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# the TIMBERJAY



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**TOWER**

## Police contract talks with Breitung on hold

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
 Managing Editor

**TOWER** — After lengthy discussion, the city council here, on Monday, voted to authorize two representatives to continue talks with Breitung Township over the future of local law enforcement, but stopped short of agreeing to discuss a possible contract for police services from the township.

The final motion, by council member Dave Setterberg, amended his initial proposal to discuss a possible police contract with the township, but would have limited expenditures for the service to 20 percent of the city's levy, or about \$80,000. In the last full year under its former Breitung police contract, the city spent approximately \$125,000, or nearly one-third of the city's levy.

Yet the council wasn't ready to approve contract talks with Breitung, at least without more information. "I would like to see more options that we could vote on," said council member Kevin Norby.

Council member Sheldon Majerle urged the council to wait and see what kind of police department the township establishes. The town board recently approved a motion to reconstitute the police department which it disbanded back in March, although it appears it will be a smaller force than the prior department. Township officials are currently in the process of hiring a police chief, although Majerle noted that the township has only received a couple applications for the job.

In the meantime, Majerle said he was comfortable continuing to rely on the St. Louis County Sheriff for law enforcement coverage. "I'm not displeased with the way the sheriff has been handling calls that I've

See...**TOWER** pg. 9

"I would like to see more options that we could vote on.

Kevin Norby,  
 Council member

**ANNUAL MEETING**

## Greenwood sets levy at \$150,000

Reserves still higher than annual spending

by JODI SUMMIT  
 Tower-Soudan Editor

**GREENWOOD TWP**—Greenwood Township's levy will remain at \$150,000 for next year, following action at the township's reconvened annual meeting held July 22. Township voters overwhelmingly supported the status quo levy by a vote of 46-5. The meeting was held in-person, with over 50 in attendance at the town hall, but three residents opted to cast their votes by phone.

Chairman Mike Ralston, at the regular town board meeting in July, had asked the board to increase their levy request to \$200,000, and that request was approved by a split 3-2 vote. He had also requested the township levy an additional \$200,000 for possible broadband expenses, another but that move was not supported by other board members.

Mike Indihar, elected as moderator back in March when the annual meeting initially convened, continued his duties, running a relatively peaceful and productive meeting.

Treasurer Belinda Fazio presented the proposed 2022 budget, which showed the township ending this year with a balance of \$529,443, with anticipated 2022 receipts of \$282,500 (assuming a \$150,000 levy), and projected expenses of \$359,200. It showed the township ending 2022 with a fund balance of \$452,743, though some of this balance is in restricted funds—\$39,008 in the Isle of Pines bridge fund, and \$14,487 in the Greenwood Trail Fund.

See...**LEVY** pg. 12

40TH BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL

# GONE WITH THE WIND!



## Ely festival called off after a fierce storm rips through town

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
 Ely Editor

**MORE COVERAGE**  
 'What do we do with all these pies?' Page 11

**ELY**—"The real crusher was that Friday was so much fun," said Adam Zins as he and his wife, Tanja, tried to untangle a wire shelving unit early Saturday morning from under a mangled tent. All around them, in the middle of Whiteside Park, was

what remained of the Blueberry/Art Festival. "It looked like a war zone."

A line of thunderstorms with damaging 70-mph winds driving torrential rains hit Ely

at about 6:30 p.m. Friday night, just as the first leg of the three-day Blueberry/Art Festival was wrapping up.

The short but severe storm destroyed scores of arts vendors' displays and tents, and uprooted big trees in the park, prompting Ely Chamber of Commerce offi-

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



Adam and Tonja Zins, of Appleton, Wis., above, salvage their vendor tent Saturday morning at the Blueberry/Art Festival. A mangled tent frame in Whiteside Park, top, was piled in front of a busted off spruce tree. More pictures inside. photos by K. Vandervort

**WILDFIRES**



A wildfire near Fourtown Lake grew dramatically from 20 acres to 228 acres late Tuesday after U.S. Forest Service firefighters conducted a successful burnout operation. More coverage on Page 5B. photo by USFS



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## Community notices

### Sons of Norway Lodge 40 to meet Aug. 1

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 will meet for their annual potluck picnic at noon on Sunday, Aug. 1 in the Lion's Den at Olcott Park. Beverages and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and a serving utensil for it. Anyone interested in Norwegian heritage and culture is invited to attend.

### Dream Quilters to meet Aug. 5

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, Aug. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Those who are not COVID vaccinated and/or are vulnerable are encouraged to wear masks. There is sufficient space for social distancing as preferred. No food or beverage will be served, but those attending may bring their own. Anni Knutson will present the program topic of "Creating Your Own Original Art Quilts." Visitors are always welcome.

### Mesabi Range open house Aug. 10

EVELETH- Mesabi Range Technical College will hold an open house on Tuesday, Aug. 10 at the Eveleth Campus from 4 to 7 p.m.

There will be interactive self-guided tours, time with the extremely knowledgeable program instructors, walk-up meetings with admissions and financial aid staff, and an opportunity to apply to Mesabi Range College completely FREE.

FREE Duke Skorich barbeque while supplies last. There will be prizes and drawings.

### Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships on Aug. 14

MT. IRON- The Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships, in their ninth year at Mountain Iron's Merritt School Auditorium, will take place on Saturday, Aug. 14 starting at noon. The championships began 40 years ago in Cotton. The contest is open to all U.S. and Canadian fiddlers as well as all other stringed instrumentalists. The championship division is certified by the National Oldtime Fiddlers Association, so the State Champion will qualify to compete at the National Old Time Fiddle Championships in Idaho. There are cash prizes for the top four fiddlers in four different age divisions. The non-fiddle and Twin Fiddle divisions are open to all ages and all stringed instruments. Rules, pre-registration forms, and contact information can be found on the web at [www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/FiddleContest](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/FiddleContest).

The show starts at noon and all contestants will be playing a waltz, a hoedown, and a tune of choice. The show is open to the public for the modest fee of \$10.

These activities are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and cultural heritage funds, and in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Fiddlers Association.

### Lyric Center for the Arts and Northern Stage Works bring back live theater

VIRGINIA- The Lyric Center for the Arts is excited to announce that the lights are coming back on. Northern Stage Works community theatre will present a production of Proof by American playwright David Auburn in August. Show dates are Aug. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 24, 25 and 26 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and must be purchased online in advance.

The play is about Catherine, whose mathematician father, Robert, has recently passed away. Catherine has inherited her father's genius for math along with a bit of his mental illness. During the play one of Robert's former students, Hal, has convinced Catherine to let him search through the professor's papers. While doing so he finds a paradigm-shifting proof about prime numbers that he believes is Robert's. While dealing with a developing relationship with Hal and her assertive older sister, Claire, Catherine explores her fears of genius, mental illness, and the need to stay in control.

The play opens on Tuesday, Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Lyric Annex. Due to COVID precautions, seating will be limited to 20 for in-house performances and all tickets must be purchased in advance on-line at <https://our.show/lyric-center-for-the-arts/proof>. There will be no tickets available at the door. The final three performances will also be live-streamed.

## GARDNER TRUST

# Gardner Humanities Trust celebrates 32 years with Breakfast in the Garden

ELY- The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust was created in 1989 for the enhancement, growth and improvement of the arts in the City of Ely. The Trust will celebrate 32 years since its creation with a Breakfast in the Garden event at Whiteside Park on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Since 1989, over \$750,000 has been given to the community in the form of grants for artists, art projects/events, to arts organizations and for scholarships.

Activities to celebrate the Trust's art efforts in the community may include making cards or drawings with watercolor or tempera paint. There will be light refreshments to make the occasion more festive. Information about the Trust and its grant programs will also be available during the morning event.

The purpose of the Trust shall be for the enhancement, growth and improvement of:

- The Ely Public Library,



Attendees at last year's Breakfast in the Garden worked on crafts together. submitted photo

- The arts and artisans of Ely and surrounding area, to include the performing arts, the visual arts and literature,

- The creating and funding of scholarships, educational and artistic grants,

- The cultural and

aesthetic environment of the City of Ely and its surrounding area.

The 2021 Board of Directors for the Trust are: Beth Ohlhauser, Jill Swanson, David O'Donnell, Vince O'Connor, Mary Setterholm, Chris Steele, Brook Lund and Angela

Campbell. The Executive Director for the Trust is Keiko Williams. Keiko can be contacted at [grtrust@gardnertrust.org](mailto:grtrust@gardnertrust.org) or 218-365-2639, or see the Trust website at [www.gardner-trust.org](http://www.gardner-trust.org).

## Charlemagne's Attic Sale, Aug. 13 and 14

August event will benefit the fire hall restoration project

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is holding an event, "Charlemagne's Attic Sale," on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 13 and 14 at the historic fire hall at 504 Main Street in Tower. The two-day sale will feature antiques, unique, vintage, collectibles, cabin and fun items for sale. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Donations of these specific items are now being accepted for the sale. No clothing, books, cookware or yard sale items will be accepted. Contact Louise Gately at 515-229-8757 or

Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514 to arrange for your donation to be received for the sale. The society is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donation may be tax deductible. All proceeds of the sale will be dedicated to the fire hall restoration project.

The fire hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The original doors and windows have been restored and the roof replaced. The exterior rehabilitation project is planned for 2022. The Tower Economic Development Authority

received a \$100,000 grant through the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for the Main Street revitalization project. Historic grants and private foundation grants are in progress. Private donations and multi-year pledges to support the restoration project are welcome and appreciated.

Named for mining financier Charlemagne Tower who established Minnesota's first iron ore mine, the city of Tower is the oldest Minnesota city north of Duluth. It became the first mining town on

the Range in conjunction with its sister community, Soudan, directly adjoining the Soudan Mine. The historic fire hall was the first fire hall built on the Iron Range (1895), and is the oldest extant public building north of Duluth. When restored, the fire hall will serve a public purpose as a museum and Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion history center. The 1891 Ahrens fire engine will serve as the main feature of the museum.

## Calling all Minnesota girls looking to fund their dreams

The Ann Bancroft Foundation fall grant cycle opens Aug. 1

ST. PAUL- The Ann Bancroft Foundation (ABF) is proud to announce that its 2021 fall grant cycle is open Aug. 1 to Oct. 1. Grants from The Ann Bancroft Foundation are open to all Minnesota girls in grades K-12 and are designed to give girls the strength to achieve their full potential while building confidence and self-esteem along the way. The goal is to create a community where girls embrace their confidence and show the world what

they are made of. Starting Aug. 1, interested applicants can apply at [www.annbancroftfoundation.org](http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org).

Each grant is an investment of up to \$500 per girl. ABF grants have funded a wide range of activities and experiences including sports camps, music lessons, horseback riding, dancing, travel, writing classes and so much more. In addition to the grant, a girl will have access to resources in which

she can learn more about herself.

Each applicant is guided through the application process by an adult mentor of her choosing. This can be a teacher, coach, family friend, etc. ABF grants are based on several factors including need, which can include but is not limited to financial need, a personal or family challenge, and other barriers. A panel of ABF volunteers reviews applications. Grantees from the fall

session will be announced in November.

Minnesota girls grades K-12 (including those who identify as cisgender, transgender, gender non-conforming, and gender non-binary people) interested in applying for a grant can learn more at [www.annbancroftfoundation.org](http://www.annbancroftfoundation.org). Link opens for applications on Aug. 1.

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VERMILION LAKE ASSOCIATION

# AIS Field Day highlights volunteer work on Vermilion to prevent spread of invasive species

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The East Two River, Tower's historic entryway into Lake Vermilion, was the focus of this year's Vermilion Lake Association's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Field Day. The annual field day is a chance for St. Louis County staffers who have oversight of the county's AIS prevention efforts and grant awards to see the projects they are funding and get a better understanding of the over

1,500 volunteer hours put in by VLA members on AIS prevention efforts in the past year.

The AIS prevention efforts by the lake association are mostly funded by grants from the county. The year, said local AIS Program Co-Leader Jeff Lovgren, the VLA received approximately \$42,000 for AIS projects. Funding received varies year to year, he said, depending on the costs of projects the VLA has planned.

"We were quite willing to put together the annual

field day program," said Lovgren. "It was their idea, but we love the idea."

Last year's field day focused on AIS prevention efforts made with partner businesses and resorts on the lake.

Lovgren said the county has been an important partner in AIS prevention efforts on Vermilion. Funding received also pays for information banners, posters, and signs on AIS prevention, and AIS materials that are handed out by other county agencies, as well as at area resorts.

**Gary Haugen and Wayne Suoja show two examples of zebra mussel samplers. The samplers are placed in Lake Vermilion and checked regularly by volunteers for the presence of invasive species.**  
photo by J. Summit



While AIS prevention and education projects target the entire lake, this year the field day focused on efforts at the East Two River, including preventing

See AIS...pg. 5

COVID-19 UPDATE

# Vaccinations urged as COVID cases accelerate

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

## Case rates projected to keep climbing into October

REGIONAL - Concerned that Minnesota could soon mirror a nationwide surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, state health officials on Monday intensified their calls for people to get

vaccinated. State health commissioner Jan Malcolm and state infectious disease director Kris Ehresmann were back in front of the press on Monday for the first time in nearly two months, to try to jumpstart a

statewide vaccination effort that has tapered off significantly in recent weeks. It's left numerous areas of the state vulnerable to the highly transmissible delta virus variant.

"The delta variant is causing three out of

every four COVID cases in Minnesota at this point in time," Malcolm said, "and that means trouble for people who aren't protected because they never got vaccinated. The problem here is very much a problem of unvaccinated

people getting exposed to an extremely contagious and dangerous virus. That's what's driving the case numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths right now."

"It's really a new thing that we're dealing with — not the same old COVID

that you think of from a year ago," Ehresmann said. "It was only a few weeks ago that it (delta) represented less than one percent of the cases that we were sequencing. It is now 75 percent.

See COVID...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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*The First Amendment of the United States Constitution*

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Democracy on the edge

If Biden fails, America could well descend into authoritarianism

Time may well be running out on American democracy.

The election of Joe Biden and a razor thin Democratic majority in Congress provided a chance for the country to move away from the increasingly authoritarian tilt of the Republican Party.

For a time, it seemed as if President Biden and Democratic leaders had learned the lessons of the Obama administration, which proved that efforts to achieve bipartisan agreement, even with the Republicans of old, was futile. Yet, here we are at the brink of Congress's summer recess, and it appears that the White House and Democratic leaders may be falling for the same rope-a-dope strategy that stymied the Obama administration, clearing the way for a Republican resurgence in 2010. The 2022 mid-terms could look a lot like 2010 for any number of reasons.

The Democrats have long known that they have just two years to demonstrate that American democracy can still meet the challenges posed by the 21st Century. And President Biden talks a good game. He has an ambitious agenda to grow the economy from the bottom-up, address climate change, and make life a little easier for average Americans. All of Biden's wish list is popular with Americans. Most of it is popular even with Republicans. His proposals would make a real difference in people's lives and just might help voters connect those benefits with a certain party preference.

It would be nice to think that the future of American democracy didn't hinge on the election of one party over another, but that is the reality that we face today. The hard-right authoritarianism represented by a Republican Party controlled by Donald Trump and his supporters isn't going away. In fact, it's getting worse, through a process of political de-evolution within the GOP that appears to have no bottom and is increasingly attracting the most extreme individuals. When the only standard is fealty to Donald Trump, there are no standards.

A Trumpist GOP might seem unelectable, but there are factors that provide the Republicans innate advantage. The Senate, for one, is inherently undemocratic because it provides outsized representation to small, rural states, which have shown a greater affinity for Trump and his authoritarian tendencies. One and a half million residents of the Dakotas, after all, are represented by four senators, while 39 million

Californians are represented by just two.

The Senate filibuster gives states like the Dakotas, which are far outside the American mainstream, virtual veto power over policies that would benefit the vast majority of Americans, including many of their own citizens.

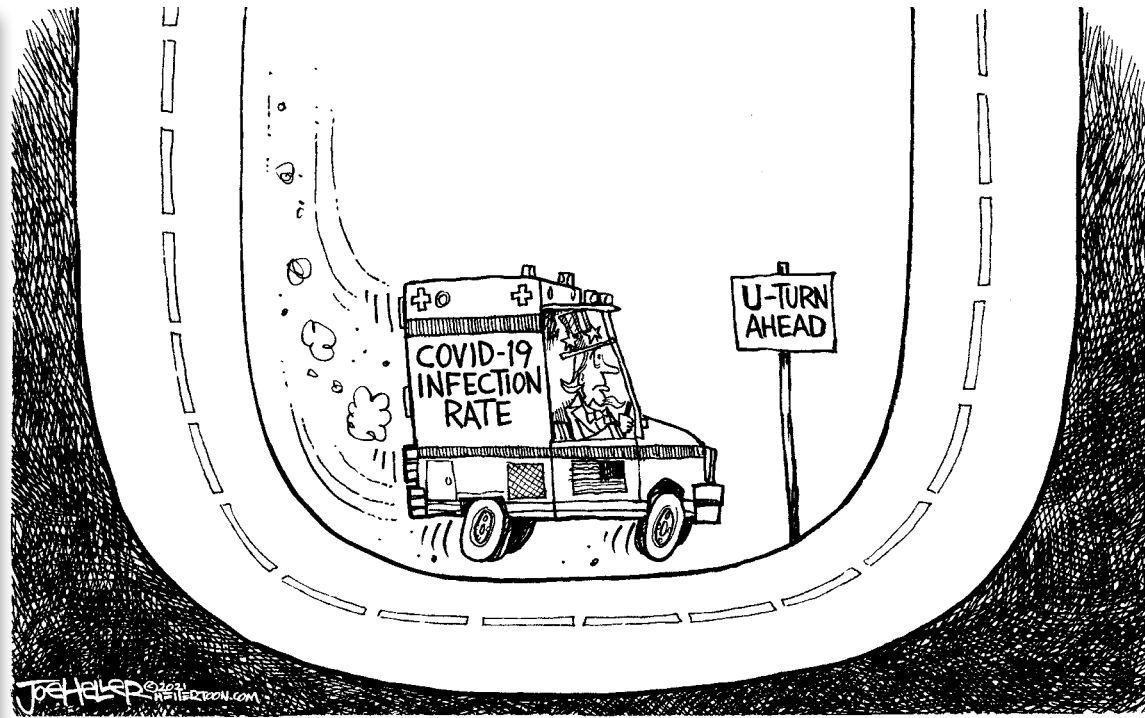
Extreme gerrymandering, which the GOP undertook with extraordinary precision during the 2010 redistricting, has kept Democrats at a tremendous disadvantage in the U.S. House. In state after state, Democratic candidates for the House routinely win more votes than the GOP candidates overall, but those state delegations are often overwhelmingly tilted in favor of Republicans because gerrymandering has roped large numbers of Democratic voters into a small number of congressional districts. Nationally, Democrats have regularly drawn more votes in House races than Republicans, yet after several such elections, Republicans still maintain large majorities in the House.

