and II classes.

► Drobac asked for written copies of the updated policies that had been approved. Spicer said they were posted online and on the wall in the office, but Drobac noted there was missing language, and that there needed to be a clarification on the policies for contacting the township attorneys.

► Had a request from a resident to look into how to change the classification of Old Highway 77 from a

rural to urban road. Rural county roads default to a 55-mph speed limit, while urban county roads can be posted at 30 mph. Others noted this is an issue on Birch Point and Everett Bay roads, also. Several town board members noted this issue would need to be addressed by the state, not the county, and can take several years, but township officials will look at starting the process.

► Heard that a township resident is asking that Greenwood Township be moved to the Virginia Ambulance Service area instead of Tower. Spicer noted that the Cook Ambulance would be closer. Supervisor Carmen DeLuca said in that case, Greenwood would need to join the Cook Healthcare District, something voters have not supported in the past. DeLuca said he had talked with TAAS Supervisor Dena Suikonen, who explained that ambulance service areas are assigned by a state board.

► Approved spending up to \$2,500 to have Fisher Printing mail out a written survey to gauge interest in broadband. Lofquist said they would model it after surveys done by Field Township, and would give residents the opportunity to either fill out and return a written survey, or do the

survey online. An updated survey has been requested by CTC, the company interested in providing broadband in Greenwood.

► Will look into getting quotes on having the township's website updated.

► Approved a request from Drobac to get copies of fire department meeting minutes from earlier this year, along with more information on what the deputy treasurer is doing (whether these were township or fire department duties).

► Appointed fire department member Jet Galonski as Greenwood representative to the Joint Powers Recreation Board.

► Denied a request from the fire department to set pay for all 911-callout time at \$20 per hour. Currently fire and EMS personnel are paid \$20 for the first hour and then \$10 for any additional hours. Department members are also paid \$10 per hour for time spent at meetings and training. Fire Chief Dave Fazio noted that most calls take less than an hour. The vote failed 2-3, with Ralston, Drobac, and Lofquist voting against. Ralston noted he would consider this move starting in 2022, but didn't want to do it this year because it wasn't budgeted for. Lofquist said she was fine with the request and also said it needed to be account-

ed for in the budget but also wondered if the township should "take the word volunteer out of our fire department." Lofquist said she also wanted the township to consider increasing the EMS pension amount for 2022.

► Heard that Bois Forte is looking at investing some of its COVID relief money into fire equipment. Fazio said the department had many members who live on the reservation.

► Heard that the fire department is working with the U.S. Forest Service on protocols for responding the emergencies in the Boundary Waters/Trout Lake area. Fire Department Assistant Chief Mike Indihar also discussed issues with the department's fire boat being called out for non-emergency rescues, for example a boat that has run out of gas. Indihar said while the department would certainly respond to any boating emergency, he was reluctant to have department resources tied up for non-essential calls. "What if we are out there and get a fire call?" he asked. DeLuca said the township had previously discussed this issue and said the department would only respond if there was an emergency.

CONSTANTS...Continued from page 4

I told him..."Keep the house. I just want my equipment, my dog, and a new bed!" I was able to procure a small rental room in the old Martin Hughes High School in Buhl for fifty dollars a month. A management team rented rooms to businesses there for a stretch of time prior to it being a correctional facility for delinquent, unruly fellows. I changed the business to O'Hara Screenprinting to keep up with my name changes resulting from a growing string of divorces. I started as Lynn Johnson, then as Lynn Wihanto, then Lynn Hanson and arrived at the name Lynn O'Hara largely because my girlfriends said I needed "fresh"...and I liked the surname O'Hara. After all, it matched my red hair and so the nickname Miss Scarlet began.

I fondly recall my rambling friend Charlie (known as Prince Charles) and me hauling a truckload of tall metal shelves and equipment to the Buhl rental one summer evening. We stopped first at Sabin's Bar on Chisholm's Main Street, to fuel ourselves for the episode. Upon arriving at the back door of the school to unload equipment, there were flashing lights and a police car right there at Charlie's rusty tail gate. In order to avoid breathing in the officer's face and certain arrest, Charlie got busy unloading. The officer addressed me with his riveting black eyes, "Ma'am did

you know you had a metal shelf dragging behind the truck as you came through town?" "No I didn't officer, but I apologize....we are trying to hurry and get this equipment inside before nightfall....and thank you, we will tie the load better next time." He left us and we laughed all the way through the dark spooky vacant halls of the old school as we hauled in the equipment, grateful that the brush-with-the-law was mild....but the shelf was badly bent having been lifted by the wind and left to drag pavement down the main street of Buhl. My space at the old school was a small room on a landing between the first and second floors. I remember having to go upstairs in the dark, shadowy stillness with my long heavy extension cord to plug in the Daytona curing heater as there were no grounded outlets in the room. I was also working for the *Hibbing Tribune* at that time, so I usually only had time at night to print. After a season or two.... not being a gal to sit on the bench and let life pass her by...I began dating an older man who taught me to polka real well and to play smear. He was to become the father of my only son. I trained him to help print and we completed many jobs in the old school while our son was sitting in his baby carrier. I used a grocery cart to push the baby and supplies down the long hall. My screen-washing

room was a janitor's closet in the hallway far from my printing room. It was such an inconvenient production....but I kept it going. After the school stopped renting rooms, I put the equipment, into the walk-in basement in the small house in Chisholm I lived in with my son's father.

A couple years later, the relationship corroded and I moved my son, the equipment and my life into a Housing Project in Chisholm where I gingerly used the equipment, as I had a baby to care for. From those single mom, struggling days I accepted a job in Hayward, Wis. working as the Director of Underwriting for the Lac Courte Orielles Tribe's public radio station, WOJB. I shared a house near a lake with a man friend who was a carpenter and I did lots of fun screen-printing for the area resorts. That shop was full of carpenter's tools, dust, and huge black spiders that no doubt colonized the new world. In 2001, my younger brother died of HIV, the carpenter left to pound nails in Alaska for a spell, and I loaded all my equipment (my circus) into and onto my Blazer and eagerly returned to Ely to be near my mom. I rented a house, but the cement basement floor was lumpy with concrete heaves, then flooded, so two months later on Halloween I moved to another rental house in Ely. I purchased the house several years

later from the owner and roosted there for 16 years, raising my son, printing, marrying/divorcing again, until I met Bill Stone, a visitor from Illinois who was up north for a family reunion. We shacked-up, printed some more, married and I changed the name of the business to Rollin' Stone Screenprinting. Shortly after, we moved to Soudan where my equipment has rested for the past four years. Despite an unfortunate divorce from Bill during the pandemic...we are now printing together again, after what was referred to by some as a "shite show", with me nodding in agreement and adding..."yes and during a toilet paper shortage." Well, like I often say, a gal is gonna have that from time to time.

The entire wild thing has become my traveling ringmaster tale with the red-haired artist, hauling her equipment from place to place to make extra money to support herself. Thirty years later, my hair is no longer red, my hands hurt if I print too long, but I am still using most of the pieces of equipment. I returned the borrowed printer, replacing it with a new one and invested in a small conveyor belt dryer.... releasing from bondage the metal laundry table and heater. I still keep the old Daytona infrared up on the top shelf in the basement storage room. I am unable to get rid of it because of

all I went through with it, how it took care of me, a tool that only required one bulb replacement in all those years of work,

outlasting five men. So, together with my sis, it has been a constant and reliable piece of my colorful life.

the
TIMBERJAY

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POLICE...Continued from page 3

before moving forward and to try to negotiate a higher contribution from IRRR.

Currently, funding is \$195,000 from IRRR, \$100,000 from CBDG and Tomsich estimates \$200,000 would be the

township's contribution.

The sewer work is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 15 of this year.

Tomsich made a motion to table the contractor selection to the next meeting, July 22 at noon,

with Dostert supporting. A special meeting to interview the police chief candidates will be held later the same day at 5 p.m.

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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Breitung Township's Fourth of July Community Picnic...

SOUDAN- Community members, young and old, enjoyed a relaxing afternoon at the Breitung Recreation Area for the Fourth of July Community Picnic. The annual event attracted a large crowd for hot dogs, chips, and their always-popular root beer floats. But mostly everyone seemed to enjoy visiting and connecting with their neighbors, new and old. The township sponsors this picnic every year, as part of the Fourth of July festivities.



Above: Sawyer Suihkonen had fun with the water toys, as older children (at right) played in the splash pool.



Right: Phyllis Burgess enjoyed a root beer float.



Below right: Julia Tichel gives a hug to Alice Arola.



Tower-Soudan Class of 1953 classmates (from left) Betty Vaida Dolinar, Dodie Vaida, and Joanne Laugen Peterson enjoyed their time at the Breitung Community Picnic on July 4. photos by J. Summit



Week of July 19

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from **2:30-5:00 p.m.** Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is 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.

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon at the town hall on July 22.

Greenwood Township Annual Meeting (continued from March), 6:30 p.m. on July 22 at the town hall.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

Red Hat Belles to meet July 22
VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet Thursday, July 22 at 12 noon at the Neighbors BBQ (Black Bear Cafe). Please RSVP to Kathy at 753-2530 by July 19. New members and guests are always welcome.

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.

Tower-Soudan Class of 1981 holds 40th reunion



TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1981 held their 40th Class Reunion at Fortune Bay on Friday, July 2. The classmates celebrated together and the evening included an entertaining talk by classmate John Pogleasa called "Three Random Thoughts" about his moving to Tower-Soudan and

graduating from here; a memorial moment of silence for classmates and teachers who have passed; and fun life awards with prizes. The class has met every five to ten years at places like the Tower Civic Center, the Black Bear, the Aspen, and The Good Ol' Days to catch up on children

and grandchildren, travel, life's work, societal changes, and hobbies. The attendees would like to thank Fortune Bay's Brian Anderson and his team, Cheryl Johnson for the stunning decorations of "T-S Royalty" and beautiful prize table, Patti Keenan for music from 1969 to 1981, balloons and

prizes from Jeanne's Cards and Gifts, Awards from George Henry Photography, Nordic Home North, the Timberjay Newspaper, The Good Ol' Days Bar and Grill, D'Erick's Tower Liquor, and classmates Donna and Terry Mosher, Gretchen Niemiste of Aronson Boat Works Marina, and to Corinne Lundstrom for her beautiful red convertible reunion float for the parade. Classmates that couldn't make this reunion, due to the effects of the pandemic, said they look forward to attending the next one and wished everybody a great time.

Front (from left): Cheryl Smith Johnson, Charlene Corey Raskovich, Christel Lundstrom Rinehart, Corinne Lundstrom, Dean Hildebrandt, Frank Planton, John Pogleasa, Jeff Redetzke; Back: Patti Keenan Sandey, Jane Lilya Chandler, Vicky Earsley Prout, Patti Norberg Stoddard, Mark Stephanich, Mindy Sundeen Sandstrom; not pictured, Jim Berg.

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Online at timberjay.com

TOWER FARMERS MARKET
VARIETY LOCAL FRESH

NOW OPEN
Fridays 4-6 PM at the Train Depot

Childrens 3rd of July Afternoon Race Winners

Listed in order, first, second, third

6-yard dash, boys, 2-3, Weston Williams, Cameron Shields, Jack Siebert
6-yard dash, girls, 2-3, Amelie Zak, Maddie Peterson, Louisa Nelson
10-yard dash, boys, 4-5, Boone Wachlarowicz, Becket Cochems, Vincent Vesel
10-yard dash, girls, 4-5, Raelle Filipovich, Penny Grace Zoellick, Lyla Rose-land
20-yard dash, boys, 6-7, Paul Starkovich, Holden Clarke, Jack Wachlarwicz
20-yard dash, girls, 6-7, Allie Vesel, Layla Kepler, Gabby

Bisonette
50-yard dash, boys, 8-9, Bentley Nevala, Graham Licari, Christian Cochems
50-yard dash, girls, 8-9, Addison Defoe, Ellie Licari, Leah Beutz
50-yard dash, boys, 10-11, Jake Starich, Simon Banaszak, Miles Carlson
50-yard dash, girls, 10-11, Kate Morley, Lily Lubben, Leni Nelson
50-yard dash, boys, 12-13, Kaston Clarke, Wyatt Lubben, Joseph Parke
50-yard dash, girls, 12-13, Channing Haycraft, Clara Dahl, Elizabeth Morcom
50-yard dash, boys, 14-15, Nolan Svatos, Colt Kvistad, Torrin Klarke
50-yard dash, girls, 14-15, Elizabeth Morcom, Samantha Kvistad, Jaelyn Wright
Sack race, boys, 7-8, Nixon Levens, Graham Licari, Paul Starkovich
Sack race, girls, 7-8, Ellie Licari, Kate Starich, Juliet Lubben
Sack race, boys, 9-10, Jordan Peterson, Bentley Nevala, Isaac Licari

Sack race, girls, 9-10, Leah Beutz, Kayla Dougherty, Vivian Woodford
Sack race, boys, 11-12, Wyatt Lubben, Katon Clarke, Grant Hennen
Sack race, girls, 11-12, Channing Haycraft, Lily Lubben, Etta Woodford
Sack race, boys, 13-14, Joseph Parke, Boden Lee, Andrew Kvistad
Sack race, girls, 13-14, Jaelyn Wright, Samantha Kvistad, Elizabeth Morcom
Backwards race, boys, 2-3, no participants
Backwards race, girls, 2-3, Maddie Peterson, Lillianna Lau
Backwards race, boys, 4-5, no participants
Backwards race, girls, 4-5, Raelle Filipovich, Cora Lubben
Backwards race, boys, 6, Henry Licari, Holden Clarke, Tyler Peterson
Backwards race, girls, 6, Lily Russell, Juliet Lubben, Haley Glatch
Backwards race, boys & girls, 7-8, Blake Dahl, Graham Licari, Kaleb Gornick

Wheelbarrow, boys, 7-8, Graham Licari & Mad-den Nelson, Paul Starkovich & Owen Jeffrey, Gabby Bisonette & Holden Clarke
Wheelbarrow, girls, 7-8, Avery Mathson & Kate Starich, Juliet Lubben & Ellie Licari
Wheelbarrow, boys, 9-10, Brodik Clarke & Griffin Hennen, Ryan Licari & Isaac Licari, Kaleb Gornick & Bentley Nevala
Wheelbarrow, girls, 9-10, Kayla Dougherty & Avery Mathson
Wheelbarrow, boys, 11-12, Wyatt Lubben & Kaston Clarke, Grant & Griffin Hennen, Andrew Combs & Lincoln Challey
Wheelbarrow, girls, 11-12, Clara Clarke & Lily Lubben, Brecken Lee & Channing Haycraft, Vivian & Etta Woodford
Wheelbarrow, boys, 13-14, Torrin & Kaston Clarke, Aiden Morcom & Wyatt Lubben, Grant & Logan Hennen
Wheelbarrow, girls, 13-14, Jaelyn Wright & Elizabeth Morcom, Clara Dahl & Lily Lubben, Vivian & Etta

Woodford
Adult 50-yard dash, men, 15-25, Ethan Morcom, Aiden Morcom, Samantha Kvistad
Adult 50-yard dash, women, 15-25, Maddox Lee, Elizabeth Morcom
Adult 50-yard dash, men, 26 & up, Phil Clarke, Lance Dahl, John Morken
Adult 50-yard dash, women, 26 & up, Whitney Cobby, Liz Haycraft, Kayla Clarke
He/She Sack Race, 15-25, Caz Carlson & Channing Haycraft, Wyatt Lubben & Clara Dahl, Lily Lubben & Ethan Morken
He/She Sack Race, 26 & up, Cheryl & Jeremy Lubben, Phil & Kayle Clarke, Angela Dahl & Dan Combs
Water Balloon Toss, 15-25, Aiden & Elizabeth Morcom, Wyatt & Lily Lubben, Torrin Clarke & Kooper Dostert
Water Balloon Toss, 26 & up, Randy Johnson & Whitney Cobby, Angela Dahl & Dan Combs, Cheryl & Jeremy Lubben

CITY OF ELY

Ely residents can vote early for mayor

Special election day is scheduled for Aug. 10

ELY – City officials confirmed this week that the special election for mayor here will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 10, and not Wednesday, Aug. 11, as reported elsewhere last weekend.

