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the TIMBERJAY



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VOL. 32, ISSUE 32 August 13, 2021 \$1⁰⁰

BOOK BANNING

ISD 696 affirms critical thinking in education

After review and appeal, book stays on English class reading list

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The teaching and support of critical thinking will continue in the Ely school district. On a 4-1 vote Monday night ISD 696 school board members voted to keep the bestseller, “I’m Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made

“Critical thinking is very important to me. I think when standardized testing came into existence, we lost a lot of that in our schools. **Ray Marsnik, Ely School Board Chair**

for Whiteness,” on the required reading list for the junior level English class. The Ely education

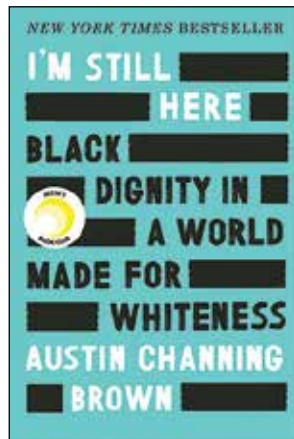
controversy came to light in April when the parent of an eleventh grader, Chad Davis, made a request to

the school board to have the book removed from the curriculum. At least one other Ely parent, Holly

Prijatel, joined the effort to have the book removed.

Following a months-long review and appeal process, ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie recommended that the title “continue to be used by Ely Public Schools English Department to support

See...BOOK pg. 9



Garden Party

Ely arts trust celebrates benefit of painting sale

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – A 1916 painting by artist Frederick Frieseke, titled, “Breakfast in the Garden,” continues to reap benefits for the support and nurturing of the arts in this community.

“Breakfast in the

Garden” was donated to the city of Ely by Donald Gardner in 1945. In 1989, the painting was sold for \$510,000 and the city of Ely established the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust for the enhancement, growth and improvement of the arts in the city of Ely. Since

See...ART pg. 12



GARDNER HUMANITIES TRUST



Budding Ely artist Phoebe Bisbee, 7, above, proudly shows her bird art at the “Breakfast in the Garden” celebration in Whiteside Park last Saturday, hosted by the Gardner Humanities Trust. The sale of the painting, left, has resulted in the distribution of more than \$800,000 in grants since 1989. photos by K. Vandervort

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board vents over flaws in school buildings

Face masks to be encouraged but not mandated

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- As ISD 2142 St. Louis County school board members reviewed a lengthy list of current and future facilities projects during Tuesday’s working session, long-held frustrations about presumed design and construction shortcomings bubbled quickly to the surface.

The list, compiled by director of facilities and grounds Derek Wudinich and reviewed at the meeting by finance director Kim Johnson, included new projects such as an office for a school resource officer at North Woods nearing completion and a new 10-booth welding shop at Northeast Range that could draw students from Ely and other district schools.

But ongoing maintenance concerns with buildings and athletic facilities barely a decade old were the main generators of comments from the board.

“We’ve got our football fields

See...FLAWS pg. 12

CITY OF TOWER

Council hears East Two River development concerns

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Ongoing work along the East Two River dominated discussion here at the city council meeting on Monday. Under public input, Mill Point resident Joan Broten again addressed the council, asking for action to address her concerns about the ongoing construction of

Seeded grass was resprouting and erosion control battens were in place along the East Two River this week, part of the work associated with the development of an RV park on the site. submitted photo

the Rose RV park, located just off Lake Avenue.

Broten was upset about Rose’s decision to remove old river pilings along a portion of the river in front of his property and a neighboring

property, owned by Geoff Griffin. While city officials did not address her concerns directly, a July 29 letter from the Department of Natural Resources

See...RIVER pg. 10



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Community notices

Festival of Skalds held Aug. 14-15

ANGORA- The Festival of Skalds will be held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 14-15 at 8182 Carpenter Rd. in Angora. Gates will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission is just \$5 for ages 13 and up, kids 12 and younger are free with donation of a nonperishable food item.