What's more, Republicans in control of state governments have spent the past few months passing new laws designed to restrict voting, particularly by people of color, who tend to vote Democratic. The impact of these laws vary by state, but they were designed to give Republicans the advantage in coming elections.

Add to this the weight of history, which shows that the party in power regularly loses seats in their first mid-term, and it's apparent that even with a remarkable string of Biden policy successes, Democrats will face an uphill fight in next year's election. The deck really is stacked against them.

That is why our democracy is in trouble. The GOP is demonstrating that it has largely abandoned the concept of fair elections. When given power, they use it to restrict voting or to shift the power of deciding elections to legislatures they control. When they lose a fair election, they falsely cry fraud to justify further undermining of the democratic process. It's a race to the bottom, fed by falsehoods.

Trump and his ilk feed off the sense that democracy is broken, which is why his supporters want failure in Washington. Effective government is the best medicine against the disease of authoritarianism. If Trump and his allies ride back to power on the coattails of Democratic failure in 2022 and 2024, they will have no intention of ever relinquishing their grip.



## Letters from Readers

### Cancellation of the Blueberry/Art Festival

Many hands came to the aid after last Friday's storm. The Chamber is grateful for all the support from so many different people, businesses, and organizations. Organizing an event of this magnitude is always very challenging, and when the unexpected occurs, the outpouring of support is sincerely welcomed and appreciated.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce would like to provide additional information regarding the cancellation of the Blueberry/Art Festival on Friday night, July 23. The Chamber recognizes the concerns raised by festival vendors and the general public, which include the following:

**CANCELLATION:** As the organizer of the Blueberry/Art Festival, the Ely Chamber of Commerce reserves the park permits and carries event liability insurance. Based on the level of devastation existing on Friday night, they determined the festival could not go on. Approximately two-thirds of vendor booths sustained damage ranging from moderate to completely destroyed. Concerns over the remaining standing trees and the extent of damage they received were yet another reason for the decision. Many of the large trees in the park have gone through two previous straight-line wind events, so a third event made public safety even more concerning. When the event was canceled, the event permits and insurance ceased; for this reason, the remaining vendors needed to vacate the park.

**DIFFERENT VENUE:** Each location must have event liability insurance coverage. To provide some context, the Chamber begins planning the event in November. The layout for the festival is a labor-intensive process requiring three staff members across two days. Shifting forty or fifty booths to a different location in eleven hours (in the dark) was logistically not an option.

**INSURANCE:** The Ely Chamber of Commerce carries event liability insurance. It does not cover loss of event revenue or damage to vendor booths or their

merchandise. Each vendor is responsible for maintaining their insurance as per festival policies. Vendor liability insurance has a range of coverage, which may or may not include merchandise, tents or booths, and other items. Contrary to some public commentary, the Chamber is not receiving insurance money for canceling the event.

Considering all of these factors we were left with the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the weekend.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everyone who came to Whiteside Park immediately following the storm. Vendors have shared their gratitude for the assistance. Many vendors stated that they could not have packed up the remains of their booth without community assistance. It was an overwhelming experience to see their booths and merchandise destroyed, but the kindness shown by the community lifted vendors' hearts.

The Chamber would like to also thank:

► The City of Ely, including Interim Mayor Novak, the entire City Council, Harold Langowski, Casey Velcheff, and all the city workers for their support before, during, and following the event.

► Chief Houde and the Ely Police Department for the additional support they provided throughout Friday, Friday night, and Saturday.

► Each year the Chamber hires the Ely Hoop Club to help maintain and clean the park during the festival. Tom Omerza worked nonstop Friday night after the storm and throughout the day on Saturday to remove debris from the park.

► The G-Men provided additional large roll-offs on Friday night and emptied them early on Saturday morning. With the number of tents damaged in the storm, the dumpsters quickly filled. Thank you for assisting with debris removal.

To provide additional support for vendors, the Chamber created a virtual Blueberry/Art Festival, which allows vendors to sell their products online. If anyone would like to provide financial support to vendors who suffered damages, those vendors are listed at the virtual festival page <https://www.ely.org/virtual-blueberry-art-festival/>.

The link is also listed on the Ely.org homepage under Upcoming Events.

The Harvest Moon Festival is still on for Sept. 10-12 in Whiteside Park. Many of the Blueberry/Art vendors are attending. Watch for additional details as the fall festival grows closer.

**Eva Sebesta,**  
**Executive Director**  
**Ely Chamber of Commerce**

### Novak highlights his connections

The severity of the storm last Friday really hit the city by surprise. Unfortunately, the Chamber of Commerce decided to cancel the remainder of the event before having discussions with city staff. The city was not going to interfere in the chamber's decision because it was their event. That being said, I had good discussions with Sen. Tom Bakk and Rep. Rob Ecklund. Both had offered support and would get it from the state if necessary. I had additional discussions with Sen. Bakk regarding the city of Ely's bonding request for next year's legislative session. As the chair of the Senate bonding committee, Sen. Bakk confirmed that the Senate bonding committee will visit Ely to discuss the city's bonding request. Continued discussion resulted in Sen. Bakk committing to the bonding committee members staying at the Grand Ely Lodge in Ely. I want to thank my good friend of many year's for making these commitments. I have high hopes for success in the bonding process next year.

**Chuck Novak**  
**Mayor of Ely**

### We welcome your letters

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

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

## How low's the water, mama? ...Five feet low and dropping

After weeks of smoke-filled air blowing in from uncontrolled wildfires scattered across the U.S. and Canada, and worrisome news reports of falling water levels at western reservoirs that supply places like Las Vegas and Los Angeles, most of us don't need convincing that things are



**KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN**

getting a little scary. Even Minnesota, famous for its bountiful stores of fresh water, is feeling the pinch. Nearly 75 percent of our state is suffering with severe drought conditions. How long can these weather extremes go on? Well, some weather experts

are suggesting this could become our "new normal". If that's true, we may want to start taking the warning signs more seriously.

I scan my surroundings as a daily habit, noticing anything out of the ordinary in my little piece of heaven. Visible signs of our dwindling water resources are becoming more evident everywhere I look. For example, I enjoy mushroom hunting and normally make frequent visits to my tried and true locations. This

year, none of them have produced a single 'shroom due to the lack of any cool, rainy weather. I've noticed changes among stands of aspen and balsam fir. This week, while driving south on Highway 53 from Cook toward Virginia, the rock ridge that I call "Idington Pass", was a mosaic of variegated dull green and brown, the unmistakable look of drought-stressed trees. I recall the stories about northern Minnesota in 1976-77, when the leaf-

less landscape looked like November in July due to extremely dry weather, part of another nationwide drought.

Now in 2021, our creek has been dry since the first of July. The nearby beaver dam that had grown to the size of a small lake, is now a small puddle. And there are no beavers in sight. We've moved the pump that waters our garden from there to a spot 800 feet downstream where some water still stands. Despite our efforts

to conserve, that precious moisture sometimes seems to evaporate before it can even hit the ground.

One day last week, while wrapping up an early morning phone call, the view outside my window began to darken. I thought it was just another day of thick smoke. But minutes later, I realized a storm was moving in with that heavy pall of darkness that usually bodes something big! Then

See **WATER...** pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### The ostrich should be our national symbol

Consider this: we were warned about global warming by the Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius in 1896. We were re-awakened during the Greening of America and Earth Day (1970) fifty years ago. We have been reminded by

the annual United Nations' international conferences in, for example, Kyoto (1997) and Paris (2015); and were shocked by the several Assessment Reports of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Starting in 1958, NOAA has measured carbon dioxide levels in the air at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, starting at 315 ppm and relentlessly reaching

415 ppm in 2019. Now we continue to ignore the reality of global warming and its all-too-tangible threats. These come in the forms of extreme weather events such as flooding, droughts, and wildfires, the rise of sea levels, widespread coral death, loss of glaciers and permafrost, and rapid extinction rates of plant and animal species, among other symptoms. The economic impacts are

immense, and we know that human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, are the cause.

Yet for several years our apparently disposable income has been soaked up by things such as gas-guzzling SUVs and pickup trucks, which have been the hottest-selling items at auto dealerships (who complain when electric vehicles are promoted). Motorized recreational vehicles on

land (RVs, ATVs, OHVs, ORVs etc.) and water (jet-skis, wake-boats, pontoon boats, etc.) are surging. Electricity-gobbling cryptocurrencies are popular, with no physical benefit. Billionaires like Richard Branson, Jeff Bezos, and Elon Musk promote space travel for the masses, and apparently serious people talk about colonizing and/or extracting resources from other celestial objects,

all at huge expense in money and fossil fuels.

This is something we can do individually, with our personal choices, without waiting for the politicians. We had better get our heads out of the sand soon and help slow this preventable disaster, for the health of our planet and its inhabitants.

**John C. Green  
Duluth**

### AIS...Continued from page 3

the introduction of invasive species from boats and trailers, monitoring the chemistry of the water to look at the levels of calcium which are essential for the growth of zebra mussels, and physically checking traps set in the river for the presence of immature zebra mussels.

Ryan Logan, a St. Louis County on-site wastewater manager, and Paige Melius, a St. Louis County planner, spent the morning in Tower on July 23 along with a group of active AIS volunteers. Both Logan and Melius work on

AIS issues as part of their regular job duties.

The field day included a brief welcome by Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, who spoke about the importance of the harbor area to Tower's early history, and the hopes that the lake connections will bring commerce into the Tower area once again.

"We want to keep the harbor area and East Two River channel pristine and free of AIS," he said.

Kringstad said the city hopes to limit boat access to the river to the existing launch site at the Your Boat

Club marina. An additional canoe and kayak launch area is also planned in the harbor area, but they are not seen as a concern for spreading AIS.

"The East Two River is a risk area for zebra mussels," AIS team member Craig Beveroth said, "and the calcium levels are highest when the flow is low." This year, due to the drought, river and lake levels are both extremely low right now.

Zebra mussels can be spread lake-to-lake by boats, trailers, and fishing equipment that come from

lakes with zebra mussel infestations.

While zebra mussels are a constant concern, Lovgren said there is circumstantial evidence that the lake's water chemistry would not be suitable to zebra mussel survival.

"But we still need to do a lot of work on early detection," he said.

Tod Van Norman, general manager of Your Boat Club's Tower location, said they have strict protocols in place to inspect and clean any boats being launched into the river. In addition, boats owned

by the boat club spend their entire summer in Vermilion, so are not tracking in outside vegetation or AIS.

"All our staff takes classes on preventing AIS," said Norman. Your Boat Club has also invested in a hot-water, high-pressure boat washer unit.

Participants got a close-up look at the zebra mussel sampler units, still in use, that were built back in 2016 by students at the Vermilion Country School, with materials purchased by the VLA.

The field day also

included a demonstration of veliger sampling done with a plankton net, as well as results from previous sampling efforts.

VLA has a major focus on preventing the spread of AIS into Lake Vermilion. They also work to inform their members about the issue through their quarterly newsletter magazine. You can learn more about the group at [vermilionlakeassociation.com](http://vermilionlakeassociation.com).

### COVID...Continued from page 3

This particular variant is taking over in terms of the proportion of cases."

Minnesota has one of the lowest infection rates in the country right now, but the delta variant is driving a significant increase in the number of daily cases reported by MDH. On Monday, the state reported 424 new COVID-19 infections.

"We were routinely seeing daily COVID cases falling below 100 new cases per day a month ago," Malcolm said.

Epidemiologists estimate that the delta variant is at least 50 percent more contagious than the predominant variant in March, the UK variant, which was itself 50 percent more transmissible than the original coronavirus strain. The delta-driven surge in other parts of the country has led some political leaders to reinstate indoor masking requirements and restrictions on business activities. The Centers for Disease Control is now recommending both vaccinated

and unvaccinated individuals wear masks indoors if they live in areas with significant or high spread.

Malcolm noted that there are no plans to reimplement restrictions in Minnesota at this time, but that the best way to insure against future restrictions is for the unvaccinated to get the shot.

#### Troubling trend

The current surge is projected to intensify in the next few months, leading to an expected peak in October of 60,000 new cases and 850 deaths a day nationally, according to the COVID-19 Scenario Modeling Hub, a consortium of researchers helping the CDC track the pandemic's trajectory.

The projection is a synthesis of 10 different models and assumes in its most likely scenario that 70 percent of eligible people are vaccinated, which is well below current levels. It also assumes a transmission rate of 60 percent for the delta variant. Currently, only Hawaii, Massachusetts,

and Vermont have reached a 70 percent vaccination level, while 14 states are still below 50 percent. As of Tuesday, 66.7 percent of Minnesotans age 12 and over had received at least one vaccine dose.

In a worst-case projection, about 240,000 people would be infected and about 4,000 people would die each day at the peak, nearly equivalent to the nationwide rates last winter.

Malcolm noted that some have now started calling this a "pandemic of the unvaccinated," and Ehresmann reinforced that over 99.9 percent of people vaccinated in Minnesota have not contracted COVID-19.

"We have had a total of 3,886 vaccine breakthrough cases documented in Minnesota among over three million fully vaccinated Minnesotans. That's a breakthrough rate of less than one-tenth of a percent," she said. "Vaccines protect against COVID-19 disease, including the variants. And they're especially good at

protecting against severe disease from COVID-19."

#### School concerns

Two developments have prompted state officials to closely monitor what's happening around the country relative to the fast-approaching new school year.

On Monday, the CDC issued a new recommendation that all school students, teachers, and staff wear masks to lessen the spread of COVID-19. Meanwhile, Ehresmann said that a hoped-for emergency use authorization of vaccines for children under 12 years old likely won't be forthcoming until late in the fall.

First-dose vaccination rates among those 12 to 15 years old are the lowest of any eligible age group in the state at 40 percent. To start school fully vaccinated, which is considered to be two weeks after receiving a second shot of the Pfizer vaccine, the only one approved for those under 16, students needed to get their first dose this week.

Early in the pandemic,

children were believed to be less susceptible to the coronavirus than adults. Subsequent controlled studies have instead found that the incidence of infection is comparable across groups age five and up, according to the CDC. Children have shown less severe health effects when infected with prior coronavirus strains, but Ehresmann said there is evidence that the delta variant may cause more severe illness.

Malcolm said MDH and the state Department of Education are working closely together to monitor developments and develop appropriate guidelines for schools, and that unlike the

safe schools requirements of last year they were looking at recommendations, not mandates, leaving it up to local districts to decide the best courses of action for their conditions.

Ehresmann said that the best way to protect unvaccinated children is for people who are eligible to get vaccinated.

"The best way we can surround those kids with protection is for the rest of the community to be as highly vaccinated as possible," she said.

On Wednesday, state officials recommended that schools follow the new CDC guidelines for masking.

### WATER...Continued from page 4

the rain came. Monstrous drops in a heavy downpour! Impulsively, I ran outside, lifted my arms in the air and yes, hooped up a storm — a spontaneous gesture of elation and relief. I stood there in sheer delight, just letting myself be thoroughly drenched. In that moment I knew, way down, deep inside, just how precious water really is!

We, Minnesotans with our 10,000 lakes, some of which are the largest repositories of freshwater on the planet, together with our seemingly endless network of rivers, creeks, and wetlands, could easily take this all for granted. Sometimes we act like our water supply is infinite, beyond any harm we could inflict upon it. But challenging times like these should surely give us pause. We may think it is one big endless cycle of evaporation and precipitation, there to meet our every need. But it is far more complicated than that and certainly more fragile.

Yes, the "closed" system of our atmosphere may look like it efficiently manages our water supply, but a drought like this should show us that we don't always get what we want. In fact, sometimes we don't even get what

we need. If you must have a poignant example to understand this, look up the region in East Africa near Mt. Kilimanjaro. Approximately 1,700,000 people live at the bottom of that iconic peak and have depended upon its snowmelt for thousands of years for their survival. These glacial melts are predicted to completely vanish by the year 2030. "Woke" westerners in the U.S. are worrying about this very same problem as snowmelt from the Rockies continues to diminish, threatening to leave millions of Americans bone dry.