Ely Deputy City Clerk Casey Velcheff told the *Timberjay* on Monday that the special election to fill the mayor's seat, between Roger Skraba and Heidi Omerza, will be held on the second Tuesday of next month at the Ely Senior Center. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. that day.

Early, or absentee, voting for the special election began on June 25 and will continue until Monday, Aug. 9 at Ely



Heidi Omerza

City Hall during normal business hours, Velcheff said. The city will also provide for extended hours for absentee voting on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on

Monday, Aug. 9 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Voters can register on the day of the election (Aug. 10) at the polling place," she said. "Pre-registration for voting is open until Thursday, July 29."

Omerza, a current council member, and Skraba, former mayor and council member won the special primary election in April over three other candidates, Angela Campbell, Jerome Debeltz, and Micah Leider.

Chuck Novak was unseated from the position last November by newcomer Eric Urbas, who



Roger Skraba

dropped out of the race months before the election, but still won. He declined to accept the two-year term as mayor. Novak was appointed interim mayor

in January and serves in that capacity until after the special election next month.

Novak indicated in a letter to the editor in the *Timberjay* this week that he would serve again as Ely's top elected official if a write-in vote campaign for him proved successful. "I would accept the position of mayor if that's what the final results say," he wrote. "I would continue to work my senior level federal and state contacts pressing for additional funding to take care of the city's priorities."

Tuesday Group

ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or by phone at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming speaker:
 ▶ July 20: Todd Heiman, Ely Rotary Club

Higher Ed

Pasmick makes Dean's List

WINONA - Laura Pasmick, of Ely, was named to the second semester 2021 Dean's List at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

OUR COMMUNITY

Think cool: Ely Winter Festival unveils pin for 2022

ELY - In the middle of summer, the Ely Winter Festival board of directors is looking toward winter and planning to create another more traditional event during the first part of February.

"After a smaller but successful 2021 festival, we are excited to be creating a traditional festival with a park full of snow sculptors and many outdoor events," said Board Chair Chris



Kloppenber.

The 2022 Winter Festival pin was unveiled this week. Local artist

Nancy Ensley created a drawing depicting a carver working on a moose snow sculpture.

This will be the fifth festival where the festival will donate \$1 of the \$6 pin price to an Ely Public Schools arts program. Past arts program support included the art department, the instrumental and choral departments, and STEAM (Science Technology Engineering,

Art, Math). Proceeds from the 2022 pin sales will go to another arts endeavor for students.

The other \$5 donation from the pin purchase is a vital part of organizers being able to put on the festival.

Pins and T-shirts are available now at Northern Grounds, the Front Porch, and Piragis Northwoods Company. Pins are also available at Ely Northland

Market and Zup's grocery store.

The Ely Winter Festival and Ely ArtWalk are funded in part by grants from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund), the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, and donations from local and regional merchants, organizations, and individuals.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



cool night air let in keeping the house bearable

daytime heat attacks

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 Track Club raises big bucks on July 4th



Officials with the Ely Track Club are waiting on invoices and race registration funds to come in from the Fourth of July activities, including the Four on the Fourth run/walk race on the Trezona Trail, and the water bottle sale during the parade. They anticipated as much as \$5,000 in profit for the day. The parade's Water Bottle Sales Team with all the kids, Tom Omerza, Megan and James Devine, and Andrea Thomas won "Honorable Mention" and some Chamber Bucks for their float. They also broke the all-time Ely Wolves record for water bottle sales, thanks to a very hot day with temperatures in the low 90s, with a \$1,034 profit. photos by K. Vandervort

Ely Police Department Activity Report - July 1-15, 2021

Arrests/Citations:

- ▶ Domestic Assault- Individual arrested for Domestic Assault and 5th Degree Assault.
- ▶ Traffic Stop- One person arrested for Possession of a stolen firearm, 3rd Degree DWI, and Possession of a hypodermic Syringe. One person arrested for Possession of a firearm with an altered serial number, 5th Degree possession of a controlled substance. Obstruct legal process with force, Carrying a weapon without a permit, and Possession of drug paraphernalia.
- ▶ Disturbance- Individual issued a citation for underage consumption.
- ▶ Traffic Stop- Individual issued a citation for fail to stop at a stop sign.
- ▶ Motor Vehicle Crash- Individual issued a citation for parking in a prohibited zone.
- ▶ Traffic Stop- Individual issued a citation for Driving after Revocation, Failing to obey traffic control

- device, and Failure to provide insurance.
- ▶ Attempt to Locate- Individual arrested for Theft of a motor vehicle, Driving without a valid license, Damage to property, and Criminal damage to property.

Complaints:

- ▶ Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a vehicle parked in a construction area. The vehicle left prior to officers' arrival.
- ▶ Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.
- ▶ Property Damage- Officers were called about a vehicle that had a widow broken due to mowing.
- ▶ Deceased Person- Officers responded to a deceased individual.
- ▶ Public Assist- Individual checked for a liquor license.
- ▶ Noise Complaint- Officers were contacted about a construction area that had vehicles working outside city ordinance. Officers responded and nobody was working.
- ▶ Extra Patrol-

- Officers were requested to patrol a residence while the owner was out of town.
- ▶ Parking Complaint- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that had been parked for an extended period of time. The owner was notified to move the vehicle.
- ▶ Animal Disturbance- Officers responded to a hot dog complaint. Officers did not locate the hot dog.
- ▶ Scam- Officers were informed about a scam.
- ▶ Dog Bite- Officers were contacted about a dog bite. This case was passed on to the proper jurisdiction.
- ▶ Vehicle Fire- Officers assisted the Fire Department with a vehicle fire.
- ▶ Hit and Run- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that hit a parked vehicle. Officers located the suspected vehicle and the information was exchanged.
- ▶ Structure Fire- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a structure fire.
- ▶ Lost Property-

- Individual reported they lost their wallet.
- ▶ Attempt To Locate- Officers were called about a vehicle that was leaving town. Officers transferred the call to the State Patrol.
- ▶ Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual that was not around their residence. Officers located the person at a new residence.
- ▶ Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers were contacted about a two-vehicle crash with no injuries and minor vehicle damage.
- ▶ Theft- Officers were contacted about a theft. This case is under investigation.
- ▶ Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual that was not answering their phone. Officers located the person who lost their phone.
- ▶ Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a person acting strange. Officers brought the individual home for the night.
- ▶ Traffic Stop- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a traffic stop.
- ▶ Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual that was not answering their phone. Officers located the person who lost their phone.
- ▶ Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a person acting strange. Officers brought the individual to the hospital for an evaluation.
- ▶ Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.
- ▶ Counterfeit Currency- Officers were contacted about a fake \$10 bill. This case is

- under investigation.
- ▶ Hot Rodder- Officers were informed about ATV's driving fast in the alleys.
- ▶ Sound of Shots- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a sound of shots call.
- ▶ Stabbing- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a stabbing.
- ▶ Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a person acting strange. Officers brought the individual home for the night.
- ▶ Traffic Stop- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a traffic stop.
- ▶ Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual that was not answering their phone. Officers located the person who lost their phone.
- ▶ Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a person acting strange. Officers brought the individual to the hospital for an evaluation.
- ▶ Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

YOUTH SPORTS

Summer baseball ends with trophies and change for CYB

Organization says good-bye to two longtime leaders as new ones volunteer to step up to the plate

COOK- Cook Youth Baseball put the wraps on a successful summer season with PeeWee and Tee Ball teams capturing third-place trophies in the Central St. Louis County Baseball Tournament on July 10 in Cherry.

"The kids toughed out the heat and played their hearts out," CYB secretary/treasurer Jennifer Herdman said. "We are super proud of them!"

Herdman sent out a big thank you to all those who made the season possible.

"After not having a

season last year due to COVID, it was so wonderful to see the ball fields and parking lot full at the Doug Johnson fields again," she said. "This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our coaches, volunteers, sponsors and board members."

The program fielded three teams this summer, two Tee Ball teams and a Pee Wee squad. The Cook Blue Tee Ball team was coached by Chris Nuthak, Kelly Hams, Sonja Hartlie and Kylee Lang. The Cook Green team was coached by Tony and Amanda Pascuzzi and Josh Sherman. Coaches for the Pee Wee team were Randy Long,

Matt Zupancich and Doug Lange.

This summer also marked a transition in leadership for Cook Youth Baseball. Longtime board members and officers Jenny Panichi and Heather Chauklin stepped down from their positions in June, making way for Matt Zupancich to step in as president. Tony Pascuzzi moved from the general manager position to vice president, and Jennifer Herdman transitioned from secretary to secretary/treasurer.

If anyone would like to donate or sponsor a team next season, contact CYB at cookyouthbaseball@gmail.com.



Cook Pee Wee (top) and Tee Ball teams took home third-place trophies from a county tournament.

VETERANS PARK



Volunteers for Cook Friends of the Parks were busy on July 9 creating a new soldier garden at Veterans Riverfront Park. Shrubs and a tree that were planted were donated by friends of Julie Fogelberg. Among those participating in the work day were Becky Barnes and grandsons Isaiah and Kohen Briggs and Braedon and Chase Erickson. Submitted photo

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Church to serve meal on July 22

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church will be hosting a free community meal open to the public on Thursday, July 22 from 4 to 6 p.m.

The menu will be tacos, Spanish rice, refried beans and ice cream. The meal will be served indoors with a drive-through pickup option available.

The church is located at 231 2nd St. E.

The Divas to perform in park

COOK - A familiar and favorite musical trio will grace the Cook City Park gazebo stage when "The Divas" perform at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21 for the free Music in the Park concert series.

Shannon Lee Gundersen, Sharon Rowbottom and Rosie Gams are the musicians who comprise the Virginia-based group. Keyboard, guitar, and percussion underpin their three-part harmonies as they start with a musical style from the 1940s and go wherever their fancy takes them.

Bring a lawn chair, a blanket, or sit in your car to hear the sound of music and enjoy the St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church burger and bratwurst stand during the concert.

In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW near the city park.

Music In The Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook

VFW Post 1757, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and free will community donations.

More art classes coming to NWFA

COOK- Summer art classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River Street in Cook, keep right on rolling in July with four diverse offerings to engage budding and seasoned artists alike. Upcoming classes include:

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. \$5 material fee. Friday, July 30, 1 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.

Ceramic Bowl I and II

Make a ceramic bowl in week one, glaze it in week two. Or join for week two and choose a bowl already made by Lyn Reed to glaze. Designs will be created with an un-

derglaze. \$15 material fee per bowl. Thursday, Aug. 5 and Thursday, Aug. 12, 6 to 9 p.m. both nights. Lyn Reed, instructor.

Cartoon Family Characters

With paper and pencils and markers draw family and friends. Friday, Aug. 13, 1 to 3:30 p.m., Cecilia Rolando, instructor.

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.

Each adult class has a fee of \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. Fees are used to provide stipends for instructors.

Crane Lake church bazaar is July 21

CRANE LAKE- The annual Crane Lake Chapel Bazaar will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21 at the chapel on Handberg Road.

The bazaar is a collection of fun activities all rolled into one day, featuring a bake sale, a garage sale, crafts, a quilt raffle and other special raffle and door prizes, and an almost-new and used book sale.

All events are indoors and visitors are encouraged to enjoy great food, fellowship, prizes and bargains.



An exhibit honoring the work of the late local photographer Julie Fogelberg is currently on display at the NWFA Gallery. submitted photo

Sunday reception will honor work of Fogelberg

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts will host a gallery reception for the Julie Fogelberg tribute exhibit "Through Julie's Lens" from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 18.

Fogelberg, who passed away recently, is being honored by friends and her children, who have gathered some of her photographs to create the exhibit. Also included are a few of Fogelberg's photos which were on display at the office of Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry in Duluth.

Join Julie's family and friends for refreshments at NWFA Gallery at 210 S River Street and reserve some time to view the concurrent show "A Canvas and You - 2."

This small art fundraiser is an enhanced version of last year's inaugural event, giving artists the opportunity to step beyond the standard creative canvas works and submit other types of art suitably sized for a small art show. A portion of each sale goes to benefit NWFA.

The NWFA Gallery is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

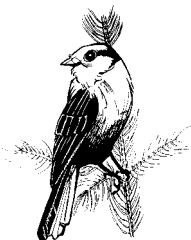
NWFA is a non-profit membership organization established in 2010 by community members of Cook to inspire, nurture and celebrate art. See the website at NWFAMN.ORG for further information on summer art classes now scheduled. Questions may be sent to nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Stay informed on Cook-Orr happenings by picking up a copy of The Timberjay at the following locations:

- Northwoods True Value Hardware
- Lucky Seven Convenience Store
- The Country Store
- Pelican Bay Foods
- Zup's Grocery

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OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

City of Ely calls for Twin Metals 'Appreciation Days'

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Council members here last week unanimously agreed with Interim Mayor Chuck Novak's proclamation of again calling for Twin Metals Appreciation Days to run concurrently with the community's largest festival of the year on July 23-25.