Festival of Skalds celebrates skalds, the historians, poets, and storytellers of the Old Norse. Join us for a fun-filled weekend of old Norse fantasy merriment. Patrons will enjoy artisan merchants of handcrafted wares, archery and axe throwing, entertainment, and tasty food.

The festival is hosted by Iron Ranger Arts. More information can be found on the Iron Ranger Arts website at www.ironrangerarts.com.

Ancient Cedars Trail: An Artistic Exploration, Aug. 27 in Hibbing

HIBBING- The Borealis Art Guild will host Ancient Cedars Trail: An Artistic Exploration. The exhibit will be up until Aug. 27 and is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Borealis Art Guild is located at 214 E Howard St. in Hibbing.

The traveling art exhibit is a collaboration of 11 regional artists who support preserving and protecting critical habitat within the new Ancient Cedars Trail. Artwork was sourced from artist sojourns through the stand of 100-plus acres of white cedar dating back to about 1880.

Artists include Pamela Davis, Nancy Ensley, and Wendy Rouse of Ely; Jordan Gawboy of Tower; Jeff Argir and Louise Laakso Lundin of Hibbing; Jim Devries of Britt; Linda Glisson, Margie Helstrom, Sue Rauschenfels and Nan Stubenvoll of Duluth. The exhibit will be shown in September at Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook.

Northland Foundation awards 46 grants

REGIONAL- Between April 1 and June 30, the Northland Foundation awarded 46 grants totaling \$571,635 to benefit the people and communities within its service area. These numbers do not include 13 already-announced Maada'ookiing grants awarded to Indigenous individuals through the foundation's newest initiative.

Sixteen grants totaling \$166,991 went toward work specific to the wellbeing of children and youth in the region. "Supporting the healthy development of children and youth has been a Northland Foundation priority for 35 years now," stated Erik Torch, Director of Grantmaking. "This spring's funding adds to the more than \$13.6 million to date in Children and Youth grantmaking, dedicated to nurturing our region's next generations."

Ely Public Schools, ISD 696, was awarded \$1,000 to support planning and activities that strengthen the learning continuum from early childhood through third grade.

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Nett Lake and Ely Community Resource, Inc. were each awarded \$10,000. The grants were awarded in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education on behalf of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund for emergency wrap-around early care and education services. The grants are designed to support northeastern Minnesota children ages 0-8 from underserved populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Northland Foundation invests in people and communities to support a thriving region. It is a publicly supported foundation serving seven northeastern Minnesota counties and Native nations sharing this geography. The foundation offers a Grant Program supporting nonprofits and other formally-organized entities such as school districts and Tribal governments; Maada'ookiing which is new, Indigenous-led grantmaking to Native individuals for projects in their community; the KIDS PLUS Program which includes young children, youth, and intergenerational programming; the Business Services Program which offers small business gap lending and hosting the regional Northland Small Business Development Center (SBDC); and other special initiatives.

EMBARRASS REGION FAIR

Exhibit your livestock at the Embarrass Fair

EMBARRASS - Updates in the Embarrass Region Fair's animal barn are providing easier access into the barn's pens this year. New corral panels have gates, allowing animals to easily enter and exit the pens. Fair board organizer Amber Johnson is hoping this change will increase the number of livestock on exhibit during the fair weekend, Aug. 27-29.

This year Tractor Supply has donated prizes for the best decorated cage or corral by those age 12 and under, with first, second, and third prizes to be awarded.

There are four entry classes in the animal barn with first, second, and third prizes awarded for each lot division in each category: livestock, rabbits, horses,



A child shows his horse at the 2019 Embarrass Region Fair. file photo

and poultry.

The fair board is still looking for a veterinarian

to do visual health checks on all animals as they are entered. Contact Amber

Johnson at 218-600-8517 (call or text).