I and my family recently had our own "wake-up call" last weekend when we planned a long-awaited day of fishing together on a nearby lake. It was to be our reunion of sorts after not seeing one another during the many months of the pandemic lock-down. Over morning breakfast, we chose which lake to explore, prepared our rods, dug for worms, packed the snack pack, and filled the cooler with plenty of ice-cold drinks. It was going to be hot, but we were ready for a fun-filled gorgeous day together!

The landing was quiet when we arrived. After the

usual hubbub of launching the boat, we were ready to get out on the lake. Everything went fine until we tried to pull the trailer out of the water and back to the parking lot. To our dismay, we discovered we were stuck! No amount of pulling would free the back tire from the DNR's concrete launch pad. We had failed to notice how dangerously low the lake's water level had gotten after months of no rain. Inadvertently, we'd dropped the wheel over the end block. Our fishing trip seemed sabotaged. With no help in sight, we were left to luck and our own ingenuity.

After a lot of grunting and a few rounds of choice expletives, we were finally able to extricate ourselves from the predicament, but only after a 60-mile round trip home to retrieve necessary tools, and many hours of struggle and hard labor to straighten a bent axle.

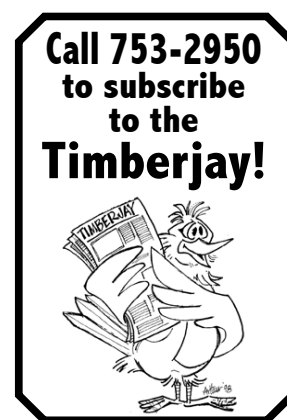
We watched the day wane, but in a decisive moment we broke from our misery and jumped into the boat to pursue that nice stringer of blue gills we'd been dreaming about all day. With luck on our side, we found a hotspot. It wasn't long before we had a generous meal. To top it off,

we also happened to catch an unforgettable spectacle. A huge, blood-red sun as it slowly dropped into the lake!

Back at the landing, we were able to load the boat onto a damaged trailer, pack everything up in the dark, and limp ourselves safely home, happy and grateful for the experience — every single part of it!

This will surely be a story we'll tell time and time again, with laughter for sure, and our forever take-away. With all these reservoirs, rivers, creeks and crops going dry, and no end in sight, we vowed to stop our complaining about rain, and never take water for granted again.

*Title inspired by the song by Johnny Cash "Five Feet High and Rising"*



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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com).

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

Week of Aug. 2

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 Aug. 17.

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

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

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

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

Red Hat Belles to meet Aug. 12

SOUDAN- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Thursday, Aug. 12 at 12 noon at the Vermilion Park Inn in Soudan. A salad luncheon with dessert and beverage will be served for \$12. Please make reservations by Aug. 9 to Linda at 612-916-1918. New members and guests are always welcome.

Fourth of July Donations

The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and families for their donations this year.

Late donations are still appreciated and will be used for next year. Donations can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.

Thank you to: Broten Construction, Joseph & Janis Mesojedec, Joe & Laurie Nemanich & kids, family of George Nemanich, Toot Anderson, Jill Wagoner, Carmen & Ruth DeLuca, Heikkinen/Bjorgo families

Mass schedule changes at St. Martin's

Father Beau Braun, pastor at St. Martin's, announced the following changes to the Mass schedule:

Masses: Sunday- 10:30 a.m., Wednesday- 9 a.m., Friday- 9 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist: Monday- 2-8 p.m., Wednesday- 8 a.m., Friday- 8 a.m. Confessions are heard a half hour before each Mass.

TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORY
Lakeview Cemetery records date back over 130 years

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

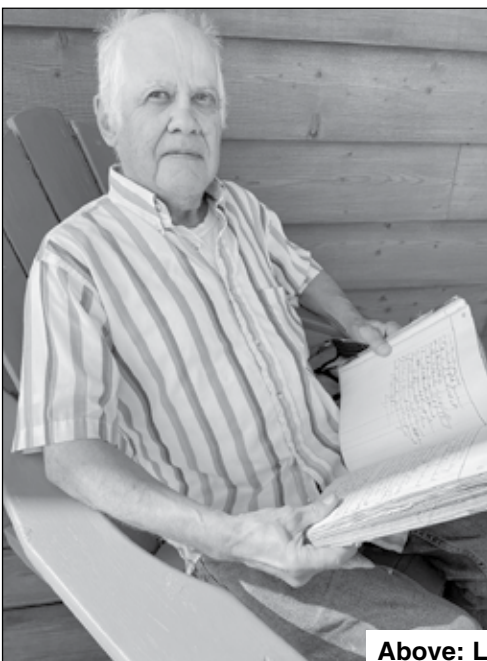
TOWER- Lakeview Cemetery in Tower has been around for over a hundred years, since the late 1880s to be exact. The present-day financial secretary of the board that oversees the cemetery, Leonard Stefanich, has a well-preserved record book, whose first entry dates to 1890, though the oldest preserved records document the 1888 transfer of the land that was to become what was then called Lake View Cemetery. The cemetery was never owned by the city, but by an association which oversaw the property, an arrangement that continues to this day.

Stefanich said the original documents are a bit confusing. The Minnesota Iron Company did donate the land to the newly-formed cemetery association in 1890. It appears the mining company had a purchase agreement on the land, for one dollar, which designated the platted area to be for \$4,000, though the mineral rights were reserved to the mining company.

From the records of the Tower Cemetery Association, June 20, 1888

As duly received to my satisfaction, I hereby give N.H. Alworth or assigns the option and refusal until July 18 at 12 p.m. in which to purchase of me the trust of township of Spalding, which remains unsold land situated in Town 63R, 12 West of Minnesota, comprising about a thousand lots, more or less, Lot 2 & 3 of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec. 23 and Lot 1 Sec. 26 Town 63 R. 12 West of the 4th PM.

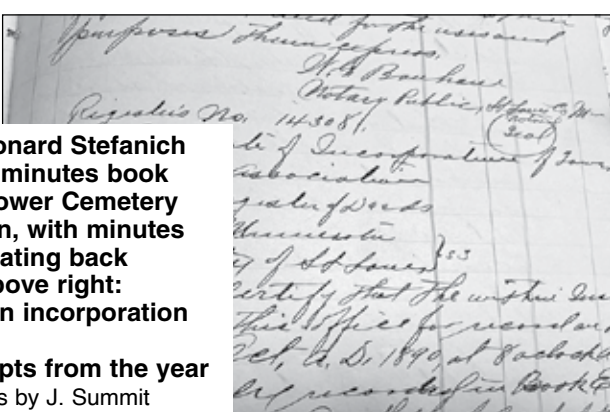
It is understood that all mineral rights is reserved and right to mine without detriment to the property according to blueprint map in office at Duluth being regs stuck in all lots that is contracted as deeded for the sum of FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS. Gladstone, Delta Co. Michigan



Above: Leonard Stefanich shows the minutes book from the Tower Cemetery Association, with minutes recorded dating back to 1890. Above right: Handwritten incorporation papers.

Table with columns for date, name, and amount. Includes entries like 'Nov. 1 Balance \$42.34', 'Nov. 8 Merritt Helm 75.00', 'Dec. 8 Merritt Helm 58.00', etc.

Left: Receipts from the year 1929. photos by J. Summit



ing, ranging from \$5 for a single grave to \$20 for a 16'x16' lot. After the grounds were all plotted out, it was determined that the name of the new cemetery should be called "Lake View Cemetery," though the records show the cemetery was being overseen by the Tower Cemetery Association. Initially, the cemetery grounds had one-third set aside for Catholics, and two-thirds set aside for Protestants. There were also spots set aside for soldiers.

Lake View Cemetery Association was mentioned just a little. On July 1, 1908, a meeting of the Lakeview Cemetery Association was held at City Hall. On Aug. 26, 1909, a meeting of the Tower Cemetery Association was held. From 1910 to 1921, there are no annual meeting minutes that are on file. On August 12, 1922, a special meeting of the Tower Cemetery Association

was held at City Hall.

In October 1922, letters were sent out to cemetery lot owners asking that they donate five dollars towards improving the cemetery grounds.

"Today, those five dollars would not go far," said Stefanich.

In May 1923, 1,600 feet of wire fence, two gates, and enough posts to go around the entire cemetery were purchased, as approved by the cemetery board.

Today, the cemetery serves as the final resting place for families from the Tower-Soudan, Lake Vermilion, and surrounding township areas. The cemetery is funded mainly by donations, which are used to cover the cost of maintaining the cemetery grounds. Donations can be mailed to Tower Cemetery Association, PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790.

TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Talks on Main Street kick off on Aug. 5 featuring the jingle dress

TOWER- Are you curious about the history, culture, and traditions of the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion community? The Tower-Soudan Historical Society brings history back to life through a series of History Talks in August. The topics include The Jingle Dress; The Skala Bar Story; and Immigrants in the Northland.

The series kicks off on Thursday, Aug. 5 with Adrienne Rose, a jingle dress dancer from the Nett Lake sector of Bois Forte Reservation. She will speak about its origin, protocols, two styles of jingle dress, and the spiritual importance for the Native community. The jingle dress (known as ziiibaaska' iganagooday in Ojibwe) features rows of metal cones that jingle as the dancer moves.

The talk is will be held on Thursday, Aug. 5 at 2 p.m. in the Coach Train Car at the Tower Train Depot Museum at 404 Pine Street, across from the Civic Center in Tower. There is no cost to attend. Coach Car 81 is air conditioned. Wa-

ter and lemonade will be available.

A Self-Guided History Tour Map will be distributed to each event attendee. The map includes a compilation of thirty historic landmarks and places of interest in the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion community. The map brochure was created by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society to encourage residents, visitors, and tourists to discover the history of our area through the places, the stories, and the people.

"Everyone should learn their community's history. These history talks and the self-guided maps will stimulate further interest in exploring our area's history," said Linda Haugen, TSHS volunteer. "I tell everyone I meet about all the interesting places we have in our area, and this map brings it all together in one handy brochure. It's wonderful! Everyone needs to have a map so they can learn and appreciate Tower's history."

The History Talks on Main Street and the self-guided map projects

were inspired by the rich history of the Historic Tower Fire Hall located at 504 Main Street. "In my research for grant applications I realized there is so much history that can be learned by visiting the many historical sites in our community. These historic places of interest have a direct connection to our past and allow people to personally experience where history happened first-hand. It helps us to respect and honor our ancestors who came before us," said Nancy Larson, TSHS Vice-President.

The unique building, constructed in 1895, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is being restored by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. The roof was replaced in July and the exterior masonry is planned to be rehabilitated in 2022. Donations are appreciated to the Historic Fire Hall Restoration Fund. TSHS is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.



Adrienne Rose (on right) showing off some jingle dresses. submitted photo

Future History Talks: Immigrants of the Northland will be presented by Karel Winkelaar at Sulu's Espresso Café patio on Monday, Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair in case the patio fills up.

The Skala Bar Story will be presented by Randy Semo at the Good Ol'

Days on Tuesday, Aug. 24 at 2:30 p.m. Randy will tell the story and treat you to a tour of the bar and its many secrets during the early years of lawlessness when Tower issued 22 liquor licenses.

Tower-Soudan Class of 1966 to meet Aug. 8

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1966 will meet on Sunday, Aug. 8 at 4 p.m. at Neighbor's BBQ (the old Black Bear Café). All classmates and spouses are welcome to attend. Everyone will order off the menu. Please RSVP by calling Pat S. at 218-741-9225 or Faye T. at 218-753-4877.

Advertisement for Tower Farmers Market. Includes logo with 'TOWER FARMERS MARKET', 'LOCAL', 'FRESH', and 'VARIEITY'. Text: 'Fridays 4-6 PM at the Train Depot', 'JULY 30 is KIDS DAY!! and Mixed Precipitation Pop-up Theater!'.

Kids Day and Opera Performance at Tower Farmers Market on July 30

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market will hold its annual Kids Day on Friday, July 30, with free snacks and outdoor activities for all kids. Market hours are 4-6 p.m.

The market will also host a pop-up performance by Mixed Precipitation Theater at about 5 p.m.

that July. This excerpt from "The Pickup Truck Opera, Volume 1: The Odyssey" is based on Homer's epic tale of Odysseus and the shenanigans that ensue as he travels home after the Trojan War. The performance is suitable for all ages and interests in ancient Greek literature. Mixed Precipitation will bring a 25 foot-long trailer to serve as a stage for the performance, which is about 25 minutes long.

Bring your lawn

chairs. Free-will donations will be accepted after the performance.

A full-length performance of "The Pickup Truck Opera, Volume 1: The Odyssey" can be seen on Saturday, July 31 at Early Frost Farms, 7273 Palo Tia Rd. in Embarrass.

Visit Mixed Precipitation on Facebook for more info.

## CITY OF ELY

# Voters will select a new mayor on Aug. 10

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Voters here will go to the polls on Tuesday, Aug. 10 to vote in a special election to fill the position of mayor. Ely council member Heidi Omerza and former Ely council member and mayor Roger Skraba survived a primary election earlier this spring to move on to the general election.

The Ely Senior Center voting location will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 10.

Early, or absentee, voting for the special election continues until Monday, Aug. 9 at Ely City Hall during normal business hours. 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.

To learn more about the candidates and their positions, the *Timberjay* asked them to respond to five questions. Here are their answers.

**1. Please provide some brief biographical information including personal information (family, education, work history, etc.) and any experiences or public service that you think qualifies you to be mayor of Ely.**

Heidi Omerza is married to Tom Omerza, President of Frandsen Bank, school board member and assistant girls basketball coach. They have four children, Elliot, Evan, Eric, and Elizabeth. The boys all graduated from Ely School District; Elizabeth is in the 11th grade.

Heidi graduated from Hamline University. She serves on the fol-



Heidi Omerza

lowing boards: Ely Economic Development Authority as President, Park and Recreation, Library, Employee Relations, Insurance, and Negotiations. Statewide she serves on the Coalition of Greater MN Cities Board and Greater MN Partnership, and is past President of the League of MN Cities and the Coalition of Greater MN Cities.

Roger Skraba was born and raised in Ely. He graduated from Ely Memorial High and went to North Dakota State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management and a minor in Political Science. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Reserves and Minnesota National Guard after nine years of service. He worked for Cold Spring Granite Company for two years after graduating from NDSU and moved back to Ely. He was elected to City Council twice and then as Mayor three times. He currently is chairman of the St. Louis County Planning Commission and vice chair of the Board of Adjustment. He is also the chair of Club Mesabi, Mesabi Bike Trail. He is also the trail administrator for the Tomahawk Snowmobile Trail and the local snowmobile trails.



Roger Skraba

He is a member of the Ely Honor Guard.

**2. Why do you want to be the mayor of Ely?**

Omerza: I have served on the Ely City Council for 13 years and during my tenure we have successfully navigated numerous local, state, and national issues which affect our community members. I strive to listen to concerns, in order to find common ground and the best path forward on issues. I am passionate about our community and have a proven track record of experience yielding positive results. I have been president of several state-wide organizations; I have good working relationships at the state and federal level that can be relied upon to help Ely when needed.

Skraba: To represent Ely's diverse community at various levels of government. I've done this before. As Mayor I was one of seven, not the one of seven. If elected I will also save taxpayers the burden of another special election which will cost thousands of dollars and eat up valuable staff time.

**3. As mayor, what can we count on you to accomplish that your opponent cannot or will not?**

Omerza: As mayor I will provide steady and sound leadership that

makes sense to all of Ely. I will continue to promote the use of technology and infrastructure to better our community. Our current high speed fiber downtown internet project can and should be expanded to help service individual homes within the community. The ability to work from home is key to the new economy and Ely's future. Additionally, the west end with the Trailhead building will be a great place year-round for residents and tourists alike. I am committed to moving these and other key projects forward.

Skraba: Not sure I get this question. Again, the Mayor is one of seven. I consider Council member Omerza an equal and if the will of the council wants to pursue an issue that's what the Mayor does.

**4. The current worker shortage is due in part to lack of housing and daycare for people who might want to take those jobs in this City. What is your plan and timeline for solving those problems?**

Omerza: Ely has a housing/workforce shortage, but this is also nationwide issue. We solve this locally by working cooperatively with the HRA, Chamber, Ely Area Joint Powers Group, and other organizations to collaborate on solutions. The current focus on west end development project must continue with razor sharp focus. The expansion of 5th Avenue West would allow for developable land for much needed future housing projects. Additionally, I am on the actively engaged in community daycare taskforce. We are working on finding an immediate yet

viable model for sustainable childcare.

Skraba: This problem plagues every city no matter the size. The best we can do is find a private investor who will work with the public dollars meant for housing and daycare. This issue is not an easy one that gets solved overnight. The competition for local, state, federal and charitable dollars is great and I plan on going after those dollars with the council's permission. The key is finding a partner we can trust.

**5. What City infrastructure improvements will you push for even if it means raising taxes?**

Omerza: We now have a proactive approach to infrastructure in which we strive to make continuous improvements within a modest or zero levy increase. Therefore, we seek outside grants, funding, and partnerships in order to achieve our goals in a fiscally responsible model. There is a process that the City of Ely goes through to make certain that we are aligning with state and county projects and therefore using tax dollars wisely. I will continue to advocate so Ely gets its "fair share" when it comes to things like trail funding, local government aid, and other funds.

Skraba: Last time I was Mayor we looked into a central heating system from wood chips for our community. In order for it to work we would've had to raise taxes. We didn't pursue the project not just because of that but it weighed heavily at that time. Nobody wants to pay more but if we need infrastructure to survive as a community I would support those needs, even if it meant raising taxes.