"I'm going to read this because every year we do this for Blueberry Fest," Novak said.

The annual proclamation by the city's top elected official does not necessarily speak for all city residents. Nonetheless, local envi-

ronmental advocates and sulfide mining opponents can do nothing to stop the on-the-record position that represents the entire population of the city of Ely.

The original version of this year's proclamation, included with the city council agenda released several days head of the July 6 meeting, stated, "Whereas Twin Metals is a 'significant' member of the community" A revised proclamation presented just minutes before the start of the council meeting instead indicated, "Whereas Twin Metals is 'an important and valued' member of the community"

No explanation was

provided for the last-minute revision

In addition, the original version indicated that Twin Metals had "provided more than \$450,000" in financial support to a variety of Ely/Babbitt community organizations and events since 2010. The last-minute revision increased that amount to \$550,000 over the same period.

Again, no explanation was provided for the revised figure.

A listing of contributions to local charitable organizations included the Ely Food Shelf, Fourth of July fireworks, Friends of the Trees, Northwood's Partners, ISD 696, Ely

Police Department, the Veterans Memorial and Veterans on the Lake Resort in the original proclamation. The revised proclamation added Ely Community Resource and the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota to the list.

The city's proclamation also claims that Twin Metals Minnesota has "provided a continuing stream of employment with well-paying jobs which allow families to thrive in our community," and TMM has "already had a significant impact on job creation and economic development in Minnesota."

Ely's city council

members, on numerous occasions, have gone on record in support of the proposed Twin Metals and PolyMet mining projects.

Other business

In other business, the council:

► Hired David Huberty as part-time Planning and Zoning Administrator, pending a background check, upon recommendation of the Employee Relations Committee.

► Hired Troy Oelke as Equipment Operator 3, and approved posting the vacant Equipment Operator 2 position internally.

► Scheduled a public hearing for 5 p.m. on

Tuesday, July 20 for the proposed zoning amendment ordinance for the Koval development project in the Spaulding neighborhood.

► Approved the purchase of a tandem-axle equipment trailer for \$12,559.39 from Pine River Sales with funds from the sale of old equipment from a recent auction.

► Approved a dock lease agreement with Dan Houle to use the city-owned dock located between the Ely U.S. Forest Service Seaplane Base and the boat landing next to the water treatment plant for \$200.

CITY OF TOWER

Holdover issues remain at the top of city's audit concerns

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — The city's annual audit, presented to the city council on Monday, continued to focus on holdover issues from the previous administration, particularly how to address the depletion of most city reserve accounts. City officials had pledged to address that ongoing issue, which the auditor has raised for several years, but 2020 went by without the council doing so.

City auditor Devin Ceglar said the issue arose over time as the city took on a large number of capital projects that consistently went over budget. In order to pay bills, the former clerk-treasurer had drained most city reserve accounts and had tapped over \$700,000 in ambulance operating funds, all without properly documenting the transfer of funds.

Ceglar recommended that the city properly plan for funding larger capital projects to avoid such issues in the future. Victoria Ranua, the city's current clerk-treasurer, noted that the city has implemented new procedures that document any fund transfers through a resolution that explains the purpose and whether the funds are to be repaid. Ranua has also pushed the council to hold off on major capital projects until the city identifies a full funding plan.

Ceglar's management letter cited ten issues,

which down considerably from prior years, but still of concern. Virtually all of the remaining issues were familiar ones, including that the city continues to run a deficit in the sewer fund, a deficit fund balance in the tax increment fund dating back to the construction of the senior living facility, and a delay in the submission of airport maintenance grant requests. Ranua said there was no clear process in place for submitting airport grants when she was hired, but that she now has a process in place and all grants are being submitted in a timely manner and all funds due the city have been received.

The report indicated that the auditors, again, had to make a large number of correcting journal entries, suggesting that the city faces "a continued lack of financial reporting oversight."

The auditor, as it has done for decades, raised concerns about the lack of segregation of duties and related issues that Ceglar said are typical of small governmental bodies with limited staff.

Ceglar also identified a continuing delay in bank reconciliations. Ranua noted that several of the issues have been resolved, or partially resolved in the months since the close of the 2020 fiscal year.

Individual funds

The audit revealed that both revenues and expenditures through the city's

general fund increased more than expected, but the final deficit of \$153,425 was slightly better than the \$158,591 shortfall that the city originally budgeted. The city's cost of general government came in \$92,530 more than expected, and the city spent \$79,184 more on streets than it had budgeted.

The audit also revealed that Hoodoo Point Campground had an excellent year in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, generating a profit of \$110,693, thanks to higher-than-expected revenues and lower-than-expected expenditures.

The city's ambulance service did better than anticipated as well, even though the pandemic initially resulted in a major drop in ambulance calls. The service also sharply reduced the number of transfers in order to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus for its staff. While revenues were off by \$72,000, expenses were down by \$119,000. The service, which paid the bulk of the cost of its new ambulance in 2020, at \$155,586, saw an actual deficit of \$89,945, an improvement on the originally budgeted deficit of \$137,310.

The Tower Economic Development Authority operated in the black in 2020, as its fund balance improved by \$62,611. TEDA's basic operating budget finished \$21,137 in the black, not including the \$142,228 it spent complet-

ing the construction of the new industrial building for Lamppa Manufacturing. That expense was covered by proceeds from a zero-interest, non-recourse loan from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation that was earmarked for the Lamppa project.

Among all its funds, the city took in \$2.141 million and spent \$2.392 million, for an overall deficit of \$250,769. However, capital outlays of \$749,663 for the airport, TEDA's new industrial building, and the new ambulance were included in that figure and other sources of funding helped pay some of those costs. In total, the city's decline in its overall fund balance was \$72,317, leaving a total of \$1.430 million in all accounts, including \$185,357 in the general fund.

Law enforcement

Council member Dave Setterberg provided the council with his latest update on the work of the ad hoc joint police committee, which the city created in cooperation with Breitung Township last March as the two communities sought to decide on the future of local law enforcement.

Setterberg said the committee is recommending that the two communities adopt some form of part-time local law enforcement, while relying on 911 service when the local police aren't on duty. The service would likely be

managed by Breitung for now, but could eventually come under the oversight of a joint commission.

Setterberg noted that the survey showed significant support among Breitung residents for local policing, but council members noted that the results were quite different in Tower, and that response to the survey was limited. "Do we feel comfortable that we have got enough information from Tower?" asked council member Kevin Norby. Fellow councilor Joe Morin agreed. "The numbers are so low, they're insignificant statistically."

Norby said the results he saw were different from what he was hearing by talking to residents. "Is there a silent majority out there?" he asked.

After some discussion, the council voted to table any decision on the question until its July 26 meeting.

In other business, the council:

► Approved the installation of electric meters for seasonal campsites at the Hoodoo Point Campground, at an estimated cost of about \$23,000. Campground manager Randy Pratt recommended the upgrade, which will allow the campground to charge seasonal RV users for their electrical use. He said many campgrounds now charge for electrical use and doing so at Hoodoo Point should generate about \$8-\$9,000 a year.

Ranua said she would have a budget amendment prepared for the council at their next meeting to account for the unexpected expenditure.

► Approved a resolution that requests an ATV crossing for a spur trail that will connect the Your Boat Club to the Prospector Trail.

► Tabled action until their July 26 meeting on a request by the Vermilion Country School to install signs at two intersections in Tower to increase awareness of the school.

► Discussed but took no action on a complaint by an anonymous resident over the failure of some residents to mow their grass. The letter generated a general discussion of blight in the community, and the failure of the ad hoc blight committee, which the city council established several months ago, to meet. Councilor Morin, who had pushed for the creation of the committee at the time, said it's a complicated issue that can't be handled through a "shotgun approach." "We want to be as fair and equitable as possible," he said.

► Took no action on a suggestion that the city consider spraying calcium chloride solution on unpaved streets and alleys in town to reduce dust. But some council members were concerned about the high cost of the solution as well as its potential impact on Lake Vermilion.

COUNTY...Continued from page 1

two existing public works stations that have reached the end of their useful life and no longer allow for parking of some of the larger equipment the county has purchased in recent years. "They also do not have modern wash equipment to keep our equipment clean and extend their service life, especially in the harsh salt environment," said Foldesi.

Besides the savings from reducing the number of facilities, the new public works campus will be more energy efficient, according to Foldesi. "This will allow us to lower our carbon footprint from both a building and operations perspective and hopefully raise our level of service by being able to clear our roads faster and with fewer trips back to the shop to reload with salt and sand, Foldesi added. "In addition, today our buildings cannot accommodate all of our trucks with plows on, so every morning they need to take extra time to put them on before getting out on the



The new public works "campus" is expected to be built just north of the intersection of Hwy. 135 and County Rd. 26 on county tax-forfeit property. photo by M. HelMBERGER

road to plow. This down time will be eliminated with a modern building that allows us to park all of our vehicles inside, out of the weather and operationally ready."

The new facility will also offer a more comfortable work environment for county staff. The Embarrass garage was built in 1936, noted Foldesi, and does not currently have an indoor bathroom for employees.

City of Tower may benefit

The county isn't the only entity that could see benefits from the new public works facility. City officials in Tower have been in discussions with the county for more than a year about acquiring the current county garage facility, located on Marina Dr., for city use. The city has long housed public works vehicles and equip-

ment in a variety of old, unheated buildings scattered throughout town. Its tiny maintenance shop is attached to city hall. By acquiring the county facility, the city could house all of its equipment in one location and have plentiful space to handle its repairs as well.

The old county facility could also potentially provide a new home for the fire and ambulance services, although that might require refurbishing some of the existing buildings or building new. But the 31-acre county garage site would have sufficient developable property for that purpose.

Both of those services are currently located in a small hall attached to the city's civic center, which has been chronically cramped since 2014 when a fire damaged the fire department's adjacent storage garage.

"It's something I've been pushing for quite a while," said Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, who noted

that acquiring the county property would likely cost far less than trying to build new facilities. "As it sits, it would be walk-in ready for city maintenance," said Kringstad. "And I'd like to get those dilapidated [public works] buildings off city property so it can be used for something else."

County Commissioner Paul McDonald said the city's acquisition of the old buildings would be on similar terms as the city of Cook's purchase of county facilities after the construction of a new facility on County Rd. 115, just north of Cook. That would entail a purchase for the current appraised value or estimated market value by the county assessor.

The property's EMV is currently set at \$343,900, which would be a small fraction of the cost to build such facilities new.

McDonald said the new county facility will provide a number of benefits to county residents and he said the added benefit to the city of Tower ensured

that the project would be a "win-win" for the area.

Part of larger program

The construction of the new public works facility is part of a larger county program over the past decade to consolidate its public works and other agencies into fewer buildings in an effort to save operational expenses and provide more modern facilities for county workers. "The Kugler campus is part of a larger bonding package that will construct two other new campuses, in Culver Township and near the Whiteface Reservoir on County Rd. 16," said Foldesi. "If the bids come in favorably, we also hope to replace a number of salt/sand domes and add brine systems to facilities around the county with a total project cost of \$26 million."

County officials hope to complete the bonding process for the projects in August or September.

ORR...Continued from page 1

Public meeting

The proposed store, to be built on the former site of Wally's Auto Service, is surrounded by property owned by Tony Norman. Norman weighed in with his concerns at the June 14 meeting, and was front and center at Monday's public meeting as SEH engineer Dan Hinzmann described the project and requested variances to those assembled. The most significant variance requested was to be able to cover 50 percent of the property with the building and parking lot, which are considered impervious surfaces for rain and create possible issues for water runoff that could potentially affect adjacent landowners and Pelican Lake.

"It is important to note that we will actually be reducing the site imperviousness from where it exists today," Hinzmann said, noting later in the public meeting that Wally's Auto Service had 61 percent of the property covered by impervious surface while the Dollar General installation would have only 46 percent covered.

Hinzmann was joined at the podium by Westwind Vice-President of Construction Peter Oleszczuk as Norman handed a two-page list of questions to them, noting that he was most interested in their responses to the section related to impervious surface variance request.

"Do we have all that information in front of our face today so they can make a sound decision," Norman asked. "Yes or no? Did you bring any of that stuff with you?"

"We're asking for



A 45-minute public comment session, punctuated by terse and sometimes contentious exchanges between those in favor of the Orr Dollar Store development and those opposed, was held Monday night. photo by D. Colburn

variances on imperviousness," Hinzmann began, but Norman interrupted.

"Yep, and there's a whole page on that," he said.

"We can provide information as needed to confirm compliance with ..." Hinzmann said, but Norman cut him off again.

"Do you have all the information on the impervious part of it for the meeting so they can make a decision?" he asked. "From what you said in your speech there I didn't feel you answered any of my questions."

After reviewing Norman's written questions and another brief exchange between the two, Hinzmann addressed the stormwater drainage plan.

"The stormwater is fully contained on site," he said. "There will be new drainage ways established surrounding the site to collect parking lots, roof

drains, snow melt, and all of that will be conveyed to the backside of the site and not off to the neighboring property owners."

That answer was insufficient for Norman.

"I've heard you say you're going to contain the water, you're going to funnel it to the back of the building, and you're going to dump it in Pelican Lake. Not once did I hear anything of trying to protect Pelican Lake from any antifreeze, battery acid, whatever (comes off of) your parking lot," Norman said. "You have no form of protection for Pelican Lake. This is an impervious meeting and you come here and you expect them to make a decision and you did not do one thing to protect our lake."

Hinzmann countered by describing a grass swale system for runoff that is intended to allow sediments to settle, but was again interrupted by Norman.

Hinzmann went on to conclude, "We are in compliance with all listed regulations with the (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) stormwater rules, any City of Orr stormwater rules, and we do feel that we are improving the water quality to Pelican Lake through this," a clear reference to the current condition of the unimproved Wally's Auto lot.

"We have to follow the same rules and regulations as anybody who has to do development work," Oleszczuk added. "We're not a special exception."