## OUR COMMUNITY

## Concert to benefit trail project

ELY - As riders get their first taste of the new single-track mountain bike trails at Hidden Valley, the Ely Nordic Ski and Bike Club is planning an outdoor music fundraiser in "the bowl" as part of its efforts to fund the project's completion by this fall.

The community is invited to come to Hidden Valley on Saturday Aug. 7, beginning at 6 p.m., for an evening of fun featuring music, drink, dance, food, play, biking, and hiking to help raise funds to maintain and grow the trails.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/david-huckfelt-and-special-guests-tickets>. Can't join but still want to support the trails? Donate at <https://gofund.me/e82d6aa6>.

Ely's own Jef Cierniak and Andy Messerschmidt will take the stage to start

the evening. With the building of a deck on the back of the chalet and some landscaping to the bowl below, the club created a space for outdoor gatherings, award ceremonies for races, and a variety of live performances.

The new space will be showcased with a performance by David Huckfelt, singer, lyricist, activist and founding front man of The Pines.

Joining Huckfelt for the second time on an Ely stage, Annie Humphrey is a singer, songwriter and visual artist born and raised on the Leech Lake Reservation in Northern Minnesota.

A fixture on the road with Huckfelt, multi-instrumentalist Jeremy Ylvisaker has worked with John Prine, Bon Iver, Bruce Hornsby, Jenny Lewis, Andrew Bird, Anais Mitchell, Brother Ali,

members of Prince's New Power Generation and The Suburbs.

Guests can bring chairs and blankets as well as their own beverages. Team Borealis Mountain Bike Team will be selling a variety of beverages and Wilderness Woodfire Pizza will be on site selling handmade, specialty pizzas.

Proceeds from the show will help fund the completion of the Hidden Valley mountain bike trail project. The first two loops of single-track trail are now open, with temporary signs in place. All riders should wear helmets, observe proper directions and safety guidelines, ride within their skill level and at their own risk. Links for event tickets and the ENSBC GoFundMe campaign can be found at [elynordic.org](http://elynordic.org).



### Tight squeeze through town

A 1950s-era house, originally built by Roy and Elsie LeRoy on Shagawa Road in Ely, was moved to a new location in Winton last Wednesday. "They had a tight squeeze between two utility poles in front of my house," said Winton resident Rita Koch. "They had to ease it through with an excavator. It was pretty cool to watch the whole process." photo courtesy of Rita Koch

Donald G.  
**Gardner  
Humanities  
Trust**

**We are now accepting  
2021 Arts Grant  
Applications**

for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants,  
Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are  
available online at [www.gardnertrust.org](http://www.gardnertrust.org)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS:  
12:00 noon on Fri., Sept. 24**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact  
Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by mid-September  
for help and review of their applications.  
Call 365-2639 or email [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org)  
Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Wed., Sept. 1  
to schedule a grant review meeting.

## Tuesday Group

ELY – The Tuesday Group community lunch gathering meets at noon every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.

➤ Aug. 3: Tanner Ott, Alley A Realty will offer an update on development in downtown Ely.

## Higher Ed

### Local students honored at Bemidji

BEMIDJI - Amanda Bendel, a student from Ely, was placed on Bemidji State University's President's list for the Spring 2021 semester.

Also, several local students were placed on the 2021 semester Dean's List, including Morgan Housey, Ryne Prigge, Jacqueline Taylor, and Evan Wognum.

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



devastation looms  
with a short burst nature speaks

the result is loud

## 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.  
**SUNDAY NIGHT AA -**  
Every Sunday, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, east side door.  
**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.  
**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED**  
- Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 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

### High school sports meeting set for Aug. 4

ELY – Memorial High School athletes planning to participate in fall sports are asked to attend a sign-up meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 4, beginning at 6 p.m. in the school gym.

The meeting is open to parents and students who plan to participate in cross country, volleyball, football or girls swimming this fall, according to ISD 696 Athletic Director Tom Coombe.

Coaches will address players with information about first practices and required registration forms will be available. All student athletes must have a physical examination on file to participate.

For more information, contact Coombe at 218-235-1025.

online at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com)

## GOOD NEIGHBORS FROM AFAR

**Care-A-Vanners integral to new Cook home build**

Volunteers travel the country to boost new Habitat for Humanity projects

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- When the ceremonial groundbreaking for Tara Cotton's new Habitat for Humanity home took place on July 18, it happened amid piles of construction materials sitting on and around a concrete slab.

Barely a week later, the exterior walls were up, the roof decking was nearly complete, and volunteers were ready to get to work on framing the interior walls.

Brandon Anwiler is the construction manager for North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity's latest project, and he gives most of the credit to a group of people who have answered a calling to get Habitat projects off to a flying start.

"This primary group we got from Texas, the Twin Cities, and Arizona," Anwiler said on Monday. "That's my favorite part about this, all the people from all over the nation getting together to help a family that needs a home. That's what the Care-A-Vanners do, they travel six to eight months out of the year working at various Habitats across the United States."

Texan Mike Humes is the team leader for the

group working on the Cook build.

"This is the second build of the season for me," Humes said. "I came in from Brookings, S.D., and then on Saturday I'll make a beeline for Boone, Iowa, and then my last build is in Hobbs, N.M."

Humes brings a background as a master OSHA safety trainer to the table, but he said people can become team leaders after working on three builds.

Humes said he also enjoys working with a new group of volunteers on every build.

"Every time you come in on a new build you don't know who's going to be on your team until the leader sends out the roster, and most of the time you don't know that many people," he said. "There are about 3,500 Care-A-Vanners, or at least there were before COVID. Some do one build a year, others build like me, just going from one build to another. We all show up on a Sunday, have our meeting, work for two weeks, and then we all go our separate ways."

Local Habitat organizations typically arrange for discounted RV parking for Care-A-Vanners, Humes said. His group is staying in RV camping at



It was quitting time at the Habitat for Humanity home build on 4th Street NW in Cook on Monday as volunteers start down a ladder propped against the scaffolding. photo by D. Colburn

Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Hume is pleased with the progress they've made.

"We've been real lucky. Everything just fell into place where at the end of each day we had reached a major milestone. That's great."

Humes said that volunteers are happy to be

supporting the work of the ecumenical Christian housing program.

"We're doing God's work here on Earth," he said. "We take this very seriously as our Christian obligation. Habitat isn't a religious organization, it's a Christian organization, and so all of us that come in here are trying to just do our best to help our fel-

low man."

Anwiler said that part of his job is to see that the volunteers have a good experience.

"We'll take all the help we can get because that's how we build houses," he said. "I always ask volunteers if they feel satisfied each day, and so far, they seem very happy. A satisfied volunteer is a

happy volunteer and then they come back."

Anwiler said he was hopeful the exterior shell and interior walls would be ready by the time the Care-A-Vanners move on, for electricians and plumbers to move in to begin roughing in their work.

## ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY

**Art projects begin to sprout in downtown Cook**

COOK- In 2019, the city of Cook was one of four Minnesota cities selected to be an Artists on Main Street community. Artists on Main Street is a program by the nonprofit organization Rethos, in partnership with Springboard for the Arts and support from the Bush Foundation.

The program provided funding for local artists to develop projects in downtown Cook under the umbrella theme of "It stARTS on River Street." The pandemic delayed the program for one year, but now artists are starting to reveal their projects on River Street.

Twelve proposals were approved by representatives from the city of Cook, Cook Public Library and Northwoods Friends of the Arts. Eligible artists had to live within 30 miles of the city and attend an online artist workshop.

Margaret Jarka is a Cook textile artist, pianist and gardener who has created flower arrangements in large moveable pots to display on sidewalks. She worked with the staff at The Watering Can in Cook to craft several unique and colorful arrangements. She also has plans for winter-themed pots for later this year.

"Cook Welcomes Sprites!" is the creation of self-taught multimedia artist Margo Johnson, of Angora. Johnson created tiny little homes to hide along River Street for people to discover. She hopes her fairy house scavenger hunt brings people together, sparks conversations, encourages exploration and fosters imagination. The installation started with 18 houses and more are being added all the time. This interactive project will run through the end of September.



Visitors to downtown Cook will notice vibrant and fanciful additions to the visual landscape of River Street as artists involved with the Artists on Main Street community project begin putting out their works. Moveable planters, like the one pictured above left, are the work of Margo Johnson, and tiny fairy houses are the contribution of Margaret Jarka. submitted photos

**The Three Amigos to headline Music in the Park series**

COOK - Robert Walker, Todd Olson and Sonny Glass, together as the Three Amigos, bring raw traditional and outlaw country music with a twist of southern rock to Cook's "Music in the Park" on Wednesday, Aug. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gazebo in the city park on River Street. St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church will provide food and refreshments. In case of rain, the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

**Catholic churches release schedules**

REGIONAL- Holy Cross Catholic Church, of Orr, and St. Mary's Catholic Church, of Cook, both served by Father

Beau Braun, have announced new schedules. Mass schedules are also available online at [www.stmmhc.com](http://www.stmmhc.com).

Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays and 5 p.m. on Saturdays at Holy Cross. Adoration will be observed at 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays prior to Mass. St. Mary's will offer Mass on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. Adoration will be observed on Thursdays at 7 a.m. extended observance of Adoration will be from 2 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Adoration on Tuesdays will be at 8 a.m.

Confessions are held 30 minutes before Mass or by appointment.

**Readers and Rappers to meet in park on Aug. 10**

COOK- Readers and Rappers, a Cook area book club will meet again on Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 1 p.m. at the gazebo in Cook City Park.

The book to be discussed is "American Dirt" by author Jeanine Cummins, a timely story of a mother and her 8-year old son who are forced to flee from a drug cartel and migrate from Acapulco to the U.S. It humanizes the undocumented immigrants and their journey to our border wall. It was an Oprah pick and best seller in 2020.

The moderator for the book is Claire Zwieg. Please bring your own chair. Refreshments will not be served.

**Art classes at NWFA feature familiar teachers**

COOK- Well-known regional artists Cecilia Rolando and Lyn Reed are the featured instructors for upcoming art classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook.

**Ceramic Bowl I and II:** Thursdays, Aug. 5 and 12, 6-9 p.m.

Make a ceramic bowl in week one, glaze it in week two. Or join in on week two and choose a bowl already made to glaze. Designs for bowls will be created with an underglaze. \$15 material fee per bowl. Lyn Reed is the instructor.

**Cartoon Family Characters:** Friday, Aug. 13, 1-3:30 p.m.

With paper and pencils and markers, draw

family and friends. Cecilia Rolando is the instructor.

**Making Your Mark:** Saturday, Aug. 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Explore multiple methods of making a mark to create a thoughtful composition. Lyn Reed is the instructor.

Fees are \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 218-666-2153 to register, stop in at the gallery, or send an email to [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).

**NWFA to hold exhibit reception**

COOK- There will be a reception at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery on Wednesday, Aug. 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. to celebrate native Cook artist Sue Anderson Rauschenfels and her art exhibit

"Up North".

The gallery at 210 S River St. is now open each Wednesday before "Music in the Park" from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. for people to view exhibits.

**Writers gathering will be Monday at NWFA gallery**

COOK- A writers gathering will be held Monday, Aug. 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook. All folks interested in writing are welcome to join this group, and are encouraged to bring personal pieces of writing to share. Organized by Ellie Larmouth, she recommends "Write Like It Matters and It Will" by Libby Bray for inspiration.



## BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

## Board forms new committee to make park improvements

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

**BREITUNG-** The Breitung Town Board established a recreation committee to make improvements to the Breitung playground/rink area at their meeting last Thursday.

Chairman Tim Tomsich said that there is an outdoor recreation grant program from the Department of Natural Resources that could be used to fund new boards for the skating rink, which are in very poor condition. The township received funding from this grant program in the past to build the trail between the Soudan baseball field and the skating rink. Tomsich said the grant amounts usually fall between \$25,000 and \$250,000.

The grant application deadline is at the end of March, meaning the current hockey boards would need to last another season. Other needs were identified, such as new mulch at the playground, and other ideas included a separate rink for young skaters, a gazebo, a horseshoe pit, pickleball

courts, or gardens. The board named Stephanie Ukkola to chair the committee. Breitung residents who are interested in serving on the committee or would like to submit ideas should contact Stephanie at 218-410-6001 or at stephanie.ukkola@gmail.com.

### Police

The Breitung Town Board will lease their squad car to the city of Ely until October. Ely normally uses three cars, but one had blown an engine and a replacement squad will not be ready until October or November. The Breitung board added a 1,000-mile-per-month limit or 3,000-mile maximum. The car will also stay parked in Breitung and only be picked up if needed. The agreement includes a 56-cent per mile gas rate. "Our needs would have to take priority," said supervisor Chuck Tekautz.

The board established an interview committee for the hiring of a new Breitung Police chief. The committee includes supervisor Chuck Tekautz, clerk Dianna Sundahl, fire chief

Steve Burgess, and fire captain Trevor Banks. The interview committee will do initial interviews; then the full board will conduct a second interview. There are two applicants for the position. At their last meeting on July 13, the board opted to conduct full board interviews on July 22, but then canceled them in the interest of privacy for the candidates.

### Water

Water plant supervisor Matt Tichel gave an update on how the drought has affected the Tower-Soudan water supply. Tichel said outgoing water usage is higher than normal for this time of year.

"We haven't been this low on our draw down since 2005," he said. "The well is down to 35 of 62 feet. We're pushing all-time low levels. We do have another well as an emergency backup, but the water quality isn't as good."

The board authorized Sundahl to work with Tichel and Tekautz to establish a water conservation directive if necessary.

Residents are asked to voluntarily limit their water use to preserve fresh water levels and quality.

Tichel said that the water discoloration residents may have noticed "is a direct reflection of usage and drought. The water plant is maxed, it can't pull out the inorganics that are coming through." He said that the new water facility, when built, will be able to do that job better.

### Other business

In other business, the board:

► Will submit a pre-application to IRRR for \$162,500 for the Breitung trail renovation between the wastewater ponds and McKinley Park Campground. Some McKinley Park revenue will be used to meet the 25-percent match requirement.

► Heard that five blight letters were sent out and four of the issues have been resolved already. Tomsich will check with the county to see if a recreational vehicle on Church St. has the appropriate permits.

► Selected Jola and

Sopp Excavating of Eveleth with a low bid of \$435,780 for the sewer improvement project.

► Will take a \$200,000 commercial loan from Frandsen Bank in Tower for the gap in funding with a plan to pay it back within a year.

► Agreed with the Soudan Water Board that it is necessary that the water pipes be placed deeper or be better insulated to resolve recurrent freezing issues on 4th Street.

► Will put down 600-700 yards of gravel for \$3,500 on Junction Road to the water tower. "It's so worn down, there's nothing left to grade," said maintenance director Tom Gorsma.

► Approved the addition of another member to the Breitung Fire Department, pending a physical and background check.

► Called for propane bids.

► Put a 2003 GMC Envoy out for bids. The vehicle was acquired as a police forfeiture. Bids will be opened at the next meeting, Aug. 19.

► Signed a new con-

tract with Metro Sales for the rental of a new copy machine at a lower rate.

► Rejected a proposal from Rick's Tree and Stump removal of Duluth to remove two dying trees on 4th Ave. for \$3,600. Gorsma will find other tree services to offer proposals.

► Board members will individually review the blight ordinance, suggest changes, and bring it back to the next township meeting to make updates.

► Heard that a portion of McKinley Park's electrical is overburdened and an electrician will be working on the issue.

► Heard concerns from residents that a rental cabin on Echo Point may not be paying lodging tax, has up to 12 cars at a time, and that the occupants may be overtaxing the sewer. Supervisor Greg Dostert will follow up.

► Received a thank you from Rolf and Laurie Anderson and their family for the township's work on the Community Picnic and Old Settlers Picnic.

► The next board meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 19 at 12 p.m.

## TOWER...Continued from page 1

been associated with," he said. Majerle said he hears a lot more from residents about the condition of the streets than he has about the disbanding of the Breitung police and would like to see more funding directed toward more tangible improvements for city residents.

Council member Joe Morin, who had seconded Setterberg's original motion, agreed that the city has many other needs. "I get all that," he said. But he argued that the city should continue talking to the township, if only to have some influence over the final configuration of the department. "I don't think it hurts to engage the township," he said.

Morin and Setterberg had both served on a joint committee with Breitung that had explored various options for local police coverage. "We've come this far, why not continue?" Morin asked.

Setterberg said he was comfortable either waiting or continuing to talk. "But if we wait, what's the trigger point?" he asked.

Norby asked if the city would be committing to a contract if it continued talking to the township. "No, not in any way," said Setterberg, noting that any agreement would have to come back to the council.

Without any direction to negotiate a contract, the council left any discussion of contract expenses out of the final motion, which the council then approved unanimously, authorizing Morin and Setterberg to continue talking with the township about the police issue.

In related action, the council approved a request by Majerle to seek the return of the city-owned police vehicle, which the township was supposed to return within 60 days of the cancellation of the police contract. Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua said the township had requested

an extension after questions were raised about the ownership of some of the equipment included with the vehicle.

Majerle initially faced some pushback on his suggestion. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad questioned whether the city had space to store the vehicle if it is returned. "Right now, it's in a safe, secure place and we don't know if we have a place for it," said Kringstad. "It's our property," responded Majerle. "We should be able to bring it home."

Ranua said she had checked with the city's public works department and was told that there is sufficient storage space available for the vehicle. With that, Morin made the motion to go get the vehicle and store it in Tower. Morin's motion then passed unanimously.

### Water main funding redirected

In other business, the council approved a motion to forego \$843,000 that had been earmarked from an Army Corps grant to help pay for a new city water main. Instead, those funds will be redirected to help pay for the new drinking water treatment plant, that will serve both Tower and Soudan. The engineer's estimates for the water treatment facility recently jumped significantly, in response to higher costs for most materials for the plant and the water main. It was all part of a joint project proposal that the wastewater board made to the Army Corps last year. Earlier this year, the Corps announced it would provide \$3.375 million toward the project. That would have allowed the joint project to move forward but after new engineer's estimates pushed the project's cost from \$4.5 million to \$5.7 million, it left a much larger funding gap.

Ranua raised some objections to the redirect-

ing of funds, questioning whether the city would be able to find sufficient funds in the future to afford the project. "We're giving up \$843,000, so will the wastewater board be willing to give up more of the [state] bonding bill money if it comes through?" she asked.

At the same time, she said she hadn't seen any documentation that the water main actually needs replacement now. Wastewater manager Matt Tichel said the board had opted to add in the water main in hopes of attracting more funding.

Ranua also objected to a certificate of financial capability, which she was supposed to sign for the Army Corps on behalf of the city. She said she would prefer that the wastewater board sign the document, acknowledging that even though the project would be largely funded by grants, it would be challenging for the city to cash flow. Tichel said he had talked to the Army Corps earlier that day and was informed that the funds had to go through the city.

Ranua said the city would likely need to take out a grant anticipation loan to cash flow the project, which she said could generate monthly construction bills of several hundred thousand dollars.

Given few good alternatives, however, the council voted unanimously to redirect the funds to ensure that the water treatment project would go through. "The water main is not as high a priority as the treatment plant," said

Norby.

The council then passed a related motion expressing the city's desire to work with the wastewater board to "secure fair and equitable funding" to advance the city's water main replacement at a later date.

### Discolored water explained

In related business, Tichel gave the council an explanation for the yellow coloration of the city's drinking water, which has appeared in recent months. Tichel said the current drought appears to be the primary contributing factor, since it has lowered the normal drawdown level in the city's wells. "This year, we're drawing from 30 feet down, which is the lowest level ever," he said, noting that the quality of the water at that level may not be as high as at other levels. In part, he said, the problem is being exacerbated by a sharp increase in water usage this summer. "We're seeing at least a 50 percent increase in usage over a typical year," he said.

While the color is reminiscent of the communities' water prior to installation of the drinking water treatment plant in 1999, Tichel said the plant continues to do the job it was designed to do: remove iron and manganese. He said the current tint is due to excess tannin in the water, which is a type of natural acid typically derived from vegetation. While Tichel acknowledged the water is aesthetically displeasing, he said there is nothing in it

that is harmful, to the best of his knowledge. "It's not like we're putting unsafe water out there," he said.

Tichel noted that Breitung Township had authorized the town clerk to call a water emergency that would prohibit lawn watering if the situation grows worse.

### Other business

In other business, the council:

► Approved the low bid of \$22,015 from Amptek Inc. for the installation of electric meters at seasonal RV sites at the Hoodoo Point Campground at the end of the 2021 season. The council approved a related amendment of the city's 2021 budget to account for the additional spending.

► Heard a brief update from Mayor Kringstad on discussions over the possible city acquisition of the current county public works facility in Tower once construction of a new joint public works facility is completed. Kringstad described the discussions as "off-the-cuff," but recommended that the city continue to explore the idea if and when the property becomes available.

► Approved a motion by Morin to allow the

Vermilion Country School to install a directional and promotional sign at the corner of Hwy. 169 and Pine Street. Morin said he had visited the site with school administrator Frank Zobitz and said he didn't believe the sign would impact visibility at the corner. The school will need to work with MnDOT and Tower public works to ensure adequate setbacks.

► Accepted an offer by Ranua to bring back a revised fee schedule for the city's civic center. Ranua had pointed out to the council that the current rate structure is inconsistent.

► Accepted the resignation of Jim Battin as an EMT from the city's ambulance service.

► Approved the hiring of Talon Pratt as a new EMT and Tim Williamson as a new EMR. Ambulance supervisor Dena Suihkonen said both new hires are fully qualified to start as soon as they can be on-boarded.

► Approved a motion by Majerle specifying that the city is not exploring or interested in any land trades. "I don't want to hear on the street again that we are selling or trading land to a certain individual," he said.

## History Talks on Main Street

Learn about the history, culture and early development of the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion Area

### The Jingle Dress

Adrienne Rose Whiteman

Learn about its origin, protocols, two styles of jingle dress and the spiritual importance for the Native community  
**Thursday, August 5 at 2 PM**  
Tower Train Depot in Coach Car 81 (Air Conditioned!)

### Immigrants of the Northland

Learn about the immigrants who settled our area  
Karel Winkelaar, Presenter  
**Monday, August 9 at 7 PM**  
Sulu's Espresso Patio on Main Street

### The Skala Bar Story

Learn the secrets of the Skala Bar during Tower's early days as the first city on the Iron Range and the days of lawlessness  
Randy Semo, Presenter and Tour Guide  
Good Old Days on Main Street  
**Tuesday, August 24 at 2:30 PM**

Free - No cost to attend

Get your copy of the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion Self-Guided History Tour Map at the History Talk events. You can explore our area's historical places of interest on your own time!

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CHAIRS & RECLINERS

ISD 696 BUILDING PROJECT

# Temporary learning spaces readied for new school year in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – School board members here had few questions Monday night as construction officials provided a building project update during a monthly study session.

Representatives from Kraus Anderson and Architectural Resources Inc. are looking to maintain an open dialogue with school officials as the \$20 million project proceeds. School administration are meeting regularly with construction officials as the beginning of the 2021-22 school year nears and learning spaces, some temporary, are prepared for students to occupy in just a few weeks.

Spaces for band, choir and industrial arts classes, as well as Early Childhood Family Education and other areas must be ready to go by the beginning of September. The first day of the new school year is Tuesday, Sept. 7. Students and staff will be spending in the year in a construction zone as the building project won't be complete until the



Construction crews worked on the east side exterior of the Washington Elementary building last week. photo by K. Vandervort

beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

“Things are constantly changing,” said Superintendent Erik Erie, “so weekly, even daily update meetings are continuing.”

He highlighted a new

project update tool to school board members, developed by Kraus-Anderson, that is now available for viewing by the public.

“It highlights our project and provides a monthly update as a way for everyone to stay connected and see what is going on with the project on a regular basis,” Erie said. The link is available on the school’s website and their Facebook page at: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/DNNlwZVhgCXxs/>.

“We are having weekly update meetings with KA and ARI to make sure we are all on the same page and involved in any problem solving,” he said.

Brendan Ward, of Kraus-Anderson, summarized the contents of the project update tool.

Demolition and construction work on just Bid Package #1 of the project is in progress, as Bid Package

#2 was rejected earlier this summer because of cost overruns. While the second bid package will be re-bid later this fall, several components of the project have been re-prioritized to make sure all necessary learning spaces are available for students this fall.

“The most current project information will be updated monthly to coincide with the fourth Monday of the month (the school board study session date),” Ward said.

The new construction between the Washington and Memorial buildings makes up the majority of the work in progress, but with that, portions of those existing buildings adjacent to the new linking building are also being developed this summer.

The Washington building ramp from the new addition into the existing school, the ECFE area, the Kindergarten rooms, and the fourth and fifth grade on the second floor are under construction, he said. In the Memorial building, the former media center is being developed for choir, band and a temporary Industrial Arts area.

The old Industrial Arts building is gone, along with the former boiler building.

“We have installed structural steel so we can start to demolish the 1975 addition this week,” Ward said. “We will then bring the site up to grade so we can install footings and foundations for the new addition, starting on the south end. We will continue to pour foundations toward the north end of the new addition space.”

The east side of the Washington building, dubbed Area D, is one of the “most critical” parts of the project, according to

Ward. The area will house the new ECFE area and Kindergarten space.

“This month yet, we will start framing the walls and door frames, work on floor leveling and hopefully install ceiling grids,” he said. “It was communicated to us that we need to turn those spaces over as soon as we could. We want to turn those spaces back over to Anne (K-5 Principal Oelke) on Aug. 9.”

Similar work is under way on the west side of the Memorial building, including the new music room space in the former media center. New walls are going up and floor and ceiling work is progressing.

The new boiler room, located in the former swimming pool area on the south side of the Memorial building, is nearing completion. Ward said the new concrete pads are poured, the boilers are installed, and plumbing pipes are hooked up to the boilers.

“The work is in progress for an early- to mid-September fire up of the boilers so the school has heat,” he said.

The new propane tank location near the southwest corner of the campus is almost ready for the tank relocation move, Ward said.

Ward cautioned that challenges remain to get building materials for some of the construction areas, such as the ECFE rooms, that were pulled from Bid Package #2 and moved to the first phase to get the space ready for this fall.

“We have committed to Sept. 20 that this space will be turned back over to Anne to meet her program needs,” he said.

“In the Memorial building, currently industrial arts will be in the choir space on the second floor (temporarily). The floor is

unfinished and we can use it for industrial arts,” he said. “We will be working with the building inspector to make sure all these spaces are safe for occupying.”

The relocated boys locker room, that was supposed to be part of Bid Package #2, was moved into the current construction phase for completion this fall.

“We are pricing out the new locker room, and we are finding there are some long lead times,” he said. “For instance, lockers are four months out right now. It will be a challenge to get that fully turned over by basketball season in November. We are aiming for a Thanksgiving timeframe.”

The majority of the renovation work on the existing buildings covered in Bid Package #2 is under redevelopment and reorganization by design, construction, and school officials with a timeline to rebid the work packages in mid- to late-fall, according to Karl Larsen of ARI. “We want the bids to fit within the original referendum, and we are coming up with a list of alternates. We will be bidding the majority of the same thing we did the first time around, but they will be organized differently into a shopping list of alternates, and the (school) board will have an opportunity to select which ones you can afford,” he said.

Board member Tony Colarich queried the builders on the contingency fund, in place for unforeseen expenses. According to Mike Dosan, of KA, a portion of the \$975,000 contingency fund for the project has been used so far, but he did not have an accurate amount to report and promised to provide an up-to-date figure to the school board.

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BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL

# 'What do we do with all these pies?'

by Tom KOBIEFSKI  
ELY KIWANIS CLUB

## Ely Kiwanis Club stunned by storm, community support

Now what? Ely Kiwanis Club members thought, as they woke up Saturday morning to the devastating news that the Blueberry/Art Festival had been cancelled. Some members were early to arrive back at the park to pick up the pieces, and others, who were hit by power outages, soon straggled in.

By 9 a.m., the log pavilion was cleared, and a plan for the additional 250 pies ready for Saturday sale had been hatched. Laurie Bambas, one of our Kiwanians, got the OK from her family, who owns the Ely Steakhouse, to set up shop in front of their business. Paul Zupancich, approached family member Jimmy Z., manager at the Zup's Food Store, and got the OK to set up a table inside the store.

So, the club was in business, and the scramble was on to work out



**Ely Kiwanis Club members moved their blueberry pie station to the front of the Ely Steakhouse on Saturday and Sunday following the cancellation of the Blueberry/Art Festival at Whiteside Park.** submitted photo

details. Word quickly spread by mouth and social media that pie sales would start at 10 a.m. The big question became, Would people come out and buy our pies?

The answer was, Yes! In a short period of time, people were lining up to buy whole pies; not just one, but two, then four, and as the word spread around town and became more organized, groups from book clubs

were buying 18, neighborhoods wanted 13, card club members took 10 more, and on and on.

Work went on behind the scenes boxing pies fresh out of the EBCH kitchen for delivery to the selling stations. Those stations were soon filled with a festive atmosphere as townspeople walked up with supportive comments, and car after car pulled up curbside to order and pick-up pies.

At times, it was like an old-fashioned high school carwash with members flashing poster signs to passing motorists.

After three hours and 180 pies sold, more newly-baked pies were too hot to box and sell, so the amazing run came to an end for the day. Imagine, 180 blueberry pies sold-out in three hours!

Sunday should have been slower. It tradi-

tionally is for the club at the festival, but the results again proved to be remarkable. Gwen Bakken and JoElyyn Murphy, our hospitable "angels" who have worked tirelessly over the years to prepare pies, mixed up and baked all the remaining ingredients ordered, so they could be used. That gave the club a total of 170-plus pies to sell on Sunday.

Soon, pie boxes became an issue as more were needed than normal, so a new way to protect and transport pies was developed on the spot. The result was that by noon, and after only two hours of sales, every pie was gone. The three days of sales totaled just under 600 pies.

Our Kiwanis Club was stunned by the generosity showed by Elyites and visitors. They are truly amazed with the results, and relieved and happy to report that they

can once again support the local youth at a level accustomed to in the past.

Thanks to the Ely Steakhouse and Zup's Food Store. Special thanks to local Angela Campbell for her timely support, and all the other volunteers who pitched in with their help. Thankseven to one of Ely's local food truck vendors who used our location to meet up with and return a lost wallet. The man who got his wallet back was so happy that he bought three of our pies and gave one to the finder to show his gratitude. Only in Ely.

Most of all, thanks to the Elyites who realized how important it was to continue to support the Kiwanis cause of helping children locally and world-wide by buying our blueberry pies, and who also seem to know a good piece of pie when they see it! See you at the Harvest Moon Festival!

### ELY...Continued from page 1

cially late Friday to cancel the remainder of the 2021 festival.

"Ely was hit with high winds and severe weather," Chamber officials said in a social media post, "There were a number of vendor booths that were destroyed or severely damaged. We have to cancel the rest of the festival."

Somehow, no serious injuries were reported.

The Zinses, from Appleton, Wis. (an eight-hour drive away), was in Ely for just the third time to sell their fine arts paintings and soaps and body-care products at the city's premier summer festival.

For this city's 40th annual festival, a picture-perfect opening day was enjoyed by hundreds of vendors and thousands of visitors all day Friday.

"Everybody we talked to was enjoying the day. This is what's left," Zins said as he surveyed the landscape. "So many people put their heart and soul into their work and some travel so far to get here. It is so sad."

With the official cancellation of 2021 Blueberry/Art Festival in Whiteside Park, the couple were mostly alone in the park at 6 a.m. Saturday as they packed up the belongings they could salvage. They decided to stay for the rest of the weekend at the cabin they rented near Babbitt. "We hope to be back again next year," Tanja Zins said. "Ely is such a friendly place."

In addition to the tent and tree damage in the park, there were trees laying on top of houses and strewn across roads all over town. Minnesota Power reported more than 2,000 people without electricity while Lake Country Power had at least 3,800 customers report outages on Saturday.

By 8 p.m. Friday, the sounds of emergency vehicle sirens and chainsaws could be heard all over Ely as residents started to clean up the storm damage before darkness quickly fell.

Ely Police warned residents to stay off the streets. "Due to the severe thunderstorm and damage caused around the Ely area, we are asking the public to use caution as there are power lines and trees down," said Ely Police Chief Chad Houde. "Please avoid these areas. The city



**Blueberry/Art Festival vendors, top, walked around Whiteside Park in stunned silence minutes after a fierce storm hit the Ely area Friday night. Community members returned a porta-potty that blew down the street, middle. Uprooted trees, bottom, created hazardous conditions, prompting Chamber of Commerce officials to cancel the last two days of the festival.** photos by K. Vandervort

Mike Olson and Kathy Levine had their tent set up near the northwest corner of Whiteside Park and had a whimsical collection of bowling pin sculptures and "found metal" yard art.

"We collected as many as 400 old bowling pins since 2018," Flock said early Friday as the Blueberry/Art Festival opened. "This is just our second year in Ely," the Duluth artist said.

Eight hours later, his tent was blown over, scattering the bowling pin art all over the park. He applauded the quick reaction from the Ely community following the storm in a Facebook post Sunday morning.

"My tent, although weighted and staked down, was blown over in the storm," he said. "When we arrived back at the park on Friday evening, the number of people offering help, offering water, clearing downed trees was amazing. With assistance, we righted our tent. On Saturday, as we packed up, we were offered several places to set up. I was concerned about the stability of my tent due to bent structural parts, so we declined. We appreciate the care and concern you showed for all of the vendors."

Another vendor, Larry Ricker, a photographer from Rochester, described the immediate action of the community after the storm. "I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all who stopped by my booth to offer assistance," he said. "I had some friends helping me out so I didn't need it, but I was overwhelmed by the number of people who offered a helping hand."

He said he experienced a similar situation several

of Ely Public Works and Fire departments are out responding to lines and trees down. Please avoid the Whiteside Park area as Blueberry Art vendors attempt to clean up their booths."

The Ely and Morse/Fall Lake fire departments were inundated with calls of trees on houses and power lines, going from call to call. Live wires caused some small fires and Highway 88 was closed due to a power line on the road.

By sunrise on Saturday, most of the vendor tents in the park were gone. A cluster of unscathed tents still stood in the northeast part of the park. Large dumpsters provided by G-Men Environmental Services were placed around the park. Most were already filled with mangled tent frames. G-Men owner Jeremiah Day was seen emptying the contents of dumpsters into the back of one of his garbage trucks.

"I'm afraid it's going to be a very busy day," Day said to a passerby documenting the carnage with a camera.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Eva Sebesta implored people to stay out of the park again Saturday morning.

"We needed to mini-

mize foot traffic through the park as vehicles moved in and out. We also asked that vehicles avoid the park area. Keeping traffic to a minimum aided with clean up and clearing the park," she said.

She thanked the Ely community for their support following the storm.

"We also wish to express our deepest thanks to (Ely Police) Chief Houde and all the Ely PD, along with the city of Ely workers. Thank you to the G-Men for the additional roll-offs delivered last night, too," she said.