After additional back and forth, Oleszczuk took on Norman over the issue of how the Dollar General development would be an improvement over the current conditions of the lot.

"Just so I understand, as the site currently exists, and what we're proposing, are you, in fact, a supporter of the kind of the imper-

vious surface as it exists today?" he asked. "We are identifying a significant improvement throughout, not only to fall in compliance with state and local regulations compared to what exists, but I also think, with the surroundings in regards to how everything's paved, all of that water has to go someplace. I'm going to guess it's all currently going to the lake as it is, without the consideration that we would be proposing with stormwater management. So, I hear you, however, to speak plainly, we have to follow the rules and regulations."

Norman responded with complaints that Westwind hadn't done anything to improve the property in the nine months since they signed an intent to purchase agreement with the current property owners. Oleszczuk countered by reaffirming that Westwind doesn't own the property and hasn't had either the responsibility or legal right to make any such improvements.

"Until we have legal title to a piece of real estate there's no right that I have to do anything," he said. "We're here before you now to come up with a resolution with regards to how that property is and how it exists today." The exchange among the trio went on for several more minutes without any resolution, and the public meeting moved on for comments from others, including Russ Holman, owner of Lumber Orr Hardware.

"I think the community is too small for a store that size," he said. "We make a living here in the summer. The winter's horrible. I own the hardware store and lumberyard here, and we do four, five or six transactions through the till in a day. Tony Norman's One Stop has a tough time

in the winter, we all have a tough time in the winter, and now this would bring more competition in. It isn't going to hurt us too much, but I think overall the town's going to suffer."

Shannon Woodworth, manager of the Cook Dollar General, spoke about how her store operates, the jobs it provides, and the ways in which they try to give back to the community. She noted that many of the products offered by Dollar General aren't available in Orr.

Keith Wallin started peppering Woodworth with questions about employee hours, compensation, and benefits, and when the questioning and comments became contentious, Mayor Joel Astleford stepped in.

"She doesn't represent Dollar General," he said to Wallin. "She's giving her opinion, but you're asking her questions like she does."

Woodworth continued with a few final remarks about community and charitable activities done by her staff as the public meeting ended.

Requests rejected

When the council took up the agenda item of the variance applications and building permit in their regular meeting, there was a lengthy, awkward silence. No comments were made or questions asked of Hinzmann or Oleszczuk before council member Bruce Black finally made the motion to deny the variances, saying he didn't have enough information about the stormwater plans to approve the one for the impervious surface exception. With no additional discussion, Astleford moved to a voice vote, with only council member Bill Kennebeck voting against.

Oleszczuk immediately asked about an appeals process, and apparently there isn't one, as Astleford remarked that they would be free to reapply for reconsideration of their requests.

Black expressed reservations at the June 14 meeting about having insufficient information from the developers, and he elaborated on his concern after the meeting.

"None of us are engineers," he said. "But there's no elevation drawing, OK? There's not. I didn't think there was enough information provided to us to be able to make an informed decision."

As Oleszczuk left the meeting he declined to make any additional comments, but he did affirm that his company would be investigating the options available to them to proceed with the project.

Lake Vermilion Cultural Center Upcoming Fundraising Events

Watch for More Event Information

The LVCC will require compliance with all CDC and Minnesota Dep't of Health guidance, and the Minnesota Governor's Executive Orders applicable at the time of each event.

• ART on the LAKE •

GALA PREVIEW

Indoors at the Halonen Lobby at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center (still under renovation)

Preview: Fri., July 23, 5:30 - 8:30

Tickets available online: \$35

(RSVP by 7/15/21 • appetizers/beverages served)

Eventbrite.com "Art on the Lake"

Many original artworks for sale

Free showing on Sat., July 24, 10 AM - 4PM



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Saturday, Aug. 28, 4 PM

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(218) 361-3297

Tower Medical Vaccine Scheduling
415 N 2nd St, Suite 2
(218) 753-2405



1-877-541-2817

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

BABBITT...Continued from page 1

Rapids.
An online fundraising effort was initiated on Monday by Tara Jokela, who identified the stabbing victim as Leah Bodas. Jokela wrote, "Our friend Leah was the victim of a stabbing on 7/10/21. I know all of you that know Leah also know what an amazing person she is.

She is currently in Duluth undergoing surgery and trying to recover. Her kids are there as well and need our help. Let's rally for this family in their time of need. Thank you."

By Tuesday, more than 30 people had donated nearly \$1,500 of the \$5,000 goal for the "Leah Bodas Fund" at

www.gofundme.

While officers responded to the stabbing report at the Babbitt business at about 7:45 p.m. last Saturday, a second report came in of a shooting in the same area. The calls turned out to be related, according to police. The shooting victim was treated at the scene by law enforce-

ment and first responders. The shooting suspect, a 38-year-old Babbitt man, and the stabbing suspect were taken into custody a short time later.

McGregor reported that the victim and the suspects "were known to one another," but did not provide further details. "We can't release the

names of the victims until charges are filed by the St. Louis County Attorney's office," Chief McGregor told the *Timberjay* late Monday afternoon.

Both suspects were lodged at the St. Louis County Jail in Virginia. Charges are pending.

"I believe the charges will be filed later this

week," Chief McGregor said.

In addition to the Ely Police Department, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, Gilbert Police Department, East Range Police Department, and the Eveleth Police Department all responded to the incident.

ELY...Continued from page 1

is amazing," Cashman said.

Festival goers can also expect a reduction in the number of food vendors 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," Sebesta 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."

That being said, the food court will feature many returning favorites, such as the Kiwanis' blueberry pies, Schweiby's tasty burgers, and the Ely Fire Department's pork chops on a stick.

"We have several new food vendors, including Bob-A-Q with delicious barbequed sandwiches, Now That's Waffles featuring a variety of breakfast and dessert waffles, and Zoe's Gone Bananas with sumptuous banana breads," Cashman added.

The traditional Blueberry Pancake Breakfast, most recently hosted by the Incredible Ely group, is gone this year, as are the Ely Jaycee's



Ely Kiwanis Club members serve blueberry pie at the 2019 Blueberry / Art Festival. Timberjay file photo

beer and beverage tent, the kiddis play area, and live musical entertainment.

New to the festival is The Fish Market. "Artist Dennis McMahan makes colorful and fanciful pottery fish and a variety of other pottery items," Cashman said. "Tonka Bay Fountains creates organic stone fountains generating the soothing sound of water

that are perfect in garden settings. These are just two of the new artists participating in the festival."

Of course, returning artists are showing new work, including Root River Photography, Watercolors by Bonnie, and 2019 first place winner William Close, according to Cashman.

"Our featured local

artist this year is Don Taylor with Barnwood Creations. Don has participated in the Blueberry/Art Festival for several years now," she said. "We look forward to seeing what new items he has created from reclaimed barn wood and other unique woods. Look for a special Blueberry/Art Festival section in the July 23 issue of the *Timberjay*

that features Taylor.

Local non-profits have relied on the major tourist event to raise money for operations, but fewer will be participating this year. The new Experience Ely Expo format for the local organizations, originally planned to launch last year, will debut this year in a separate area of the Whiteside Park festival grounds.

While space was available for 20, only ten local groups applied, and just four organizations followed through to participate in the event, according to officials. Those organizations include the International Wolf Center, Ely Rotary Club, WICOLA (White Iron Chain of Lakes Association), and the Ely Health and Hospital Foundation.

The Ely Health and Hospital Foundation, in coordination with Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, will offer a mini "health fair."

"On Friday, their booth will provide free blood typing with representatives from Memorial Blood Center," Cashman said. "On Saturday, they are offering 100 Johnson

and Johnson COVID-19 vaccinations to be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Saturday will also feature a demonstration of the da Vinci surgical robot."

Their booth will be located by the Whiteside Park band shell.

Last year, the Chamber created Operation Blueberry to support the business community during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Operation Blueberry was so successful that the Chamber is again holding this event starting on Friday, July 16 and running through the festival weekend," Cashman said.

Participating Ely businesses will be vying for prizes for the best banners or window displays. Judging will take place on July 16. Some businesses are offering blueberry products, special discounts, music, featured artists, or other activities throughout the 10-day event. The Operation Blueberry map is available online at Ely.org, or pick up a paper copy at the Chamber office at 1600 E Sheridan St.



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<p style="text-align: center;">ROSSINI'S rollicking comic opera</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; color: white;">LA CENERENTOLA</h2> <p style="text-align: center; color: white;">CINDERELLA in Italian with English supertitles</p> <hr/> <p>JULY 16 7:00 PM Veda Zuponic Auditorium Mesabi East, Aurora</p> <p>JULY 18 3:30 PM Discovery Center Amphitheater Chisholm</p> <p style="font-size: small;">STAGE DIRECTOR: Chia Patino CONDUCTED BY: Gavriel Heine SET DESIGN: Angeliqe Powers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SHARING THE RANGE LECTURE SERIES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B'NAI ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE & THE HISTORY OF IRON RANGE JEWRY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JULY 25 7:00 PM B'nai Abraham Cultural Center, Virginia</p>			
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">Cinderella</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">A special one-hour adaptation of Rossini's comic opera, just for the children.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JULY 17 3:30 PM Discovery Center Amphitheater, Chisholm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NLMF ORCHESTRA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NLMF ORCHESTRA CONCERT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Alexander Markov, violin; Vivaldi's Four Seasons plus Winners of 2021 NLMF Concerto Competition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JULY 22 7:00 PM Historic Hibbing High School Auditorium, Hibbing</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">CHAMBER MUSIC</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>CHAMBER MUSIC AT VCC</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Schubert's <i>The Trout</i> JULY 19 7:00 PM Vermilion Comm. College, Ely</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>OPERA SCENES & ARIAS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">JULY 19 7:00 PM Veda Zuponic Auditorium Mesabi East, Aurora</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>CHAMBER MUSIC AT B'NAI ABRAHAM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Schubert's <i>The Trout</i> JULY 20 7:00 PM B'nai Abraham, Virginia</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>CHAMBER MUSIC AT VCC</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Schubert's <i>The Trout</i> JULY 19 7:00 PM Vermilion Comm. College, Ely</p>	<p>OPERA SCENES & ARIAS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">JULY 19 7:00 PM Veda Zuponic Auditorium Mesabi East, Aurora</p>	<p>CHAMBER MUSIC AT B'NAI ABRAHAM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Schubert's <i>The Trout</i> JULY 20 7:00 PM B'nai Abraham, Virginia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ART EXHIBITS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">OJIBWE FACES AND STORIES: A Photographic Exhibit</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">RETURN TO THE RIVER Installed in the lower level of B'nai Abraham Cultural Center; exhibits rotate with Mesabi East Lobby</p>
<p>CHAMBER MUSIC AT VCC</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Schubert's <i>The Trout</i> JULY 19 7:00 PM Vermilion Comm. College, Ely</p>	<p>OPERA SCENES & ARIAS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">JULY 19 7:00 PM Veda Zuponic Auditorium Mesabi East, Aurora</p>	<p>CHAMBER MUSIC AT B'NAI ABRAHAM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Schubert's <i>The Trout</i> JULY 20 7:00 PM B'nai Abraham, Virginia</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">NLMF CONCERT IN THE PARK</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Indian Drumming Concert JULY 21 4:00 PM Whiteside Park, Ely</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FINAL CLOSING CONCERT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">JULY 23 7:00 PM Veda Zuponic Auditorium Mesabi East, Aurora</p>			

Blueberry/Art Festival

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ISD 696

Demolition work continues at Ely school project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Gerzin named interim high school football coach

ELY – A building project update and the naming of an interim football coach for the upcoming school year were the highlights of a brief ISD 696 school board meeting on Monday.

Superintendent Erik Erie updated the board on recent developments with the \$20 million school renovation project, starting with the hookup of the new electrical service for the campus. A power interruption for the service changeover was originally scheduled for Monday, he said, but a miscommunication between the construction manager and electrician resulted in a work delay.

“They got that straightened out toward the end of today and work is scheduled to start at 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday,” Erie said.

Summer school, a basketball camp and other activities continue to be held on campus this summer. Facilities Director Tim Leeson told school board members he expected minimal interruptions this week and was hopeful

that the electrical service outage would be kept to just a portion of one day.

“Both buildings will be out (of power) at the same time,” Leeson said.

He anticipated that the Washington building would be out for about 30 minutes, but the Memorial building would be dark for a majority of the morning.

The youth basketball camp coordinator, Tom McDonald, indicated to Leeson that the activity could proceed using the natural light in the gymnasium.

Leeson said a water shut-off this week was caused by a pipe leak that was isolated and repaired.

“They are making a lot of progress. The new boilers are in and getting hooked up,” he said.

The demolition of the Industrial Arts building is on schedule, according to Leeson. The site work for the re-location of the campus’s main propane tank to the southwest portion of the campus is also underway.

“We are responsible for moving the tank, but we may get some help from

(the school’s main propane supplier) Lake States,” he said.

Erie told the board that the construction manager, Kraus-Anderson, is now providing a printed monthly site-work update for school officials and the public.

“They are working putting together a website and a Facebook page for our school project updates,” he said. “That should be ready in early August.”

The former boiler building will be demolished soon. Officials are monitoring the artesian well that runs under the building and will likely be able to cap it off and install a drain line. “The delay on the boiler building demolition is because they had to check for the existence of any lead paint in the building and if hazardous materials handling would be necessary,” Erie said.

Leeson that added that one of the three underground tunnels on campus also contained lead paint.

New football coach

With just five weeks before the start of fall

sports, board members hired Louis Gerzin Jr., as the interim head football coach for the 2021-22 school year.

“We are very fortunate, at this late date, to have someone of Louie’s caliber to step up and lead our football team on pretty short notice,” Athletic Director Tom Coombe said.

Timberwolf coach Cory Lassi stepped down from the position last fall and the school athletics department had a hard time filling the vacancy.

“The position was posted this spring and a candidate was selected for hire,” Coombe wrote in a memo to school administration, “but before the recommendation could be brought for board action, the candidate withdrew his name from consideration.”

Another posting to fill the position did not yield any applicants. Coombe requested that the coach position only be on an interim basis as he plans to advertise the position again next year.

Gerzin is a 2014 grad-

uate of Ely Memorial High School and was a “stand-out” football, hockey and baseball player. Coombe said. “As a football player, he was an all-area player for two Ely teams that participated in state tournaments, including the 2013 team that reached the state semifinals at the Metrodome.”