On Monday, Sebesta said as many as two-thirds of the 200-plus vendor booths were moderately or completely destroyed within minutes of the storm hitting the city.

"We looked at the situation, and there were concerns with the condition of the trees still standing. We couldn't risk the public's safety," she said. "It was a very difficult decision to make but we had no other choice."

The chamber's board of directors was set to meet this week to discuss the financial ramifications for the organization as well as the vendors because of the shortened festival. "We have a no-refund policy, but

this is way beyond anyone's control," Sebesta said. "Just like with COVID, we provided refunds. We will be looking at what amount we will be able to provide. This was no one's fault."

While the Ely Chamber carries event liability insurance for the festivals they organize, that type of policy does not cover any losses they or vendors incur because of weather events.

### Community responds

An underground community festival, of sorts, by the storm survivors and the Ely community sprang up around town Saturday morning. The city of Ely waved all transient merchant and food truck licenses for the weekend.

Zup's Market in Ely opened their secondary parking lot across the street from their store to vendors displaced from the park. The Ely Kiwanis moved their operation to Sheridan Street to sell their remaining homemade blueberry pies.

Many food trucks displaced by the storm set up along Sheridan Street, mostly between 5th and 11th Avenues. The vacant lot at the corner of Sheridan and 8th Avenue was packed with food trucks by Saturday noon.

years ago in Red Wing. "I don't recall any of the community members there stopping by to help out. This definitely underscores why I'm in the process of moving to this wonderful community."

His photograph is available at "The Cabin" in downtown Ely.

Michelle and David Toutloff, of Tower, brought their "Rustic Metalz" creations to the Ely festival for the first time last weekend.

"Our tents were completely destroyed as well as a few products," she said in a social media post. "Thankfully we were not present and nobody was injured. It was truly amazing watching the whole town come together in support. Even with the incredible support the rest of the show was canceled due to the devastation. Although we must admit the show being canceled was more devastating than the damage in the long run, for us. Thank you to everyone in Ely who came and supported the vendors, financially and physically. The local support was honestly incredible to witness. Chain saws (were) running mere minutes after the storm. People came from every direction to see who needed help, and even strangers (were seen) picking up whole booths due to some vendors not being informed of the destruction of the storm. That being said, we will be back again next year."

Sebesta admitted that the Chamber will likely lose a substantial amount of money this year because of the storm.

"We want to make sure our vendors are taken care of," she said.

In light of that, the Chamber was planning to launch a virtual Blueberry/Art Festival online by the middle of this week.

"We had a huge outpouring from the community and supporters asking how they can help our vendors," Sebesta said. "We are asking vendors to tell us about their losses, and that way their supporters can reach out directly to help in any way they can."

The virtual festival will run through the end of August. For more information, go to the Blueberry/Art Festival page at www.ely.org.

LEVY...Continued from page 1

Several items in the projected budget were questioned, including the amount of taconite tax revenue the township will receive (possibly too high), and the expense for the ambulance subsidy (budget showed the amount increasing from the current \$13,000 a year to \$22,000 a year). The budget also includes \$25,000 for broadband spending.

"This leaves our fund balance at 1.11-percent of spending," said Indihar. "I am not saying that is good or bad, but I like to see an objective reason on where to set the levy."

Those who spoke in the audience seemed to agree that the current projected reserves were adequate.

The projected budget included \$18,000 in attorney fees, \$50,000 for general buildings and grounds, \$80,000 for fire department administration and salaries (paid on call), \$41,300 in other fire department/EMS related spending, \$10,000 for marine and recreation vehicles, \$27,000 for town board salaries/expenses, \$16,700 for clerk, \$11,000 for treasurer, and \$30,000 for general government expenses.

A detailed budget was not presented, just a two-page summary.

The budget does not include expected revenue from the American Rescue Act, which will be paid out half in 2021 and the rest in 2022. These dollars must be used for specific pandemic-related expenses, but possibly can be used towards the broadband project.

**Broadband**

Some residents were concerned about the township's possible responsibility for paying a portion of any broadband project in the township. The township's quest to get high-speed internet access was far enough along, research-wise, to qualify for possibly as much as \$5.5 million in federal funding. The total estimated cost for the project is \$6.6 million. Grant dollars are also available from St. Louis County and the IRRR.

"A lot of money is coming in for broadband right now," said John Bassing, who has been working on the issue for at least two years. He said that some neighboring townships have only needed to put in around \$10,000 in local match dollars for their broadband projects.

"A lot of you are working very hard on this issue," Indihar said.

Supervisor Sue



Greenwood Township residents voted by paper ballot last week for the annual levy. photo by J. Summit

Drobac, also a member of the broadband committee, said she felt the township was on track with what it would need in local dollars to get a project underway. She said that the possible provider, CTC, would also contribute some dollars to the project.

"We should be okay," she said.

**Ambulance**

Lee Peterson asked the board to look at splitting the township's ambulance per capita subsidy between the Tower and Cook ambulance services. He asked that the township look at the number of residents being served by the Cook Ambulance, as opposed to the Tower Area Ambulance Service. Indihar noted that the TAAS responds all the way to Oak Narrows, as well as to many of the water access areas on the Cook end. First Responder Krystal Strong said she hasn't seen the Cook Ambulance responding very often to calls out on the Frazer Bay Road. The residents passed a motion asking the board to look at this issue.

**Election integrity**

Local election judge Bev Peterson, with several other election judges standing in support, read a statement concerning Chairman Mike Ralston's comments made at the July 13 town board meeting where he stated the 2020 levy vote was "probably swung by an ineligible voter."

"These exact words can be heard on the meeting recording and were quoted as such in the *Timberjay*," she said.

"This statement," she continued, "in his official capacity as Chairman of the Town Board is problematic and damaging."

Bev Peterson said that stating an ineligible vote occurred directly implicates "all Greenwood Township election judges

and raises unwarranted doubts about the integrity of our election process."

Levy votes at the township annual meeting in the past several years have been by paper ballot, with election judges checking names of the current voter registration list before letting a person cast their

vote.

"Chairman Ralston needs to formally retract his statement and apologize to the election judges and people of Greenwood Township," Peterson said.

Ralston was not present at the annual meeting to respond to the comments.

Others also had com-

ments relating to the current board.

"What has troubled me at meetings I have been to," said Marilyn Mueller, "is that anything the women propose, the men say no. Women actually do have some good suggestions and good ideas. I haven't been so happy with some of the things the men have proposed and passed." She asked the male members of the board to "grow up," and start "thinking for yourself and making your own decisions."

Jeff Maus echoed Mueller's and Bev Peterson's concerns.

"I've listened in to board meetings and attending board meetings. His [Chairman Ralston] treatment of other supervisors, and cutting off their comments while he feels he can talk at length, is not acceptable," Maus said.

**Other comments**

Retired fire department founding member Gary (Curly) Skogman asked township residents to give the fire department

more respect. He talked about how the fire department responded during the Mother's Day Fire in 1992 and said such a response could likely be needed this year, with the elevated fire danger and drought conditions.

Fire department member Jet Galonski read from an article in the *Timberjay* about the Ely Fire Department, quoting their new fire chief, that "our members are here for the right reason, not money or pensions, but to help people in their time of need." He said conflicts within the fire department should stay within the department, putting concerns on the table and sorting them out.

Residents did pass a motion, supporting a request from Supervisor Barb Lofquist, to raise the annual EMS pension amount from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year, effective in January. This item will require board action.

"The majority of our calls are EMS," said First Responder Jeff Maus.

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*in its many forms*

Chamber music, drum circle wrap up music festival in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Northern Lights Music Festival concluded last week with an evening of chamber music before a large audience at Vermilion Community College’s Fine Arts Theater. And an intimate setting at Whiteside Park featured

an Indian drum circle. The main event of the chamber music session featured Schubert’s “The Trout” piano quintet presented by world-renowned musicians, and several pieces were performed by talented young up-and-comers. Opening the recital on piano, a student from Uzbekistan, Diora



Shorrustomova, performed Violes by Debussy. Thirteen-year-old Samuel Cronk, of Cherry Hill, N.J., wowed the audience with his rendition of Chopin’s Ballade No. 2 in F Major. A string quartet by Debussy featured Juan

Yenaz, violin I, Caroline Pedrozza, violin II, Chihiro Tanaka, viola, and Rachel Ellis, cello. Yenaz returned to the stage with Carlos Bedoya on guitar to offer Histoire de Tango by Piazzola. See MUSIC, pg. 2B



Top left: A string quartet from the Northern Lights Music Festival performed recently in the fine arts theater at Vermilion Community College in Ely.

Top right: Members of one of the Bois Forte drum circles performed at Whiteside Park as the finale of the music festival. photos by K. Vandervort



# RODEO!

North Star Stampede back in action after last year’s shutdown protest

Clockwise from top: Sigurd Noyes, of Tower, gives bull riding a try during the rodeo, held annually in Effie; Taya Woitalla, of Embarrass, competes in the barrel racing competition; Hank Halverson, of Cook, tests his skills riding a bronco; Maija Peterson, of Tower, looks intent as she makes a turn in the barrel racing event; and a flag-bearing rider shows the colors during Friday night’s opening ceremony.

photos by D. Colburn



## CHANGING ROLES

### New Catholic father isn’t new to his parish



Father Beau Braun greets parishioners at a recent potluck in Cook. photo by K. Bartunek

### New priest to serve in Tower, Cook, and Orr

by KAREN BARTUNEK  
Contributing Writer

COOK—It doesn’t appear that Father Drew Braun has to be his brother’s keeper any longer.

Just as it was for Father Drew, his younger brother, Beau, will be starting his career in the priesthood assigned to St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Cook. Though Father Beau is new to the title of priest, he is not new to the parish, so he saw plenty of familiar faces at a community potluck held to welcome him to his new role.

“We’ve known him for a while now,” Tim Johnson said of Father Beau. As a deacon, Father Beau helped his brother with the local parish. When he was in seminary, he often assisted with the ins and outs of the parish. He spent his four years in seminary as an associate, which he equates to an internship.

“You’re learning and observing but the whole life of the parish itself is not really your responsibility. You can do things to support it but it’s not primarily your responsibility whereas as a pastor, it is your responsibility, and so I’m making that transition,” Father Beau said.

Catholic ministries often switch their leadership every 2-5 years. “It’s a domino effect, to be expected. We just wait for the next announcement but we’re excited,” Johnson added.

A new priest has the important task of getting to know his flock, much like a shepherd, but as the shepherd, he must also honor his individual vision of church leadership.

Any new priest should “feel the pulse of the parish,” but Jackie Triska, a 35-year parishioner of St. Mary’s acknowledged, “each priest does have their own ideals.” She continued,

See FATHER, pg. 2B



COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Board hears COVID response plans for new school year

## Superintendent emphasizes keeping students in school

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While state officials are still working on what guidance they will provide to school administrators and staff this year, it appears, at least for now, that won't include any mandates as schools begin to reopen.

But with the start of classes just a little over a month away, ISD 2142's administrative team has already fleshed out the basic elements of what they will implement to "keep all students and staff safe and keep students in school," Superintendent Reggie Engebritson told school board members on Tuesday.

"I know that parents are probably wondering and so I wanted to bring this to you tonight to kind of get a head start on what we're thinking and if the board is supportive," Engebritson said.

At the top of the list was masking, which was required of all students and staff last year.

"At this time, masks would be optional, but strongly recommended, and this could change if the situation warrants," Engebritson said.

She noted that the Centers for Disease Control had issued a recommendation for indoor masking in areas where the delta variant is surging, "but that's not happening here," she said.

And as evidence that the

COVID situation is changing rapidly with the surge in cases nationally due to the delta variant, board member Bob Larson mentioned additional new CDC guidance.

"The CDC came out with new regulations today that everybody in the school be masked," Larson said. "It's a recommendation, not a requirement."

Engebritson said that administrators would be looking at using the same approach they did last year in looking at data and situations relevant to each school's attendance area to inform what actions might be necessary.

"We may see a surge, and if we're not wearing masks then we may have to determine to go back to everybody wearing masks," she said.

School buses are classified as public transportation and as such still fall under the federal mandate of all passengers being required to wear masks while being transported, Engebritson said.

Contract tracing also is going by the wayside for the start of the new school year. Engebritson explained that less than one percent of those determined to be a close contact to a person with a positive COVID test contracted the virus last year.

"Given those low numbers, at this time it would not be recommended to send any close contacts home and instead keep those kids

in school," she said. "If someone has symptoms we would still have to follow the decision tree from the Minnesota Department of Health. You would go home until you receive an alternative diagnosis. If you test positive, the decision tree says you would be home for 10 days from the date the symptoms started, and then the symptoms would have to improve and you'd have to have no fever for 24 hours."

Board chair Dan Manick expressed concern about the broad scope of symptoms related to COVID and the possibility that children or staff may be sent home when they don't have COVID-19.

"I just hope we're not to that point where a kid with a runny nose is going to be told to go home," he said.

"I think it's going to be difficult if those are still symptoms of COVID," Engebritson responded. "How do you find that balance? People are going to be upset because we didn't send somebody home with some of the symptoms and then they are positive. That's where the dance is going to be."

Parents will be notified when cases are identified that are potentially linked to their children, Engebritson said, without disclosing identifying information. For example, parents of a child enrolled in an elementary school classroom would be notified by

letter if another child in the class tested positive.

"It's trying to strike the balance between not alarming everybody but giving them the information they need to make decisions," she said.

Since the school is not offering distance learning this year, details remain to be worked out for systems to keep sick students on extended absences due to COVID connected with their teachers and school work, Engebritson said. Also still to be determined is what will happen with a sibling of a child who is sent home, whether they will be sent home because of their sibling's symptoms or if they would remain in school until a positive test occurs.

Board member Chet Larson voiced his support for the plan.

"I think you're going to do just fine," he said. "Going down the road, I think you can do the job."

Engebritson also noted that a federal decision on opening up vaccinations to children between five and 11 years old won't likely be coming until "later in the fall."

"Once that comes out, we'd probably do clinics (at schools) again," she said.

### Enrollment continues

Open enrollment for district schools will continue up to the first day of classes, but there are encouraging signs that the elim-

ination of COVID restrictions and return to regular in-person learning is bringing some families back into the district's fold.

"Right now, we're seeing some of our families that did homeschooling are coming back," Engebritson said.

In other business, the board:   
▶ Without comment approved three two-year contracts with bargaining groups representing building principals, health services staff, and food service staff.

▶ Approved coaching assignments for fall sports, including Joel Anderson as North Woods head football coach, assisted by Mark Fabish, Nathan Anderson, and Dan Reing, North Woods head volleyball coach Kandi Olson, assisted by Kaileen Redmond, Julie Holien and Becky Lappi (half stipend), and Dan Squires as assistant cross country coach.

▶ Hired Sara Twedten as a language arts teacher and Nathan Anderson as a science teacher, both at North Woods.

▶ Hired Karl Jonas and Thomas Hed as full-time custodians at North Woods.

▶ Accepted the retirement of North Woods bus driver Joel Knutson.

### MUSIC...Continued from page 1B

The piano quintet featured Dr. Edisher Savitski, piano, Alexander Markov, violin, Yuri Gandelsman, viola, Sally Gibson Dorer, cello, and Rolf Erdahl, double bass.

The Northern Lights Music Festival series wrapped up its 2021 Ely swing with an afternoon drumming concert in Whiteside Park last Wednesday afternoon. Five

members of the Bois Forte drum circle gathered in the pavilion and were surrounded by a mesmerized audience.

The drum circle symbolizes the heartbeat of

the earth. The thunderous powwow drums, sometimes called community drums, or a frame drum, are made of wood and are believed to be one of the oldest instruments of

any kind. Some Native American shamans have historically used these drums to provide a beat that allows them to enter into a trance-like state, hence their alter-

nate name of shaman drums.

For more information on the Northern Lights Music Festival, go to [www.northernlightsmusic.org](http://www.northernlightsmusic.org).

### FATHER...Continued from page 1B

"Every priest brings his own perspective. A fresh take on the gospel message is important." She then joked, laughing, "we break them in and then send them to a bigger parish."

It's a heavy task, acclimating to a new parish and understanding the needs of

that community. But the fact that Father Beau is already familiar with the parish will ultimately make the transition easier for both the parishioners and their new father.

Father Beau was admittedly surprised at being posted to the same

church as his older brother. "I remember thinking to myself it would not be likely at all because my brother was here...but sure enough that would be my first assignment as well."

He seemed to be just as excited as the parishioners around him, as he flitted

from table to table, greeting and enjoying the potluck with everyone. "The other day I was walking up to the church with just a smile on my face...I can't help but feel joy right now and grateful that the bishop would entrust me with such an opportunity," Father

Beau said.

When asked what he does with his free time, Triska interjected and said, "What free time? You've got Orr, you've got Cook and you've got Tower."

Besides St. Mary's in Cook, Father Beau serves at Holy Cross in Orr and

St. Martin's in Tower. The former hosts a Saturday Mass while the latter hosts a Sunday morning Mass.

Father Beau agreed and noted, "It's a lot of driving. It's like 30 minutes in between each one, so I'm putting on a lot of mileage." But he still has time to pursue other interests. In his limited free time, he likes to off-road, camp, explore, golf, paint figurines for table-top games, edit videos, and play computer games.

Though he didn't seem to think that the creativity displayed by his varied interests played a huge role in his approach as a priest, it can't be denied that they suggest Father Beau has the potential to bring a different energy and outlook to St. Mary's.

"I just want the parish to be the best possible and I recognize that my experience is limited, but that's part of the reason I'm here [because] this community is fairly well-established [and] really strong," Father Beau said.

"I mean, ultimately the question on my heart over and over again is where is this community going and what's...the best version of Cook, Minnesota?" he said. "I'm just trying to facilitate so that the people can have more of a profound accord with Jesus Christ and you know, live the gospel better."

"We forget that priests are on a journey, too," Les Pajari, another parishioner, added.

It seems like St. Mary's and its sister churches are ready for that journey.

\*Mass times and locations can be accessed at <https://www.stmmhc.com/>

## Memories of the Early Days

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

Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

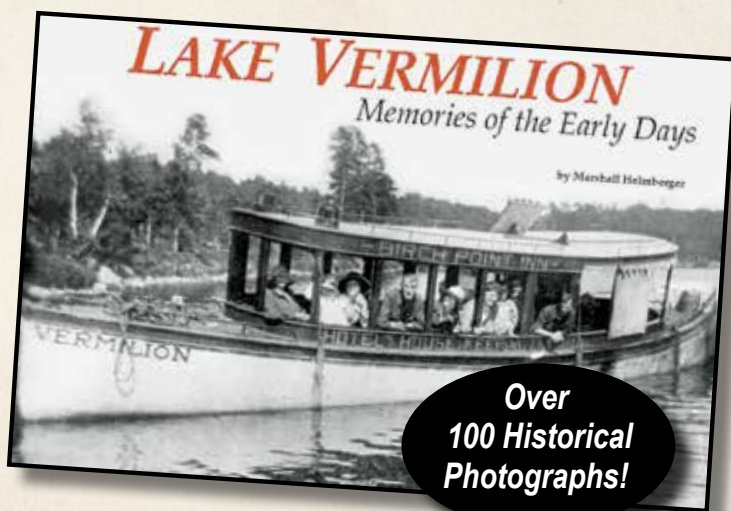


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Obituaries and Death Notices



**Nancy J. Wall**

Nancy Jean Wall, 69, of Orr, passed away on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at her home, surrounded by loved ones. A graveside service was held on Thursday, July 29 at the Leiding Cemetery in Orr. A luncheon followed at the Orr American Legion. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Nancy was born to Ted and Donna (Kokesh) Wall on July 5, 1952. Nancy lived most of her life in Orr. She attended and graduated from Hopkins High School in 1970. She furthered her education at UMD and later graduated from Bemidji State University with a degree in elementary education. She worked numerous resort jobs, and was a member of the Independent School District 2142 board for a number of years.

Nancy enjoyed artistic pressed flowers. She made pictures, shelves, and décor, and had a shop called Wall Flowers. She also enjoyed flower and vegetable gardening; morning glories were one of her favorite flowers. She was a sunrise person who adored the birds. She was always feeding the wild ones, and throughout

the years had some zebra finches and a parakeet. She enjoyed a cold beer with friends and family throughout the years.

Nancy always stayed up to date on the news; it was always on the TV. She was a very avid reader, books everywhere! Her dogs were always a big part of her life; she enjoyed their company. Family meant everything to her; one of her greatest gifts was being a mother. She had a strong will like no other, and was a very ambitious person with a kind heart. She was a thoughtful woman, and shared a love like no other. She will be missed very much.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Peter Glowaski; sons, David (Colleen) Longhenry, John (Jackie) Longhenry, Jason (Karen) Longhenry and Will (Ehrin) Longhenry; daughters, Sarah Wall and Colleen Wall-Glowaski; stepson, Matthew Glowaski; seven grandchildren; and her dogs, Shauna and Boogaard.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ted and Donna Wall; brother, Donald; and sisters, Teddie and Judy.

**Carol M. McIntire**

Carol Myrtle Boleman Saari McIntire, 83, of Tower, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 7 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower, with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. A luncheon will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Recycled Lives at recycledlives.org, Lutheran World Relief at LWR.org, or Cure Progressive Supranuclear Palsy at PSP.org.

She is survived by her husband of almost 50 years, Lloyd McIntire; daughters, Charlotte (Al) Kennedy and Cathleen (Eric) Vought; grandchildren, Clair Kennedy, Cole Kennedy and Lisette Vought; siblings, Lee (Ricky) Boleman, Norma Strand, Wilma Kennedy and Roger (Joan) Boleman; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

**Robert J. Champa Jr.**

Robert "Bob" Joseph Champa Jr., 70, of Ely, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. A graveside service was held at the Ely Cemetery on Wednesday, July 28 with Father

Bill Skarich officiating. A reception followed at Grand Ely Lodge. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Polyner Champa; daughter, Kristin (Kurt) Mattila of Ely; son, Robert (Aurora) Champa of Ely; grandchildren, Nick, Eric and Tyler Mattila, Tanner and Taya Champa; siblings, Louise (Herb) Kieke of Clearwater, Louis Champa of Ely and Linda (Bruce) Fritz of St. Cloud; numerous nieces, nephews and close friends.

**Dr. John F. Jordan III**

Dr. John "Jack" F. Jordan III, 82, passed away on Friday, July 16, 2021, after a two-year battle with cancer. A celebration of life is scheduled at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Hall at 1 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 6.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; children, Jim Anderson, John (Wendy) Jordan, Becky (Jeff Scott) and Ross (Ronda) Anderson; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandson; and sister, July McGilvrey.

**Keith Hagen**

Keith Hagen, 48, of Tower, died unexpectedly on Monday, July 5, 2021. There will be a celebration of life from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 31 at The Shack, 7075 Hwy. 169. A private burial will take place at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his mother, June Wakefield of Embarrass; cousins Dan, Heather and Carrie; and extended family and friends, including special friend, Morgan.

**The Financial Side of Being a Caregiver**

One in five Americans are currently unpaid caregivers, and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, that number is on the rise.<sup>1</sup> Caring for a family member can be complex. While deeply meaningful and rewarding, it can also present challenges, both emotionally and financially.

If you may need to step into a caregiving role for an aging loved one or a family member with disabilities, it's a good idea to plan a financial strategy today, before it becomes an added stressor. Here are some questions to help you get started:

**What do you know about your loved one's financial situation?** Knowing the particulars of your loved one's disability, life and health insurance policies, savings and financial obligations can make it easier to step in on a moment's notice. Obtain contact information for the financial professionals your loved one works with so you know who to go to if you have questions.

**What is your strategy to pay caregiving expenses?** First, think about what bills and expenses your loved one is currently paying that you may need to pay on his or her behalf. Encourage your loved one to set up automatic bill pay or to add you as a second signer on a bank account to make handling expenses easier. Next, consider what expenses you may incur as a result of your caregiving role, such as out-of-pocket medical care or home improvements needed to accommodate your loved one.

**What is the financial impact if you need to take time off from work?** If you are employed, you may be covered by the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). With this federally mandated program, eligible employees can take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for an immediate family member while health benefits continue. Some companies allow employees to stockpile sick days and vacation days; if you can use this kind of accrued time off, you'll still get paid. Liquid savings of your own can help to cover your expenses if you need to take unpaid leave from work.

**Are your loved one's assets legally protected?** Being proactive from a legal standpoint can help ensure your loved one's wishes are known and assets are protected during a prolonged illness. Power of attorney, or a durable power of attorney, gives a trusted party the ability to make important decisions about finances and health care. Another legal document that can help is an advanced directive, which outlines specifics for medical and end-of-life care. When these documents are in place, you have clear guidance on how to manage your family member's affairs.

**Who would you turn to for support?** Talk with other family members about their willingness to help and how responsibilities might be divided. Research social service and community organizations in your area to see what support is available for caregivers. Remember, you can't take care of others if you don't take care of yourself – so be sure to take time for your own well-being, whether that's hiring someone to help around the house or speaking to a licensed therapist.

**How will you balance your financial goals with caregiving expenses?** Caregiving often requires more immediate expenses that can make it challenging to focus on saving for your child's college education or your own retirement. Developing a plan to continue saving toward long-term goals may help you reduce your financial stress down the road. Financial planning under the guidance of a financial advisor can help you anticipate and prepare for caregiving and other future events that may impact your finances.

<sup>1</sup> AARP Caregiving in the United States, 2020

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## SUMMER OF FIRE

# New blazes keep firefighters busy

Crews work to contain several new fires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL—Wildland fires are continuing to keep officials on the Superior National Forest busy this summer. Just as the Forest Service announced it was lifting closures put in place for the Delta Fire, near the Fernberg Road east of Ely, they began water drops on

two new fires while they continue to monitor several other new blazes, reported in the wake of thunderstorms that hit the area last Friday and again on Monday.

While rains associated with that storm provided temporary relief from the very high fire danger, last weekend's hot, dry, and windy weather quickly elevated fire conditions and

increased fire activity with the new ignitions.

The Monday night storms produced plenty of lightning but only minimal rain, so more fire starts may well become apparent in the coming days.

Most of the new fires are located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, where months of below-average rainfall

**A helicopter dumps a load of water on the Phantom Fire, about 10 miles west of Ely, on Sunday.**

Photo courtesy USFS

have left the area's shallow soils parched.

Two of the fires, known as the Phantom Creek and Bear Creek fires, are located

See FIRES...pg. 5B



## SCIENCE

# Tracking AIS through DNA

Researchers from NRRI hope to use DNA to aid early detection of aquatic invasive species

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Researchers from the Natural Resources Research Institute were on Lake Vermilion this week as they work to refine a high-tech testing method that could eventually make the hunt for aquatic invasive species, or AIS, far more efficient and effective. They're getting logistical help with the project from the Vermilion Lake Association, which has long played a major role in heading off AIS on the lake.

"Everything that lives in the lake releases some DNA," said Josh Dumke, a senior research scientist at the NRRI, which is affiliated with the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Whether plant or animal, tissue cells containing DNA are regularly sloughed off into the water, Dumke said, either through skin cells, mucous, or urine. That means, in theory, that water samples from a lake could eventually help researchers detect the presence of AIS far more effectively than current methods, particularly on large lakes like Vermilion.

The DNA that is shed by organisms is known as environmental DNA, or eDNA for short, and Dumke said it's become a popular area of study for scientists working in the AIS field. Researchers recognize that eDNA has the potential to be a game-changer when it comes to AIS detection, but it still needs refinement to ensure it's reliable—and that's what Dumke and his fellow researcher Anna Totsch, a UMD grad student who's doing her thesis on the method, are working to achieve.

**Top: NRRI grad student Anna Totsch takes a bottle from research assistant Collin Krochalk, a UMD undergrad who is working for the NRRI this summer. They were gathering water samples on Frazer Bay on Monday.**

**Right: Lead researcher Josh Dumke (left) looks over the day's plan with Jeff Lovgren from the Vermilion Lake Association.**

photos by M. HelMBERGER

"We're still learning the best ways to obtain a positive detection of DNA," said Dumke.

Any number of variables can impact the effectiveness of the testing method, including how much water is collected, where it's collected, what time of the year it's collected, and how the samples are processed afterwards.

While any number of labs around the country are working regularly with eDNA, Dumke said it's still a new process without any standards or accepted methods in place. "The utility of it is very clear," he said.

It's a far cry from traditional methods of detecting AIS, which typically involve sending trained individuals out to manually search for invasive plants or animals. That's a time-consuming and expensive process, notes Dumke. "With this, you could really broaden the scope of lake monitoring and go from testing 20 lakes a year to hundreds," he said. And because the sampling methods are potentially no more complicated than dipping a sample jar in lake water, sampling for AIS could be done easily by citizen scientists or lake association vol-



unteers, who could then forward their samples to a lab, such as the one at NRRI. "It's a monitoring tool that just about anyone could use," said Dumke.

Making detection easier increases the odds that AIS will be discovered earlier. "We know that early detection is very important," said Jeff Lovgren, who co-leads the AIS program for the Vermilion Lake Association.

The researchers won't limit themselves to sampling on Lake Vermilion. They'll be collecting samples in the coming days from

Shagawa Lake, near Ely, Pike Lake, near Duluth, and on Lake of the Woods.

In addition to water sampling, the NRRI team will be gathering DNA from crayfish they hope to catch in traps left out overnight. The crayfish DNA will be cross-checked with the results they obtain from the water sampling to ensure that crayfish DNA shows up in the water, and whether their detection methods are precise enough to distinguish different species of

See AIS HUNT...pg. 5B

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**WATERHEMLOCK**



There are very few plants in the North Country that can kill you, but **Water Hemlock**, *Cicuta maculata* is certainly one of them, and it's in bloom right now in wet places.

This is a species that is easy to locate along roadsides, where it's tall stalk can grow up to five feet. It prefers wet ditches most of all and its flowers are reminiscent of members of the carrot family, with tiny white flowers blooming in a many-flowered umbel. The leaves are relatively narrow and pointed and at least twice compounded.

Every year or so, someone in the state dies when they mistake it for water parsnip. These two species can require a bit of study to distinguish so it's surely best to just forget about gathering wild parsnip unless you really know what you're doing. And, just to emphasize the point, you are far more likely to encounter water hemlock than water parsnip in our region.

## Outdoors briefly

### Vermilion's loon population jumps sharply

LAKE VERMILION—Volunteer loon counters reported a sizable uptick in the loon population here, with a total of 241 loons counted during the one-day survey of the 40,557-acre lake. Adult loons totaled 208, while counters sighted 33 chicks.

The adult numbers represent an increase of 40 over last year's survey results, while chicks were up by five. That's a roughly 20-percent increase over the results in 2020.

Volunteers sighted a total of 23 pairs and 33 single adults on the lake's west end. They found 34 pairs and 61 singles on the east end. Chicks were almost evenly divided, with 16 spotted on the west end and 17 in the east.

Lake Vermilion has long been home to the largest documented loon population on any lake in Minnesota. Its 365 islands and hundreds of miles of shoreline, much of it undeveloped, provide exceptional nesting habitat for loons.



FIGHTING FIRE

# Forest Service completes successful burnout to head off Fourtown Lake blaze

Operation increases fire size to 223 acres



Smoke billows from the shore of Fourtown Lake during burnout operations on Tuesday. photo/USFS

**FOURTOWN LAKE**— Forest Service officials used fire to fight fire on Tuesday, as they took action to control the spread of a fire on the west side of this Boundary Waters lake. Fire officials used incendiary devices to burn out a large peninsula on the lake's western shore, to reduce fuels that could otherwise allow the fire to flare up and spark across the lake. The so-called "burnout" operation was successful according to a Forest Service spokesperson, although the operation expanded the fire's footprint from about 20 acres to 223 acres.

In northeastern Minnesota, fires are most likely to grow when fanned by strong westerly or south-westerly winds, and fire officials were concerned that the large peninsula on Fourtown's western shore could have provided enough fuel to allow the fire to grow and possibly jump the roughly half-mile width of the lake at that location, where it could have reached miles of tinder dry forest. Tuesday's burnout operations to the east of the fire is likely to head off that possibility, according to Forest Service officials.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

Walleye anglers are continuing to find active walleyes in 4-6 feet of water, working weed lines. Leeches, fished under a bobber, has been the best way to catch walleyes up here. Anglers have also been reporting an excellent deep water trolling bite, during the evening hours on many of the area lakes. Here anglers are trolling deep diving crankbaits over 30+ feet of water, behind leadcore or planner boards. Anglers trolling have been catching quality 'eyes!

**Bass-** Both small-mouth and largemouth bass fishing has been excellent on area lakes. Both have been aggressively hitting topwater early in the morning. Largemouth are being found in shallow weed beds, wild rice beds, lily pads or downed trees. Weedless, floating frogs have been the go-to baits in these locations. Smallmouth bass have been located on shallow boulder flats, around islands and sunken islands. For small-mouth bass, whopper ploppers, torpedoes, and pop-r's have been very hard to beat during the early morning topwater bite. As the sun gets up, both bass switch over to spinnerbaits and soft plastics.

**Panfish-** Sunfish anglers have been report-

ing an excellent bite on area lakes. Small leeches fished under a bobber, inside weed beds or around downed trees has been very effective. Crappie anglers have been reporting an excellent bite inside cabbage beds during the evening hours. Anglers have been catching crappies with minnows under a bobber or jig and twisters, fished close to thick stands of cabbage.

*Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely*

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
79 56				75 50				73 50				77 54				80 57			
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.
07/19	91	54	0.00	07/19	90	54	0.00	07/19	90	60	0.00	07/19	79	63	0.00	07/19	91	54	0.00
07/20	80	56	0.09	07/20	79	56	0.15	07/20	77	63	0.52	07/20	73	63	1.00	07/20	80	56	0.26
07/21	76	51	0.00	07/21	75	52	0.00	07/21	73	55	0.00	07/21	66	54	0.01	07/21	76	51	0.02
07/22	69	53	0.00	07/22	68	54	0.12	07/22	66	55	0.00	07/22	84	59	0.09	07/22	69	53	0.00
07/23	85	63	0.00	07/23	84	63	0.00	07/23	82	61	0.02	07/23	88	66	0.01	07/23	85	63	0.00
07/24	88	63	0.74	07/24	90	64	0.12	07/24	89	61	0.44	07/24	84	64	0.47	07/24	88	63	1.04
07/25	86	48	0.00	07/25	85	48	0.00	07/25	84	58	0.00	07/25	84	57	0.00	07/25	86	48	0.00
Total			7.94	YTD Total			8.49	YTD Total			9.63	YTD Total			12.38	YTD Total			11.76

## AIS HUNT...Continued from page 4B

crayfish. Vermilion already has a sizable population of rusty crayfish, an invasive species introduced to the lake a couple decades ago. But other native species of crayfish are still found in the lake, so the crayfish testing will provide a good reference for the researchers.