Gerzin went on to play four years of college baseball, starting at Vermilion Community College and continuing at the University of Minnesota-Crookston where he was named team captain.

“Louis has both four-year and post-graduate degrees and has tremendous knowledge of football as well as a personality that I believe will connect with young people,” he said.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Approved a Managed Services Contract with Voltz Inc. for information technology services for the 2021-22 school year.

► Approved an exclusive right contract with Eric Sherman Photographic

Images for 2021-2024.

► Approved a professional services contract with Range Mental Health for the 2021-22 school year.

► Agreed to pay the dues of \$1,663 to Minnesota Rural Education Association for the 2021-22 school year.

► Accepted the resignation of Ben Johnson as head hockey coach.

► Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ely Principals Association regarding extra work and compensation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

► Rescinded the district’s COVID-19 Face Mask Coverings Policy effective immediately.

► Heard from Supt. Erie that his book-banning request appeal decision will be on the August board meeting agenda.

► Heard from board chair Ray Marsnick who encouraged all ISD 696 taxpayers to investigate and apply for possible home-stead property tax credits by the Aug. 16 deadline. More information and application forms are available from the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

FIRE...Continued from page 1

try to buy some time.

“Trying to slow or curb the blaze after it started was really difficult,” Gillson said. “It moved from the gazebo to the bait house, then to the store and the game room, and into the public Johns.”

When firefighters arrived they stopped the advance of the blaze and contained it, but the buildings were already beyond salvage. But Gillson praised their efforts, noting that the potential for greater catastrophe was imminent.

“The next things would have been the propane tank, the gas tanks, and cabins,” he said. “We evacuated cabins nine and ten during the fire. That’s all up the hill from the game lodge, and it would’ve traveled up the hill if it had kept going.”

Two trucks from the Buyck Fire Department also responded, Gillson said.

“They came down to make sure that the fire had subsided and that we’d gotten it all under control,” he said.

And after the fire was out, the responders couldn’t leave until they had been thanked with Life of Riley’s signature breakfast.

“We turned on the grills and put on the coffee pot at four in the morning, and the fire crew and everybody who was here had a big breakfast in the restaurant,” Gillson said. “And then we turned around at 7 o’clock and opened up to the public for breakfast. We never missed a beat on the restaurant.”

“And all of our guests are still here, nobody left, nobody went home,” he added.

Heartwarming response

The Gillsons and their employees knew that securing and cleaning up the remains of the fire would be the first order of business on Sunday. What they didn’t know was how much help they would have.

“The biggest surprise was that as early as that next morning we had alumni staff coming in from all over everywhere to help,” Gillson said. “That was really very encouraging and heartfelt. They came from International Falls, from Duluth, from the Grand



Portions of the Life of Riley Resort on Lake Vermilion burned early Sunday morning. submitted photo

Rapids area, we had them coming out of Virginia. One came in from California. And they’re still here. Some are staying through the week.”

Some of the alumni helped with fire cleanup, while others set about doing the normal duties of cleaning cabins and other resort tasks. Gillson said he’s already gotten word

from many with work commitments during the week that they will be coming this weekend to help out. And they’re not the only ones volunteering assistance.

Friends, neighbors and members of the Vermilion Lake Association have turned out to help. “The response of guests and neighbors and past staff has been overwhelming,”

said Gillson.

There’s little they can do at the moment to deal with all of the lost inventory in the store, which had souvenirs, apparel, food items, and more, but Gillson said they’ve been able to adapt to keep other services going.

“We’ve already got a temporary gas station on the docks. We’ve got

bait and ice and storage for ice. We don’t have minnows because we lost that tank, but it’s hard to keep minnows alive in the summer anyway,” Gillson said.

And of course, there’s breakfast, still being served every day from 7 to 10 a.m. in the restaurant, which was unaffected by the fire.

“Our breakfast crowd has been diminished quite a bit,” Gillson said. “I think people are still confused as to what burned and what didn’t burn. You know, we served breakfast for eight days without electricity in the ‘99 windstorm with gas lights and our gas grill. So, we try to keep the services going and we’re going to try to keep them going through this one.”

With adaptations in place, the Life of Riley Resort will continue regular operations through the end of the season, and Gillson said he’s had only a few calls from upcoming guests about the situation. Once the season is over it will be time to think about rebuilding what was lost, but it won’t necessarily be like what was there before.

“We need to slow down and just take a moment to ask, ‘What do we want it to look like in 10 years, in 20 years, how is it going to fit into the resort as we move forward,’” Gillson said. “It’s all about what’s next. We don’t have T-shirts, I can’t even sell you a candy bar right now. It is what it is, and it was horrible. But now we need to clean up and move on. And we will, and without a doubt we’re going to come back. And we’ll bring it back bigger and better than it was.”

Former resort staff member Freesia Alderete has set up a GoFundMe page, “Help Life of Riley Resort rebuild after fire,” to raise funds for fire-related expenses not covered by insurance.

“The resort has been home to many guests and staff members as well as the Gillson family who owns and operates it and needs our help. Any social media shares or monetary donations are appreciated,” Alderete wrote.

To make a donation, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/help-life-of-riley-resort-rebuild-after-fire>.

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Minnesota won't hold wolf hunt this year

DNR officials say they want to complete a new management plan before deciding whether to allow hunting or trapping

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesota won't have a wolf hunt this fall, as state officials work to update their management plan in the wake of a federal Fish and Wildlife Service decision, last October, that handed jurisdiction over gray wolves back to states. The species has been listed

under the federal Endangered Species Act for more than 40 years, but Fish and Wildlife officials have determined that the species has recovered sufficiently to remove it from federal protection.

According to Minnesota Public Radio, officials with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources told members of the state's wolf plan advisory committee on

July 7 that the agency will need at least until next year to complete a new management plan for the wolf.

"We reiterated to the [advisory committee] that there would be no decision on a wolf season prior to the completion of the wolf plan update," said Dan Stark, DNR wolf management specialist. "We anticipate the completion of the wolf plan process in

early 2022."

In a statement, the DNR said revising the wolf management plan will take until March 2022, which is longer than anticipated. Work on updating the 20-year-old plan started in 2019.

"We will use our updated plan as we determine whether and how to use various man-

See **WOLF HUNT**, pg. 2B



OPERA

takes the stage in Ely

Apprentice artists perform as Northern Lights Music Festival continues across the region

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — An Opera Scenes and Arias performance was held here last Sunday at Vermilion Community College's Fine Arts Theater. The exclusive show was part of the month-long Northern Lights Music Festival.

Ten student apprentices from Nevada, New Jersey, Texas, San Francisco, Kiev, Ukraine, Manitoba, Canada and Nigeria performed pieces of music by such artists as Mozart, Puccini, Tchaikovsky, Donizetti, Bizet and Verdi.

As a teaser for the NLMF's performance of Rossini's La Cenerentola (Cinderella) this weekend in Aurora and Chisholm, the entire apprentice ensemble took to the stage and performed the finale from Act 1 of the comic opera.

While the annual opera performance will not be held in Ely this summer due to school construction limitations at the Washington Auditorium, local audiences will have an opportunity to enjoy Chamber Music at VCC on Monday, July 19 at 4 p.m., and a NLMF Concert in the Park, an Indian Drumming Concert, at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21 in Whiteside Park.

For the full schedule of the Northern Lights Music Festival and ticket information, go to www.northernlightsmusic.org.

Scenes from the operatic performance held last Sunday at Vermilion Community College in Ely. It was part of the annual Northern Lights Music Festival, which continues this week.

photos by K. Vandervort



LEGION BASEBALL



Ely goes 2-2 in Sir G's tourney

Roseau tops the field at 4-0

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — With a perfect 4-0 record, Roseau won the 20th annual American Legion Sir G's Midsummer Classic baseball tournament here last weekend. They beat Virginia 3-2 for the title in Sunday's championship game.

Ely went 2-2 in the ten-team field that also included teams from Wadena, St. Paul Highland Park, Hermantown, Cloquet, Taconite, Proctor, and International Falls.

In Ely's opening game Friday night, St. Paul Highland Park gave the home team a 14-12 loss. "We led 12-5 after six innings but gave up nine runs in the top of the seventh," said Coach Tom Coombe.

Mason Davis went four-for-four at the plate with two runs scored, Dalton Schreffler added three hits and three RBIs. Harry Simons had two hits and Chris Chaulkin scored twice. "Will Davies got the pitching loss in relief of Bryce Longwell," he added.

The eventual tourney champ beat Ely 13-3, on Saturday afternoon.

"Roseau remained undefeated for the (American Legion) season, scoring six runs in the first against Ely," Coombe said. Ely got two hits from Davies, and Chaulkin hit a two-run double in that game.

In the late game Saturday, Ely scored 11 runs in the fifth and sixth innings to rally for a 14-6 win over Cloquet.

"Chaulkin had a run-scoring single in the fifth and a three-run triple in the sixth," Coombe said. "Davies scored three runs and (Zach) Cheney scored twice and we took advantage of 12 walks issued by Cloquet pitchers. Harry Simons went five innings on the mound to get the win and Cheney tossed a scoreless sixth, striking out the side."

See **LEGION**, pg. 2B

FISHING

New guide service is all about bass

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Soon-to-be North Woods School senior Jake Panichi, of Cook, isn't known for taking any of his sporting exploits lightly.

When it comes to baseball, a favorite sport, Panichi bears down with

ferocity from the pitching mound, springs and leaps with abandon in the outfield to turn sure hits into spectacular outs, and is nothing short of full throttle when running the bases.

And when it comes to fishing, Panichi has waded in with the same focused intensity. His parents started

taking him fishing when he was old enough to walk, Panichi said, and his grandfather, well-known guide Joe Panichi, has also been an inspiration and a mentor. But, it seems, there's a catch, and it's not one to toss in a live well.

"He's a walleye guy," said Panichi about his

grandfather. "Every time my parents take me, or he goes out to take me, it's always walleye."

And there's the catch, because Panichi isn't at all a walleye guy anymore.

"I got hooked on bass fishing," Panichi said. "I like

See **GUIDE**, pg. 2B



EAGLES NEST CONTROVERSY

Town board approves extra road right-of-way

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

EAGLES NEST TWP—Neighbors of a soon-to-be developed township access road to Eagles Nest Lake One repeatedly expressed frustration here Tuesday evening, but that didn't stop the town board from approving the conversion of two small pieces of undeveloped park land to a road right-of-way.

The issue may have seemed like a minor one, but it drew two dozen township residents to Tuesday's public hearing, which was required to convert parkland to some other public use. In this case, according to town board chair Richard Floyd, the township wanted to convert an additional 20 feet on both sides of the final 75 feet of the road to allow for fire trucks to turn around.

Neighbors, already upset over the town board's earlier deci-

sion to build a long-platted but never constructed road between Bear Head Lake State Park Road and Eagles Nest One, were clearly frustrated with the latest proposal and its potential impact on their property. Diane Kromer, of Ely, who owns a summer residence with her husband Dave, said the expansion of the right-of-way would only exacerbate the visual impact of the road clearing. "I don't think people realize how many big, beautiful pine are going to be removed," she said.

Floyd didn't argue the point. "I know there are some nice white pine there and I hate to see them go," he acknowledged. He added, however, that public safety concerns had to come first. "Like it or not, we live in a world today that is filled with fire and it's only going to get worse," he said. He noted that the access point would provide an efficient escape route by boat if people were trapped on

some of the township's dead-end roads. It will also provide the township's fire department with ready access to water, he noted.

But Dave Kromer questioned those arguments and said the township already had several reliable water sources within a mile of the planned new road. He said other parts of the township were miles from a reliable water source and questioned why the township wasn't focused on developing access points in those locations.

Floyd didn't dispute Kromer's suggestion. "You're right that our water resources are not all evenly disbursed, but we need as much water as we can get," he said. Kromer, clearly agitated throughout much of the hearing, called the process "a kangaroo court." While Dave Kromer clearly had more to say, Floyd eventually cut him off, noting that he had already exceeded the five minutes that the board was allowing per person for

the hearing.

Neighbor Steve Delich said he was worried the construction of the road and expanded right-of-way at the end could end up as a public access to the lake, something lake residents have generally opposed. Delich suggested that the town board consider installing a gate at the entrance to the new road, to restrict access, which was something Floyd said the board would consider.

Board member Frank Sherman, in comments later in the meeting, agreed with Floyd that the town board has no interest in creating a public access point. "I would oppose that," he said, adding that he would be willing to consider installation of a gate at the road entrance.

While Delich and others complained there had been insufficient public notice of the township's proposal, board member DeAnn Schatz wasn't buying it. She

noted that the issues surrounding the road had been discussed at board meetings for years, and that meetings had been properly posted, both at the town hall and on the township's website. "This has gone on for years," she said. "Let's quit kicking the can down the road."

With the handful of speakers out of time, and with the vast majority of those in attendance remaining silent, the board made quick work of a resolution that converts just under one-tenth of an acre from parkland to road right-of-way, approving it unanimously. Floyd then declared that the township owed no damages for the conversion, since the land remained in public trust.

Construction of the road is expected to begin later this summer.

VIEWS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mixed results on future of policing in Tower and Breitung

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN—Residents of Breitung Township voiced support for a return to a local police department, at least based on the limited response to a survey on the question that township officials distributed to residents of Soudan and the surrounding area last month. Meanwhile, residents in Tower provided little response to the survey,

although a narrow plurality of respondents backed relying on 911-coverage only through the St. Louis County Sheriff's office.

Residents of Tower returned just 23 surveys, reflecting a response rate of less than five percent. Township residents returned 50 surveys, a response rate of less than ten percent.

The joint Tower-Breitung police committee had developed the

surveys in anticipation that large numbers of residents would attend recent open houses on the future of police coverage in the two communities, but turnout for the four open houses—two in Tower and two in Soudan—was limited. The committee has been working since March to explore options for meeting the law enforcement needs of the two communities in the wake of the suspension of the Breitung Police

Department. That suspension came following the resignations of the department's only two officers last winter.

"With all the notifications we sent, I thought the turnout would have been better," said Tower council member Dave Setterberg, who represents the city council on the police committee. While survey responses were limited, Setterberg said he believes they reflect the views in both communities,

based on conversations he's had with residents on the subject.

Of the 50 survey responses received from Breitung Township residents, 32 indicated support for Option 1, which was restoring the Breitung police, although the level of service was not clearly specified. The city of Tower would presumably contract with Breitung.

This option was considerably less popular in Tower, where only three of

23 respondents selected that option as their first choice, although five respondents picked it as their second choice.

Option 2, which calls for the creation of a Tower Police Department, had the support of five respondents. Option 7, which calls for relying on 911 only, with response from the St. Louis County sheriff's office, had the backing of eight respondents.

LEGION...Continued from page 1B



Ely came back Sunday afternoon and pounded International Falls, 9-1, for their second win of the tournament. Schreffler went three innings on the mound and Cheney went four.

Left: Ely pitcher Dalton Schreffler winds to deliver during last weekend's contest against Roseau. It was all part of the annual Sir Gs Classic baseball tournament held in Ely. photo by K. Vandervort

"They combined to hold I-Falls to three hits with nine strikeouts, including five by Cheney," Coombe said. Schreffler had a run-scoring double and finished with two RBI. Joey Bianco had two hits and Davies was two-for-three with two runs scored and a run batted in.

Ely is now 10-8 on the season. They were scheduled to play Barnum on Wednesday and

Taconite on Thursday this week.

Ely will host the first two rounds of the Eighth District Division II playoffs over the July 17-18 weekend, with teams moving on from there to the Sub-State Tournament at Marble July 21, 23-25.

Ely's seed and Saturday game time were determined on Thursday, after the *Timberjay's* deadline.

WOLF HUNT...Continued from page 1B

agement tools to ensure continuation of a healthy and sustainable wolf population in Minnesota. Consideration of whether to hold hunting or trapping seasons will be guided by the updated plan," read the statement.

When federal protections for the wolf were removed in 2011, Minnesota moved quickly to authorize wolf hunts in 2012, 2013 and 2014. A federal judge reinstated protections for the wolf in

the Great Lakes region in December 2014, finding that the Fish and Wildlife Service delisting decision was "arbitrary and capricious."

The Fish and Wildlife Service, after a new process, announced last October that it was delisting the gray wolf once again. Advocates of wolf hunting in Minnesota, including many ranchers and deer hunters, had hoped that a hunt could be reinstated this year. Advocates of a hunt say it would help reduce

the state's wolf population, thereby limiting predation losses of livestock and white-tailed deer. Others have pushed to reduce the wolf population as a way to boost moose numbers in northeastern Minnesota. DNR studies have demonstrated that wolves are the primary cause of the high mortality of moose calves in the state, which has been hampering that species' ability to recover.

With a population estimate of roughly 2,700 wolves, Minnesota is home

to, by far, the largest population of gray wolves in the lower 48 states.

Despite their new authority, the DNR is moving more deliberately in its management planning than in the past and there is no guarantee that the state will ultimately opt to hold a wolf hunting or trapping season. A wolf season is hotly opposed by environmental groups and tribal officials. Gov. Tim Walz has said previously that he also opposes a wolf hunting season in the state.

Dan Gunderson on Minnesota Public Radio contributed reporting for this story. You can hear

MPR News at 89.3 FM in Ely and at 92.5 FM on the Iron Range.

GUIDE...Continued from page 1B

the action with bass fishing. There's more action, it's more strategic, and I can fish tournaments."

It wasn't all that long ago, when he was around 14 or 15, that Matt and Larry Kline at Timbuktu Marina steered Panichi into tournament bass fishing, and he took to it, well, like a fish in the water.

"Ever since they showed it to me, there's nothing I like more," Panichi said.

And just like baseball, it's been full throttle with bass fishing this summer, as Panichi and his younger brother, Louis, have been competing in two tournament leagues. And from the way the pair is performing on the Student Angler Tournament Trail circuit, it appears Panichi not only loves bass fishing but is also darned good at it.

"There's I think 300 boats that participate in

it, and right now halfway through the season we're sitting in second place for team of the year," Panichi said.

Panichi is also cruising the lakes in a new Skeeter FX20 bass boat that he picked up earlier this year, yet another sign of his commitment to the sport.

New guide service

It's said passion plus talent create opportunity, and with those firmly in his pocket, Panichi recently decided it was time to start his own guide service, focused exclusively on bass fishing on Lake Vermilion and Pelican Lake. While there are other guides out there who will take people bass fishing, Panichi said he's the only guide around who focuses only on bass.

"I've always liked getting out to show people what's so fun about fishing and all the different ways you can catch fish and trick

them into biting," Panichi said.

He acknowledged that it's a little more expensive to fish for bass, but the challenge and variety far outweigh the extra cost.

"I like to stick with a different bait every day, I like to try everything," Panichi said. "It's not cheap because we go through a lot of lures compared to walleye fishermen. Bass fishermen can lose a lot of lures, particularly in Lake Vermilion with so many rocks."

In recent tournaments, Panichi's stalking of prize catches has led him to some extremely different areas of lakes to find his prey. One tournament the fish were deep along weed lines near large rocks. The next time out, every fish he and Louis caught was in less than a foot of water.

"Every lake is different, times of the year are

different, and the same time from year to year they bite differently," Panichi said.

Panichi got a little bit later start on launching his guide service this summer because his baseball team did better than expected in playoffs, but two weeks ago he made the circuit of resorts in the area to distribute flyers, and his mother, Jenny, has been hyping Panichi Guide Service on Facebook and other social media outlets. He's already attracted repeat customers, as much for making sure they have fun as for the lunkers they do, or don't, pull in.

"I just want to get people hooked on bass fishing," he said.

To learn more about pricing and scheduling Panichi's bass fishing guide service, call 218-780-7481, or email panichifishing@gmail.com.

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OUTDOOR RECREATION

DNR holds open house for David Dill/Arrowhead Trail master plan

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- An open house at the Cook Community Center on July 7 for people to review and comment on an updated and revised master plan for the David Dill/Arrowhead State Trail drew about a dozen people, with many showing up in support of opening up portions of the trail for off-highway vehicle use.

Department of Natural Resources Off-Highway Planner Joe Unger worked his way around the room past maps depicting eight sections of the trail that have been reviewed for possible development, stopping along the way to talk with visitors and answer questions. Multiple copies of the proposed master plan were available to read, and several people took advantage of the opportunity to do so.

Off-highway vehicles include Class I and Class II all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles, and off-road vehicles that are larger than a Class II ATV. Under the current operating plan, these vehicles aren't allowed to use the trail. In the proposed master plan revision, they would have varied levels of summertime access that would not overlap with the winter period when the trail is used largely by snowmobiles.

"All the current uses will stay," Unger said. "The snowmobile will stay, the non-motorized uses such as horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting, walking, all that will stay."

Each of the eight sections of the trail have been assessed for their potential viability for OHV use, considering the type of terrain, how new uses would impact established ones, possible environmental impacts, and whether trail upgrades or rerouting would be necessary.

The longest continuous stretch of the 125-mile trail from Tower to International Falls that has been assessed as having moderate feasibility for the introduction of summertime motorized uses starts near Elephant Lake and the intersection with the Arrowhead Link GIA snowmobile trail and ends at Gamma Road near Kabetogama.

This region coincides with a major segment of the trail system being developed by the Voyager Country ATV Club. Members Bruce Beste and Steve Koch were at the open house and expressed their support for the new master plan.

"A lot of the snowmobile links on the Arrowhead Trail are already

Public welcome to comment until July 29

a corridor through the woods," Beste said. "If there's high ground where we can utilize the same corridor, it just seems more environmentally-friendly, it seems more responsible to landowners, and it feels safer there."

"If you build a sustainable trail that's made for traffic, it holds the traf-

fic," Koch said. "From our trail system you can't ride Highway 53, and there's a big disconnect from the Sheep Ranch Road up to Ash River and the Kab. That's basically the only route to get up there."

Both touted the economic benefits to the region of allowing the rapidly growing community

of ATV riders to access portions of the trail.

Meanwhile, the beginning and ending planning sections of the trail have been rated as low feasibility for OHV uses, and the ratings system will give the DNR an idea of how to proceed if the plan is approved.

"The feasibility of

each section really helps you because there's a couple of sections where we can't even really consider some motorized use because of how wet it is, or there are too many wetlands and stuff like that," Unger said. "There's other sections that might be more turnkey where we can open up a lot sooner."

No additional open houses or meetings are planned, but the DNR

will receive comments on the proposed master plan through July 29, Unger said. The original 1980 plan and the proposed revision, maps, answers to frequently asked questions, and a link to an online comment form are available at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/arrowhead/index.html.



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TOWER

Great turnout for Vermilion 5K and 10K on July 3

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Turnout was possibly a record high for this year's Vermilion 10K and 5K run/walk, with over 200 participants; an additional 20-plus children participated in the free one-mile fun run. Full race results can be found online at rangerunners.org.

10K Men's

A smaller field competed in this year's 10K race, with runners ranging from 13 to 64.

Caden McNulty, 17, of Belvidere, Ill., squeezed in a first-place finish in the men's 10K with a time of 38:52, easing out 15-year-old Soren Bortnem (38:54) by two seconds. 13-year-old Charlie Bortnem was third with a time of 39:32. The Bortnem brothers are from Dassel.

Rounding out the top 10 men's runners were: Walter Skahl, 59, Virginia, 42:16; BJ Dintner, 36, Eagan, 44:21; Jack Sticha, 23, no city given, 44:48; Travis Green, 47, no city given, 45:02; Phillip Birk, 38, no city given, 46:44; Brian Norberg, 36, Des Moines, Iowa, 47:35; Greg Gossel, 38, no city given, 48:34; Nick Myre, 26, Tower, 49:33;



Above: The crowded start to the 5K race. photo by F. Zobitz
Below: The one-mile fun run got off to an enthusiastic start. photo by J. Summit



10K Women's

Kirsten Heikkinen, 26, of Madison, Wis., was the top women's finisher with a time of 45:30. Aimee Rice, 39, St. Paul, came in second with a time of 50:25; and Lillian

Beutz, 13, Eden Prairie, was third with a time of 51:50.

Other top women's finishers included: Faith Eskola, 43, Plymouth, 52:55; Joy Ercoli, 41, Redding, Calif., 52:59;

Haley Casey-Miller, 27, Hibbing, 53:11; Kaitlin Heikkinen, 29, no city given, 54:57; Clara Zak, 14, Bethel, 55:25

Vermilion 5K Run

This year's 5K field was over 130 strong with runners ranging from 8 to over 70 years old.

Top 10 male finishers were: Kyle Peterson, 30, 24:46; Max Molinaro, 11, 25:08; Michael Anderson, 43, 26:38; Will Swartout, 13, 27:05; Dave Swartout, 48, 27:38; Jack Swartout, 17, 28:01; Andy Swartout, 46, 28:10; Peter Bortnem, 52, 29:21; Jim Erickson, 47, 29:44; Brett Kluerer, 28, 30:08

Women's 5K

Top 10 finishers were: Gianna Figueroa, 14, 25:39 (and 3rd overall); Gavin Brandt, 13, 28:24

Christine Johnson, 20, 28:18; Kristen Bortnem, 46, 29:20; Megan Norberg, 36, 29:24; Victoria Rund, 20, 30:07; Masie Jordan, 17, 32:58; Sadie Molinaro, 9, 33:07; Terri Swartout, 44, 33:12; Keely Kolquist, 11, 33:21

Kids one-mile fun run

The top finishers this year were Christian Cochems, for the boys, and Veronica Molinaro for the girls.

The race is a fundraiser for the Vermilion Country School in Tower. Thank you to Brian St. George and Range Runners for providing online registration and chip-timing. Volunteers included: Jodi Summit (race organizer), Mary Shedd (race route marker, water station coordinator), Marshall Helmberger, Victoria Ranua, Christopher Gregg, Karin Schmidt, Stephanie Ukkola, Tracey Strong, Terry Wagoner; Clair Helmberger, Tasha Trucano Majerle, Jorja Heglin (button-making), The Hoodoo Point crew for water station duties, LVCC for letting us use their lawn for registration, Frank Zobitz for getting photos (because Jodi was too busy), and the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board and Friends of Vermilion Country School for sponsoring the race.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Neil Milan

Neil Milan, 33, of Minneapolis, passed away on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, in his home.

Neil was born in Cook, on Jan. 3, 1988, the first baby of the new year. He grew up in Orr. His summers were spent on Lake Kabetogama at his aunt and uncle's resort, cleaning fish, manning docks, maintaining the grounds, and helping out in the restaurant. In the winter, you could find him on the slopes snowboarding; in any other season

he'd be cruising around on his skateboard.

Neil had a successful career working at Modis for 13 years as an IT recruiter in downtown Minneapolis. He was very passionate about his work, and found great satisfaction in helping people gain employment. Volunteering, charity, and giving back to the community were also things that Neil valued. Whether it was building out gardens, growing a mustache for Movember, biking hundreds of miles, or cleaning up yards, as Neil would say, "I'm down!" Neil loved living in Minneapolis. One could often find him at a sporting event, concert, comedy show or restaurant. If he was going, you were invited to join!

Neil was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. Every year, he looked forward to deer season to hunt with his Uncle Larry and spend time with his Aunt Vivian. During the summer, he would escape to the great Northland to spend time with his family going fishing, boating, jumping into Pelican Lake, grilling, and sitting around the campfire. He loved to jam out on his ukulele with his favorite youngest sister, go tearing around in the Jeep with his favorite eldest sister, and geeking out to Harry Potter with his mom. As a crazy animal lover, you could always find Neil holding or petting a dog or cat. His kitten, Lola, and six dog-nephews loved him more than anything in the world.

Neil was an adventurous soul, who loved to laugh, dance, and travel. One of Neil's creative passions was painting and, of course, he always turned it into a social event, inviting several friends to join in on the fun. His art is featured in

several friends' and families' homes.

Neil had a huge heart and beautiful smile. With his warm demeanor, contagious laugh, jovial personality, and larger than life presence, Neil could make friends with anyone. He had many friends from all walks of life whom he adored and cared for deeply. Golfing, card games, video games, brewing beer, and camping were just a few of the activities he enjoyed with his friends. He will be greatly missed by each and every life he touched over the last 33 years.

Neil is survived by his mother, Marie of Orr; sister, Adrienne of St. Paul; and sister, Crystal (Lauran) of Minneapolis.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frank; and Best Friend and Partner-in-Crime, grandmother Cathy.