The eDNA testing is likely to

take 4-5 years before it can be used reliably in Minnesota lakes, yet even then it won't entirely replace the need to manually hunt for AIS. Dumke said the new method can help to indicate the presence of an AIS, and possibly even general locations, but it will still take a trained individual to go out and confirm that an invasive

species is actually out there, and its abundance.

Funding for the research comes from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, which obtains its funds through an allocation approved by the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR.

## FIRES...Continued from page 4B

just north and east of Lake Vermilion. They were both detected over the weekend and by Sunday they were beginning to grow after smoldering for a day. The National Weather Service had instituted a red flag warning on Sunday due to strong westerly winds, low humidity, and temperatures in the low 80s. The Phantom Creek fire was first detected July 24 and had burned about 3.5 acres as of Tuesday. It's located north of the Wolf Lake Road, east of Lake Vermilion. The Bear Creek fire, located north of the Mud Creek Road was first detected on July 22 and had burned about 10 acres as of mid-week.

Water-scooping aircraft, including three Fire Bosses and three helicopters, were working from Lake Vermilion over the weekend to slow the growth of both fires, while ground crews worked to gain access to the sites.

Meanwhile, several other new ignitions have been reported since Sunday, including a blaze near Fourtown Lake (see related story this page). Three other new fires were confirmed as of Tuesday, including the Sundial South fire, which is smoking but has shown little growth. The other fires include the Ima fire, located about five miles west of Snowbank Lake, and the Slowfoot fire, located about a mile southeast of the Delta fire.

All current fires and any new starts in the coming days will be fully suppressed by available initial attack resources from the team and local area.

### Delta fire wrap-up

Meanwhile, Forest Service officials were confident that it was safe to lift the closure after the completion of an infrared flight over the Delta Lake Fire which detected little to no heat outside the original 62-acre footprint of the fire. As of Monday, fire officials reported that the fire was 92 percent contained and that permit areas and trails in the area were once again open to public use. Crews had mopped up hot spots in the interior identified by aircraft.

Firefighters continued to patrol and cool hot spots as they begin fire suppression repair, which involves removing fire equipment and maintenance to return sensitive areas to their pre-fire natural condition.

"We're so grateful for the firefighters and the Type 2 Teams who came from across the country to help us respond to the Delta Lake Fire and other fires in the West Zone Complex," said Superior Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins. "Although we are confident that the Delta Lake Fire containment line is secure, this isn't the end of the fire season. The drought continues and the fires are still active in Canada."

said Cummins.

The following areas are again open to BWCAW permit holders:

Drag Pristine Management Area

#56-Kekekabic Trail East Entry Point

#74-Kekekabic Trail West/Snowbank Entry Point

The entire Kekekabic Trail.

The following lakes, campsites, and portages: Parent, Disappointment, Jitterbug, Ahsab, Becoosin, Benezie, Adventure, Rifle, Bridge, and Fire.

"I also want to recognize that this isn't easy on our permit holders, cooperators or partners. I want to thank our visitors for working with our wilderness rangers, clearing the closure area and understanding that this decision was made for safety reasons. I'm happy that we can announce the end of the Delta Lake Fire closure and that people can get back to enjoying this part of the wilderness," Cummins added.

Meanwhile, several large fires continued to burn this week in the Quetico Provincial Park, just across the international border from the BWCAW. Three of the fires have the potential to spread south across the border into areas near Crooked and Iron lakes, according to officials.

# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.



**CLEAN**

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



**DRAIN**

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



**DRY**

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!**

LEARN MORE AT [CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG](http://CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG)



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Filed in District Court  
State of Minnesota  
Court File No. 69VI-PR-21-82

### Amended NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of  
Raymond Richard  
Yahrmatter,

### Aka Raymond R. Yahrmatter Aka Raymond Yahrmatter Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on August 25, 2021, at 8:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 300 5th Ave. S, Virginia, MN 55792, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Judith Ann De Cuellar, whose address is 32048 Prairie Lake Dr., Grand Rapids, MN 55744 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative

will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

If you have an objection to this case, please contact Court Administration at 218-221-7560 option #8 for further instructions as these hearings

are currently held remotely due to the pandemic.

Dated: July 21, 2021  
BY THE COURT  
Robert Friday  
Judge of District Court

Amy Turnquist  
Court Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl,  
Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner  
Angela E. Sipila  
Sipila Law Office LLC  
412 1st St S  
Virginia, MN 55792  
Attorney License No. 024501x  
Telephone: 218-741-5000  
Fax: 218-741-5000  
Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay,  
July 30 and Aug. 6, 2021

## EMPLOYMENT

### Information Receptionist

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has an opening for a full-time, year-round **Information Receptionist**. We are seeking a customer service-oriented individual to assist residents and visitors with business and area information. The position requires knowledge of Microsoft Office programs, internet and email programs, and use of office equipment. A full job description and application are available at [Ely.org/chamber/workforce-development](http://Ely.org/chamber/workforce-development). Please submit job applications to [director@ely.org](mailto:director@ely.org) or stop by the Chamber office at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely.



7/30

### POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Playground Aide

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year for a Playground Aide to supervise students and ensure their safety on the playground/indoors as assigned. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:  
 > High school graduate  
 > Ability to work cooperatively with staff  
 > Ability to work effectively with students  
 > Willingness to work outside in adverse weather conditions  
 > Ability to supervise large number of students

Application available at: [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us)

A complete application must include the following:  
 > District Application  
 > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$14.00/hour

Hours: up to 5.5 hours/day; student contact days

Start date: August 31, 2021

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

Published in the Timberjay, July 23 & 30, 2021

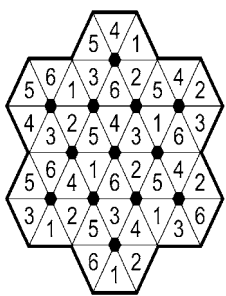


### Steger Mukluks is Hiring!

**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**

solution



## FOR RENT

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Up to 1,150 square feet of prime office space on the main level of the Frandsen Bank & Trust building in Tower. Formerly law offices. Private entrance off Spruce Street.

**CONTACT:  
GREG BUCKLEY  
218.753.6100  
JIM ERTZ  
651.253.5568**

7/30

### City Clerk/Treasurer City of Tower, Minnesota

The City of Tower is seeking a skilled professional to serve as City Clerk/Treasurer. Tower, located on Lake Vermilion in the heart of the Northwoods, is a great place to call home or visit. It offers beautiful lakes, forests and parks, endless year-round recreational opportunities, welcoming and friendly residents, rich history and culture, community volunteer spirit, well-rounded business community, and potential for economic growth.

Tower, resident population 500, is a Home Rule Charter City under the Statutes of the State of Minnesota with an elected Council/Mayor form of government. ([Charter City of Tower https://cityoftower.com/content/uploads/charter.pdf](https://cityoftower.com/content/uploads/charter.pdf))

The council plans, formulates, exercises, and monitors city policy, procedures, and activities for its present and future economic health and quality of life. The clerk/treasurer duties and responsibilities are defined in Chapter 6 of the Charter. These include oversight of daily operations along with supervision of about 40 employees in the city's administrative departments: municipal water and sanitary sewer utility, public works, parks, campground, forest, airport, and emergency services (fire/ambulance). The clerk/treasurer also serves in a support role to the Gundersen Trust, Tower Economic Development Authority, and eight advisory boards and commissions. The clerk/treasurer oversees a \$4 annual million budget including management of various state and federal grants.

The council, city staff and citizens look forward to a person who will provide leadership with a long-term focus. Desired attributes include experience and understanding of finance and fund accounting; technical skills, supervisory experience and human resource skills; background in organizational development, community development, planning and an inherent ability to think on your feet; demonstrated excellent people skills who is approachable and a relationship builder; a good listener who cultivates trust and operates with an open-door policy; knows how and when to communicate and keeps the council informed and redirects the council to their roles; is competent in a public service role and being the face of the city. The clerk/treasurer enjoys working in a team setting, demonstrates trust in staff, relies on their professional experience, and models accountability. The clerk/treasurer is progressive and forward thinking and collaborates with community organizations.

**Position:** City Clerk/Treasurer  
**Location:** City of Tower  
**Salary Range:** \$52,000 to \$62,000  
**General Duties:** Under direction and general policy guidance from the City Council, the clerk/treasurer plans, organizes, integrates, fiscally controls, directs, administers, reviews, communicates, and evaluates the activities, operations, programs and services of the City of Tower.  
**Qualifications:** A bachelor's degree in Public or Business Administration, Management or related field, and five years of experience in management, public or business administration, or related field, or any equivalent combination of formal preparation or substantial experience which provides the requisite knowledge and abilities for this position. Desirable qualifications include a strong background in accounting and human resource management.

**Submit a cover letter and resume, or direct questions to Terri Joki-Martin at [deputyclerk@cityoftower.com](mailto:deputyclerk@cityoftower.com).**

Published in the Timberjay, July 30, 2021

## Super Crossword

### Answers

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

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Mattress option
- 5 NASCAR advertiser
- 8 Wild guess
- 12 Supervisor
- 14 "Yes -?"
- 15 Accidentally
- 16 Late July babies
- 17 Since Jan. 1
- 18 12-year-olds, e.g.
- 20 Bjorn Borg, for one
- 23 Salon request
- 24 Actress Elisabeth
- 25 Act of contrition
- 28 Knight's address
- 29 Persnickety
- 30 Fez, e.g.
- 32 Woo
- 34 City district
- 35 BMW rival
- 36 Follows
- 37 Mississippi city
- 40 Venus, to Serena
- 41 Mine, in Montreal
- 42 Astaire specialty
- 47 Scepters
- 48 Valuable volume

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		

- 10 Soon, poetically
- 11 Employer
- 13 Fill fully
- 19 Fay of "King Kong"
- 20 Snake's warning
- 21 Spinning sound
- 22 Modern money
- 23 Joe of "GoodFellas"
- 25 Talking heads' opinions
- 26 Spiced tea
- 27 British noble
- 29 Ersatz
- 31 Pro Bowl stats
- 33 Zedong follower
- 34 Sushi condiment
- 36 Ocean motion
- 37 Fir coat
- 38 "- a roll!"
- 39 California city
- 40 Agile
- 43 Motorist's org.
- 44 Silent assent
- 45 Army rank (Abbr.)
- 46 Scrape (out)

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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/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)  
 More info? Contact Human Resources  
**218-666-6220**  
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

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

## BUILDING SERVICES

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

## 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: 22 mins.

FIRM	STP	STAB
OVERSEER	ORNO	
BYCHANCE	LEOS	
YTD	TWEENS	
SWEDDE	PERM	
SHUE	PENANCE	
SIR	FUSSY	HAT
ROMANCE	WARD	
BLIXIT	SIS	
AMOIT	TAPDANCE	
RODS	RAREBOOK	
KNIT	YAY	IDLE

**SELL It HERE**

## 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

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

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

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

**MARINE**  
Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion  
Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage  
Lease or Purchase Options  
Marina • Mechanic on Duty  
Convenience Store  
24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait  
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www.shamrocklanding.com

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LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169  
Summer Hours:  
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Sat: 9-5, Sun 9-3  
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

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

**GARAGE SALE**  
HUGE GARAGE SALE at Red Rock Storage, Hwy. 77, Lake Vermilion, Tower, Saturday, Aug. 7. Many units with sales. Antiques, tools, furniture, linens, and much more. 7/30v

**FOR SALE**  
HOOP HOUSES FOR SALE- 20'x24', and 30'x72', both can be set up for hydroponic production. Hydroponic equipment also for sale. Call Paul Hedrick, PO Box 241, Ely, MN 55731, 218-365-5456. 7/30v

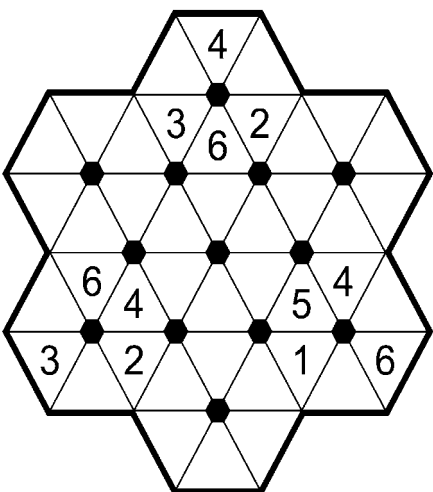
**AUTOMOTIVE**  
Very cherry 2003 GMC SIERRA 1500 4WD- 4 dr, white, 17k miles, Vortec 5300 V8, 4-speed auto trans w/overdrive, off-road package, heavy-duty trailing package, never seen snow. Like brand new! Beat Waschke! \$19,900. 218-410-9348. 8/6p

**HELP WANTED**  
YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME HOUSEKEEPER- Day shift, very competitive wage, in Ely. For more info call Betty at 218-235-7502. 7/30

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦  
♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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

**ACROSS**  
1 Pagan belief  
6 Shortly  
12 Refuses to comply with  
20 Bubbling over  
21 Not end on schedule  
22 She played Natalia Boa Vista on "CSI: Miami"  
23 Warning up a 24-ounce Starbucks drink?  
25 Corded phone connection  
26 See 11-Down  
27 Beijing-to-Taipai dir.  
28 Indian-language word meaning "lower limbs?"  
29 Greek dawn goddess  
30 Car ad abbr.  
32 Edison's middle name  
34 Go quickly, old-style  
35 Put clothes on a raccoon relative?  
39 Margarine, old-style  
41 Praise highly  
45 Gossipy sort

**DOWN**  
1 Crib outburst  
2 "Except after C" lead-in  
3 Roughens  
4 — Field (Mets' stadium)  
5 "Put — on it!"  
6 The so-called "Godfather of Punk"  
7 Fall mo.  
8 Malted drinks  
9 Potted dwarf  
10 Spy's info  
11 Start of an end-of-week cry that's followed by  
26-Across  
12 Wrap offerer  
13 Sir Walter Scott hero  
14 Christian music singer — Patty  
15 Classic song  
16 Umpire's call  
17 Lake that abuts Ohio  
18 Egg foo —  
19 Gets the idea  
24 DEA figure  
28 "Bamey Miller" star  
29 Ben & Jerry's rival  
31 "Red Book" Chinese chairman  
33 Put in words

**ACROSS**  
46 Pea keeper  
47 Shiny gray wrist bones?  
50 Bagel option  
52 Non-paper money  
54 Defeated in a footrace  
55 Countrified  
58 "Right on!"  
59 Echo  
60 "That South Asian yogurt drink is my favorite!"  
64 Strip race  
66 Anger  
68 Defiant type  
69 Scan for typos and such  
71 "Me and Bobby —" (1971 hit)  
73 Off-roader, in brief  
74 Counterfeit  
75 Spatula on a Hawaiian porch?  
77 Noontime nap  
80 Ring match  
82 Singer Debby  
83 Words after many fiction book titles  
84 Legions

**DOWN**  
86 Least vicious  
90 Beautiful woman in the Muslim paradise who's destitute?  
92 During each  
95 Actress — Grace Moretz  
96 Really tiny  
97 Be worthy of  
98 Chariot in which the Bible's three wise men traveled?  
100 Fast escape  
102 1952 Winter Olympics city  
104 Egg: Prefix  
105 Foldable bed  
106 Pool lengths completed by Hindu masters?  
111 "... bug — feature?"  
113 Typos and such  
116 Geometric plane curve  
117 Fight a ruling family of old Florence?  
120 Stopped sleeping  
121 Tristan's lady  
122 Tendencies  
123 Anonymous titles  
124 Wood finish  
125 Inner tension

**DOWN**  
36 Go hungry  
37 Justice Alito  
38 Raiders' stats  
40 Lead-in to a holiday  
41 Delayed  
42 Call into a court of law  
43 Cornered  
44 Big racket  
47 Between solid and liquid  
48 Filmmaker Nicolas  
49 Tea holder  
51 Time stretch  
53 Old El — (salsa brand)  
56 Top dog  
57 Tomb raider Croft  
59 Sirius XM medium  
60 Lyric writer Gershwin  
61 "We'd better skip that"  
62 Apparent  
63 Mexican hats  
65 Broccoli —: Var.  
67 Perpetually, to poets  
70 Be worthy of  
71 1972 Summer Olympics city  
72 Christmas Nativity display  
74 WWII battle site  
76 Unit of bricks  
78 "Climb — Mountain"  
79 Six, in Sicily  
81 Forebodings  
83 Yellowfin tuna, in Hawaii  
84 Santa —  
85 Wrap offerer  
87 Deciding (to)  
88 One-man bands, e.g.  
89 Examine  
91 Doe and hen  
93 Vainglory  
94 Construction bolt installer  
98 Many a Utah churchgoer  
99 Fish lurer  
100 Vilify in print  
101 By itself  
103 Untethered  
106 Time stretch  
107 Tot's H2O  
108 Composer Khachaturian  
109 Create  
110 Hip hangouts  
112 Showing skill  
114 Country's McEntire  
115 Yemeni port  
117 Part of ACLU: Abbr.  
118 Fruity drink  
119 Suffix with 31-Down or 93-Down

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					
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45							46				47						48	49	
50									51									52 53 54	
55																			56 57 58 59
60	61	62																	63 64 65 66 67
68																			68 69 70 71 72
73																			73 74 75 76
77																			77 78 79 80 81 82
83																			83 84 85 86 87 88 89
90																			90 91 92 93 94 95
96																			96 97 98 99
100	101																		100 101 102 103 104 105
106	107	108	109																106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115
116																			116 117 118 119
120																			120 121 122
123																			123 124 125