Reynold K. Kivela

Reynold "Rey" Kenneth Kivela, 87, of Virginia, passed away on Friday, July 9, 2021, at his residence. The family would like to thank East Range Hospice for their time and care. At Rey's request, there will be a private family gathering held at a later date with interment at the Pike Cemetery.

He is survived by a special friend, Barb Bohar; son, Steven (Becky) Kivela; grandchildren, Luke, Jason, Sammantha, Judy, Brett, Amber, Austin and Alyssa; and great-grandchildren, Gage, Brooklyn, Peyton, Baylee, Colten, Aaliya and Clinton.

Joshua Orcutt

Joshua Orcutt, 57, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, July 1, 2021, at his residence. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

ATTENTION GREENWOOD VOTERS

Thursday, July 22 • 6:30 PM
Greenwood Township Annual Meeting
where YOU the VOTERS control
Township Taxes.

- The Greenwood Board is proposing increased taxes when the township has adequate reserves.
- We support keeping taxes the same, to use the reserves.

Please join us, JoAnn and John Bassing,
at the annual meeting and
vote for the taxes you support.

Attention Vermilion Lake Association members, their families, and friends



We're looking forward to
having your family join us for the
Vermilion Lake Association Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 7, 2021
at Camp Vermilion, 2555 Vermilion Camp Road,
Cook, Minnesota, from 3-7 pm

- 3-4:30 pm:** Discussion Tables and Voyageur Canoeing (3:30 or 4:30, reservations required)
- 4:30-5:30 pm:** Pulled Pork Sandwich Picnic Dinner (\$10 for adults, \$5 for kids under 12)
- 5:30-6 pm:** Annual Business Meeting with bylaw revision presentation/vote and re-appointment of Board Directors
- 6-7pm:** Enjoy conversations with Lake Friends and Beverages on the deck (cash bar)

RSVP Required by Friday, July 23 to:

Terrie Heimann jtheimann@live.com **218-666-6057**
Pat Michaelson plmichaelson@gmail.com **612-306-7702**

The proposed bylaw changes are available at www.vermilionlakeassociation.org.

RODEO ACTION

North Star Stampede is coming up July 23-25

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Effie event will be 66th running of state's largest open rodeo

EFFIE- There's a whole lot of rodeo coming to Effie for the 66th annual North Star Stampede that begins with the slack events on Thursday, July 22 and revs up to full throttle for the main events on Friday through Sunday, July 23-25.

"We'll have a full slate of cowboys, we'll be blocking probably 60 to 70 bulls and about 50 broncs over the course of the weekend, and also a slew of timed event animals," organizer Cimarron Pitzen said. "We have a professional rodeo clown, Tuffy Gessling out of Columbia, Mo., coming up to entertain the crowds, and the campgrounds are in great shape here."

One of the hallmarks of the North Star Stampede is the group of area competitors who toss their hats into the rodeo ring, but its longstanding reputation as a high-quality family-friendly traditional rodeo makes this more than just a regional event.

"We had a lot of the top cowboys in the United States here last year," Pitzen said. "We don't have as many of the top big ones here this year, but we have some great cowboys and many returning champions. I believe we have cowboys coming from eight or nine states this year."

The event, founded by Cimarron's father, Howard Pitzen, is the longest running rodeo in North America that's been continuously run by the same family in the same arena, and is Minnesota's largest open rodeo event.

"My brother's the rodeo announcer, my other brother judges the rodeo, I have a couple nephews and a nephew who's the chute boss, so there are four or five of us who are involved with this," Pitzen said. "My dad started this rodeo in 1956 and it's just kind of been passed down. Dad's been gone for a few years, but I'm sure he'd be proud of the way we're still keeping it going."

Effie and the surrounding area also benefit from the annual event, Pitzen said.

"This event has a huge economic impact on

our area," he said. "In fact, if this rodeo didn't happen you'd probably see Effie dwindle away in a few years. Businesses absolutely look forward to it, and it spreads throughout the community and surrounding counties. People come from several hundred miles, and everybody that comes here spends money. We're very grateful for that."

Schedule and admission

This will be the second year that the slack timed events will be on Thursday, a change from the former tradition of holding them after the main events on Friday through Sunday. And as a bonus for rodeo fans, there's no admission charge for the Thursday session, which begins at noon.

"It actually works well," Pitzen said, "because there are way too many timed event cowboys to compete during the main performances, and last year some of the best times were run during that slack on Thursday."

All the familiar event favorites – saddle bronc and bareback riding, calf roping and steer wrestling, bull riding, barrel racing, and team roping – are on tap for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with extra incentives of bonus money on top of the regular cash prizes for top performers in many of the events. There's also a special "champion's challenge" event on Sunday for saddle bronc and bull riders.

"Dave Bowman Bucking Bulls, they supply some of the bulls for the rodeo, he's put up \$2,000, \$1,000 each for the high score saddle bronc ride and the high score bull ride," Pitzen said.

But the top cowboys in those events don't get the \$1,000 bonuses for finishing first. They'll have to earn those big bonuses by making one more qualified ride atop a specially-selected elite bronc or bull.

"It'll be a great day for the rodeo," Pitzen said. "We have a lot of cowboys entered on Sunday just so they'd be here for that. So



A North Star Stampede bronco rider. file photo

hopefully the high score get to see that challenge." rides here Sunday and we Friday's session begins at 5 p.m., while Saturday and Sunday events

begin at 2 p.m. Single-day admission is \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 6-13 years old. Three-day passes are \$45 for adults and \$20 for children.

Weekend camping is available to those purchasing three-day passes, and all those staying in the campground have to have passes, Pitzen said. Neighborly courtesy is being reinforced this year by a prohibition on parties and a restriction on unnecessary driving around the campground, Pitzen said.

With the ongoing drought, fire safety is a big concern, and the campground will strictly follow any restrictions on fires that are in effect at the time of the rodeo, Pitzen said.

"I guess we're just looking forward to a great weekend," he said.



ely area food shelf

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are going back to in-person Choice Shopping!

On Wednesday, July 21, we open the doors to welcome back our shoppers. Please note the new hours-11 AM to 5 PM (Time slot pickup at 10 AM)

By request we are adding a second shopping time.

Saturday, July 24, we will be open from 8 AM to 11 AM for in-person Choice Shopping. (No time slot selection on Saturday.)

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming foodshelf dates:

August 18, 11-5

August 21, 8-11

September 15, 11-5

September 18, 8-11

Are you homebound and need delivery service? Please call Lynn at 218-235-8912 to sign up.

Do you need extra time to shop or would you prefer not to be around other people? Call Nancy at 218-235-8527 to arrange a shopping time.

Would you like to have someone help you shop during regular hours? Just show up and we can help.

Do you or someone you know need food now? Call Nancy at 218-235-8527 to arrange emergency food.

"Alleviating hunger through community partnerships"

The Ely Area Food Shelf is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donate today at elyareafoodshelf.org.



Local arts and crafts for viewing and sales

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



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*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires Sept 30, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic Inc.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

Assumed Name: J & R Water Utility Service
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 12650 Ableman Road, Gheen, MN 55771
NAMEHOLDER(S):
 J & R Wastewater Inc., 12650 Ableman Road, Gheen, MN 55771

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who

has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: May 7, 2021
 SIGNED BY: Johnnie C. Huismann, President
 MAILING ADDRESS: 12650 Ableman Road, Gheen, MN 55771

Published in the Timberjay, July 16 & 23, 2021

CITY OF TOWER PLANNING & ZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Tower Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. The Commission is considering granting a Conditional Use Permit for a Recreational Vehicle Park located at 10 Marina Dr., with frontage on Pike Bay of Lake Vermilion. More details about the proposal are available on the City of Tower website at www.cityoftower.com. Please send written comments to Tower Planning and Zoning Commission, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790 or email the city clerk at clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com.

Published in the Timberjay, July 16, 2021

EMPLOYMENT

FULL-TIME BARTENDER

The City of Orr is accepting applications for a full-time bartender for the Orr Municipal Liquor Store. This is a salaried position that includes vacation package, health insurance, life insurance, retirement and sick leave. Looking for individuals who can interact with customers in a professional, friendly manner. Must pass background check. The City of Orr is a drug-free work place and Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may be picked up at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Highway 53, Orr. Call City Hall at 218-757-3288 with any questions. tfn



Steger Mukluks is Hiring!

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

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Head Hockey Coach

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Head Hockey Coach for the 2021-2022 season. Background check required.

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

A complete application must include the following:

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

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

Stipend: \$5,600

Deadline to apply: July 20, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, July 9 & 16, 2021

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Grades 6-12 Math Teacher Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Grades 6-12 Math Teacher beginning the 2021-2022 school year; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check is required.

Qualifications include:

- > Current Minnesota teaching license
- > Previous teaching experience preferred
- > Excellent verbal and written communication skills

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

Start date: August 31, 2021

Deadline to apply: July 26, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, July 16 & 23, 2021

Super Crossword

Answers

UP	SET	OAF	FL	AGS	MAMMA
PAULO	FRO	LORNE	ARIES		
SYMBOL	FORS	SULFUR	SILLY		
MOBY	SKEE	GISELLE			
THEWASTE	ELAND	POET	ELIOT		
OER	DOH	INTREPID			
PATH	LEAF	ANAL	ALBEE		
ID	OT	EXTRANFL	PERIODS		
COMPADRE	IRK	RAINHAT			
SNEEZE	MEIR	ADOS	DOME		
COLLAPSIBLE	BEDS				
OH	OH	RONA	VIII	LETHAL	
LIMEPIE	DAL	DISPROVE			
GLASGOW	DWELLERS	POMES			
AORTA	EIN	DESI	MOSS		
CAPRIATI	UNS	GTO			
CLASSY	ITEMS	SOFNECKWEAR			
ROLLEDR	SOYA	AEON			
ANGEL	ATHLETIC	ANIMALS			
MEADE	ROBOT	NHL	NATTY		
PRESS	MEOWS	GOP	SNERD		

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Parking place
- Toy block name
- Narcissist's love
- Bashful
- Cameo shape
- Russian river
- Home
- Wheels of fortune?
- One of the Fab Four
- Doze
- Con games
- Facebook action
- Director Wertmuller
- Tyrannize
- Vichy water
- Church key-board
- Big D.C. lobby
- Realm
- Hertz rival
- Swiss peaks
- Justice Kagan
- Waterlogged
- Mideast airline
- Say it's so
- Rectangular game pieces
- Painter Magritte
- Regarding
- Shell-game

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
		18					19			
20	21			22	23					
24			25					26	27	28
29			30					31		
32			33					34		
			35				36			
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43				44	45
46				47					48	
49				50					51	

- Hobbling
- Broadway failure
- "— Rock"
- Epidermis
- Rosebud, to Kane
- Pisa farewell
- Trademark symbols
- One-named supermodel
- Faucet problem
- Letter holder
- Ms.
- Morose
- Buffalo's lake
- Unique
- "Amen to that!"
- Actor Rickman
- "Adam Bede" author
- Poet Teasdale
- Roasting spot
- Bloke
- 911 responders
- Wee dollop
- Sugary suffix
- Moray, for one
- America's uncle

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EMPLOYMENT



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

- Radiology**
 FT Radiologic Technologist
- Central Services**
 PT Central Services Assistant
- Hospital/ER**
 PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$34.06/hr - Sign-On Bonus)
- Care Center**
 PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$16.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)
 PT RN or LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)
- Adult Day Services**
 PT ADS Assistant

- Dietary**
 PT Dietary Aide/Cook
- Activities**
 Casual Activities Assistant
- Environmental Services**
 PT Housekeeper
 Casual Laundry Aide
 Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

TO APPLY:
www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/
 More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

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

Equal Opportunity Employer/ Affirmative Action Employer

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

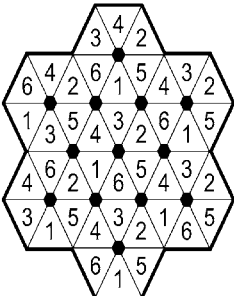
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

solution



FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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JIM ERTZ
 651.253.5568

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Dams
- SLEEVE
- Delicate
- RENTED
- Singer
- CARTON
- Survey
- DUSTY

TODAY'S WORD



"You've changed a lot in ten years... I just knew it was you! I recognized your _____."



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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Full Service
Auto Repair & Garage
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"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

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 26 mins.

LOT	LEGO	SELF																	
SHY	OV	AL	URAL																
DOMI	CIT	LE	LIMO																
	PAUL		SLEEP																
SCAM	S	LIKE																	
LINA		DOMI	NEER																
EAU		ORGAN	NRA																
DOMI		NION	AVIS																
		ALPS	ELENA																
SOGGY		ELAL																	
AVER		DOMI	NOES																
RENE		ASTO	PEA																
ANTE		BEST	ELM																

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Levees 2. Tender;
3. Cantor; 4. Study
Today's Word
DRESS

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

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Mercury, Crestliner, Lund
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franksmarine@centurytel.net
Hwy 53, Orr - Call 218-757-3150

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Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319
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Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com

Grubich MARINA & VILLAGE
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Cabins for a great, fun vacation
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Rentals
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www.handbergs.com

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LAKE VERMILION, TOWER
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Summer Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8:30-5:30,
Sat: 9-5, Sun 9-3

CLOTHING SALE
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
WELCA CLOTHING SALE,
Friday, July 16 from 8-4, and
Saturday, July 17 from 8-12,
1111 8th St. S, Virginia. 9/16v

GARAGE SALE
GARAGE SALE- Friday, July 23 & Saturday, July 24, 12 noon - 6 p.m. 7 Gordon St., Soudan. Household, large roaster, high chair, baby gate, men's hunting clothes, much more. 7/23n/c

JDL Landscaping Cook, MN
Schedule Your Work Today!
• Cut/trim trees & brush
• Brush removal
Jack Luecken 780-9750
Brad Luecken 780-1852

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

YARN SALE
YARN SALE- 61 Jasper St., Soudan. Friday, July 23 from 10-4, and Saturday, July 24 from 10-4. Quality yarns, knitting supplies, beautiful baskets, fabrics. 7/23

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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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Really ruffle
6 Bozo
9 They may fly at half-mast
14 "— Mia" (Abba hit)
19 São —
20 Sway to and —
21 TV's Greene or Michaels
22 Ovine sign
23 S
26 Asinine
27 "— Dick"
28 — -Ball
29 2007 Disney princess
31 Add a letter before that to spell ...
37 Above, to bards
38 "How dumb of me!"
39 Fearless
40 Orbit, e.g.
42 Foliage unit
44 In the manner of
45 "The Zoo Story" playwright Edward
50 Bozo
52 Add a letter before that to spell ...
57 Close amigo
59 Really ruffle

60 Wet-weather headgear
61 Hay fever explosion
62 Former Israeli PM Golda
64 Big fusses
66 Capitol's top
67 Add a letter before that to spell ...
71 "I know! Pick me!"
74 Novelist Jaffe
75 Two before X
76 Deadly
80 Fruity, sourish dessert
82 The Cowboys, on a sports ticker
83 Falsify
85 Add a letter before that to spell ...
89 Pear, apple and quince
90 Main artery
91 Essen "a"
92 He married Lucy
94 Moor growth
95 Tennis great Jennifer
99 Young — (toddlers)
101 '60s Pontiac muscle car
102 Add a letter before that to spell ...

109 Alveolar trill, as in Spanish speech
110 Tofu source, to Brits
111 Long stretch
112 Perfect little kid
113 Add a letter before that to spell ...
120 Gettysburg victor George
121 C-3PO, e.g.
122 Stanley Cup gp.
123 In snazzy clothes
124 Media biggie
125 Tabby cries
126 Dems' rival
127 Bergen dummy Mortimer

DOWN

1 Rival of FedEx
2 With 6-Down, yield a profit
3 Hot stretch
4 Macaroni shape
5 "Such a pity"
6 See 2-Down
7 Popped up
8 Two-pronged vehicle
9 Well-spoken
10 E-giggle
11 Dog's yap

12 Wildebeest
13 Composer Prokofiev
14 En — (as one)
15 1989 Disney princess
16 Metric "thousandth"
17 — Yello (soft drink)
18 Thus far
24 Germ killer in a can
25 Connery of film
30 "— be an honor"
31 Subjects
32 In direct confrontation
33 "Trauma: Life in —" (old TLC series)
34 Guzzled, e.g.
35 Ill-gotten gains
36 Shimmery gem
41 Bride-to-be's clothing drawer
43 Lumberjack, at times
45 Nickname of Onassis
46 Phyllis' last name on the old sitcom "Phyllis"
47 — chic (hippie-inspired fashion)
48 Mild cheese
49 Italy's Villa d'—
51 Brand of tea
53 Jacob of social reform
54 Part of ETA ("Sure thing!")
55 "No —!"
56 Studio tripods
58 Old-time actress Dolores
63 Water quality org.
64 Onetime ring king
65 Longtime soap actress Hall
68 Movie mogul Marcus
69 Bird beak
70 Tonto player Johnny
71 Gymnast Korbut
72 Seat of Hawaii County
73 Sharif of "Che!"
77 Uniform liquid suspension
78 Zoroastrian scripture)

79 Rent check collector
81 Org. with putters
82 Levi's fabric
84 Subject
86 Univ. division
87 Hidden mike
88 Uplifting spiritually
93 Like King Atahualpa
95 Movie dancer Charisse
96 Aviation branch of the military
97 Great traits
98 Traffic noise
100 Yarn units
102 Intense ache
103 Real introvert
104 Tank slime
105 Vehicles near igloos
106 Tennis great Monica
107 Cantina chip
108 Grown gal
114 Boot part
115 "Vice" aier
116 Dejected
117 Swiss peak
118 Env. insert
119 Guitarist Barrett

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19					20			21						22					
23					24			25						26					
		27					28					29	30						
31	32						33				34	35	36						
37					38			39											
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50					51		52			53	54			55	56				
57					58			59						60					
61							62	63			64	65					66		
					67		68				69				70				
71	72	73			74					75				76			77	78	79
80					81					82			83	84					
85								86	87			88			89				
90								91				92		93		94			
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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			



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

DROUGHT

Burning restrictions in effect across the region

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The region's worsening drought and extreme fire danger has prompted the Department of Natural Resources to extend burning restrictions that had been in place in north-central Minnesota across the entire Arrowhead. The restrictions took effect in the early morning hours of Tuesday and will

remain in place until weather conditions allow for a reduction in fire danger.

Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties are among those with burning restrictions now in place. That means:

➤ No campfires are allowed for dispersed, remote, or backcountry camping on all lands.

➤ Campfires will be allowed only in an established

fire ring associated with a home, cabin, campground, or resort.

➤ No fireworks may be ignited on any public or private land outside city limits.

➤ Burning permits will not be issued for brush or yard waste, nor will existing permits be activated.

The burning restrictions mean campfires are not allowed for dispersed campers at 40 state forests, and back-

country campfires are not allowed at 26 state parks and recreation areas — even if the backcountry campsite has a fire ring. Camping stoves are permitted.

"The nearly 1,500 wildfires that have occurred in Minnesota since March are more than we typically see in an entire year," said Linda Gormanson, burning permit

See **BURNING...** pg. 9B



A SLICE OF NATURE

Life at the beaver pond

Far from the distractions of human society, there's a whole other world waiting to be experienced

The sharp slap of a beaver tail against the water told me that my clamber through a tangle of recently-felled aspen had not gone undetected. I was making my way to one of my favorite spots, a rock knob that juts into our neighborhood beaver pond.

It's a place I like to go every-once-in-a-while just to sit and observe all the life that seems to gather there. Beavers created this roughly ten-acre pond nearly a decade ago, by damming a surprisingly minimal trickle of water that emanated from a small boggy area just to the south. The half-mile-long stream used to ooze its way through a rocky gully on its way to the Lost Lake Swamp, until the beavers moved in and converted it all to a haven for beavers, frogs, ducks, and any number of other creatures.

It's in the backwoods, nearly a half-mile back off our gravel road so I never have to worry about other human company. On a recent mild Saturday afternoon, I sat there for over two hours in my camo gear, watching and listening and, surprisingly, being left alone by the mosquitoes and deer flies.

After sitting still for a time, the initial hubbub around my arrival seemed to settle down. The beavers, at least three of them, got back to business, swimming back and forth on various missions. The idiom "busy as a beaver" is certainly appropriate.

Above: A mother mallard leads her large brood through yellow blossoms of bladderwort, a carnivorous plant that is common in northern Minnesota bog edges.

Right: A male red-winged blackbird shows off his bright orangish-red shoulder epaulettes.

Lower right: One of three large beaver lodges in the pond reflects in still water.

photos by M. Helmberger

Not long after I arrived, I noticed a large group of ducks coming my way. It was a mother mallard and least nine young ones, all of which were mostly grown. The momma must have caught one of my fidgets because she zeroed in on my location and wouldn't look away. As with most ducks, however, spotting me in camo seemed to create more curiosity than fear. Once she had spotted my movement, she made a beeline right

for me, all nine of her charges in tow. Having seen so many other ducks struggle in the past to raise even a couple ducklings to maturity on the pond, I couldn't help but admire this remarkably successful momma.

Meanwhile, other denizens of the pond were coming and going. The resident eastern kingbird was busy making his noisy rounds and grew especially animated when I played a

See **POND...** pg. 9B



Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
SPREADING DOGBANE



The bell-like flowers of the **Spreading Dogbane**, *Apocynum Androsaemifolium*, are prominent atop this wildflower's 2-3 foot stem in mid-summer in the North Country. Look for the spreading branches of this plant and its prominent, untoothed, opposite leaves.

The small pink and white flowers grow in a loose cluster at the ends of the branches and are distinctive for their bell-like shape, flared at the rim.

Once mature, the flowers develop into long, thin pea-like pods that open to reveal seeds attached to cotton-like fluff, reminiscent of a milkweed pod.

Outdoors briefly

USFS institutes burning ban on the Superior

REGIONAL — Campfires across all but a few established campgrounds on the Superior National Forest are now prohibited due to the worsening drought that has hit the region.

The campfire ban, signed into effect July 9 by Superior Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins, prohibits the "igniting, building, maintaining, attending, or using a campfire, fire, including charcoal grills and barbecues, coal, and wood-burning stoves," on all lands within the Superior National Forest. It remains in effect until further notice.

The only exceptions to the prohibition are for the use of propane or pressurized liquid-fueled stoves or for campfires within approved fire structures at a handful of established Forest Service campgrounds. This does NOT include fire grates located at remote campsites, including those located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, nor does it include many smaller Forest Service campgrounds, such as Pfeiffer Lake, Echo Lake, Lake Jeanette, or McDougal Lake.

Violations of this prohibition come with stiff penalties, including fines of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment of not more than six months, or both.



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

SUMMER FIRE SEASON

Difficult access poses hurdle in Delta Lake fire

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY— The U.S. Forest Service reported several fires in the Ely area late last week due to extremely dry conditions and a lightning storm on July 4. Hot shot crews continued to battle the largest, the Delta Lake fire, this week, as worsening drought has pushed the fire danger to extreme.

The Delta Lake fire is burning in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, in a thicket of waist- to chest-high blowdown dating back to 2016, that is hampering firefighter access, according to an update from the Forest Service's Incident Command Team, which assumed unified command over the fire cluster response early Saturday morning.

The Delta Lake fire, first detected last Wednesday, remained at zero-percent containment as of mid-week. The fire is south of Snowbank Lake, approximately 19 miles east of Ely.

On Tuesday, firefighters worked to establish containment around the fire, which had grown to about

65 acres in size. Given the difficult access to the area, air resources were critical to keeping the fire in check. Meanwhile, ground crews had achieved access to the hot edge of the fire and were constructing a containment line along the west flank of the fire as of late Tuesday.

By Sunday, Forest Service crews reported they suppressed the Astray, Picketts Lake and Hassel fires and continued to monitor these areas for hot spots.

BWCAW closures

Last Friday the Forest Service ordered the following closures due to the Delta Lake fire by Snowbank Lake:

►BWCAW entry point closures: Kekekabic Trail EP West/ Snowbank #74, and Kekekabic Trail EP East #56.

►BWCAW campsites, portages and lakes closures: Parent, Disappointment, Jitterbug, Ahsab, Becoosin, Benezie, Adventure, Rifle, Bridge, and Fire lakes.

Campers planning a trip to the Boundary Waters should check ahead for current fire conditions.

Forest Service phases out virtual permit pickup

REGIONAL— Most visitors to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area will now need to pick up their wilderness permits in-person, as the U.S. Forest Service begins to wind down restrictions that had been imposed for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Superior National Forest has now discontinued the virtual permit issuance option, with the exception of Sunday sessions, for the remainder of the permit season. Permit issuance and "Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly" education sessions will only be offered online on Sundays at 9 a.m. for permit holders who selected the LaCroix or Tofte district offices as their issue stations, as these stations are closed on Sundays this year. This change takes effect beginning Sunday, July 18.

For all other reservations, the Forest Service is asking visitors to plan to pick up permits in-person.

Permits can be picked up at a Forest Service district office or a cooperator. Be sure to confirm hours of operation and location when choosing a cooperator.

All permits must be issued on the entry date or one day prior. Any unvaccinated person planning to visit one of a Forest Service facilities is asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing in accordance with federal guidance.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
84 57				87 59				89 61				91 62				90 59			
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.
07/05	92	61	0.02	07/05	91	60	0.25	07/05	90	69	0.01	07/05	88	68	0.02	07/05	90	60	0.07
07/06	87	61	0.00	07/06	86	56	0.00	07/06	87	61	0.00	07/06	70	57	0.00	07/06	88	61	0.00
07/07	64	43	0.01	07/07	63	47	0.00	07/07	65	56	0.00	07/07	70	54	0.01	07/07	63	52	0.03
07/08	71	35	0.00	07/08	70	33	0.00	07/08	70	42	0.00	07/08	75	39	0.00	07/08	71	34	0.00
07/09	77	39	0.00	07/09	75	35	0.00	07/09	74	43	0.00	07/09	79	43	0.00	07/09	76	37	0.00
07/10	82	44	0.00	07/10	80	43	0.00	07/10	78	49	0.00	07/10	82	52	0.00	07/10	81	45	0.00
07/11	85	49	0.00	07/11	83	48	0.00	07/11	81	56	0.00	07/11	86	52	0.00	07/11	84	49	0.00
Total			7.11	YTD Total			8.10	YTD Total			8.65	YTD Total			10.80	YTD Total			10.44

Fishing reports

Ely area

Anglers have noticed that the walleye bite continues to improve, especially the shallow water bite. Anglers fishing for panfish on weedlines ended up catching more walleyes than panfish. Leech under a bobber was the best technique here. Anglers found nice walleyes here in four-to-six feet of water. Best colors continue to be orange, chartreuse

and gold.

Smallmouth bass fishing continues to be excellent on many area lakes. Anglers have been reporting that bass have been spitting up crawfish as they bring them in, so anglers should be fishing soft plastics that look similar to crawfish. Topwater bite continues to be excellent early in the mornings. Whopper ploppers, torpedos and pop-rs have been the go-to baits.

Pike anglers continue to catch quality pike in shallow weedy bays and river mouths. Early mornings continue to be best as high water temps send bigger pike deep as the sun gets up. Anglers have been catching pike with large spoons, large spinnerbaits and large sucker minnows under a bobber.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

POND...Continued from page 8B



Far left: A blue flag iris in bloom at the beaver pond.

Left: A beaver makes a drive-by, eyeing an unwelcome visitor to the pond.

kingbird recording from my birding app. These are members of the tyrant flycatcher family and it's a reputation that's well deserved.

But his reaction paled in comparison to the red-winged blackbird. I played the red-wing's konk-a-reeee! call and this male just went

wild, circling around me, shoulder epaulettes fluttering madly. Of birds in our region, they are among the most territorial, so the apparent appearance of an interloper in his well-established backyard, wasn't going to be tolerated. I shut the recording off quickly, so he didn't give himself a heart attack.

While such moments of excitement provided highlights, it was the silence that was, for me, the most satisfying. It was a calm, mostly overcast afternoon and other than

BURNING...Continued from page 8B

coordinator for the DNR. "We want people to keep recreating and enjoying the outdoors, but in ways that reduce the risk of igniting a wildfire."

The restrictions come at a time

when much of northern Minnesota has already been experiencing days of smoke from wildfires in Canada. Air quality alerts have been in place twice in the last ten days due to significant amounts of smoke in

the area.

Closer to home, wildfires have burned 34,106 acres in Minnesota.

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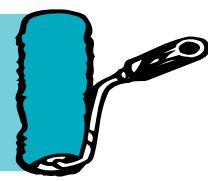
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