FIRE SAFETY

Firewise demonstration set for Aug. 19

ELY - The Dorothy Molter Museum will host a free Firewise demonstration event on Thursday, Aug. 19, from 6-8 p.m. The museum is located at 2002

E Sheridan St. in Ely.

This event is sponsored by Firewise Minnesota in cooperation with Dovetail Partners. The event will help homeowners learn

about things they can do to make their home and property more wildfire resilient.

The event will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Refreshments will be pro-

vided.

For more information, contact Gloria Erickson at 218-365-0878 or email her at gloria@dovetailinc.org.

Eagles Nest to hold fire evacuation training on Aug. 14

EAGLESNESTTWP- Eagles Nest Township is holding an evacuation training exercise on Saturday, Aug. 14 beginning at 10 a.m. This training is part of an ongoing effort to increase safety and preparedness in case of a potential wildfire in the township, which has many narrow and tree-lined roads that could be blocked in case of fire, leaving residents stranded.

Fire and rescue squads from Eagles Nest, Ely, Tower, and Morse/Fall Lake will participate in the training which will involve the evacuation of three of the township's "dead end" roads in response to a simulated quickly-moving wildfire. In addition, fire fighters will be hauling water to test response to ember-started house fires, away from an easy lake-water access.

"This part of the exercise simulates and tests our ability to work with our Mutual Aid Partners while at the same time exercising and testing our ability to move water and, most importantly, move residents out of harm's way," said Michael Ostlund, the township's emergency management director. "This whole exercise is part of our ongoing preparedness for

a really bad day. And with Minnesota in a warning phase of drought response and wildfires burning in Northern Minnesota as well as Canada, this is something that we need to be prepared for."

The training will be supervised by an incident command post set up at the gravel pit on Hwy. 169 and Trygg Rd.

NORTHERN COMMUNITY RADIO

KAXE hires new Executive Director David Baes

REGIONAL - Northern Community Radio, 91.7 KAXE/90.5 KBXE, is a National Public Radio affiliate serving northern Minnesota with news, music, events and online/podcast content since 1976. Longtime General Manager Maggie Montgomery has retired and after a nationwide search, David Baes was hired. David comes to this position with a 35-year career in radio and public media, most recently at KPFT-Houston, KHKU-Hawaii and WBAA-Purdue University. Baes brings a vast wealth of information from engineering to operations to management



Maggie Montgomery passes the "baton" to David Baes. submitted photo

and radio broadcasting and public television. His work in media has always had at the core a desire to empower individuals to achieve their potential and strengthen the health

of media organizations. Maggie and David had time to work together to cement the institutional knowledge and history and upcoming grants and happenings. The passing of the "baton" (or can of whipped cream that is a requirement if you work at KAXE/KBXE) happened recently.

"David is a friendly, confident person with new ideas for Northern Community Radio. He comes into an organization

with huge assets that will help him be successful. KAXE and KBXE have talented, competent staffs. The on-air volunteers are highly skilled at what they do.

"We're also very fortunate to have so many loyal listeners and members that have supported us over many years with their donations and participation. Under any new leader there will be change. It'll be fun to hear what new ways he'll find to engage and serve people in our communities," said Maggie.

The staff at KAXE/KBXE are struck by David's friendliness and positive attitude. The rural public medium that gives voice to the people of the region, supports the arts, and connects listeners to the forests and waters and land of northern Minnesota is poised for growth and continued support under

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CITY OF ELY

Skraba set to take over as Ely mayor

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Edges Omerza, 376-363, in special general election

ELY – Local native and former mayor Roger Skraba will take the gavel for a fourth term next week as the top elected official in the city of Ely. Just 785 Ely voters turned out for a special general election on Tuesday to choose Skraba over Heidi Omerza. Skraba received 376 votes, or 47.3 percent, to barely beat Omerza, who was close behind with 363 votes, or 46.2

percent. Omerza will continue as a member of the city council.

With 2,303 registered voters in the city, voter turnout was about 34 percent. There were 638 ballots cast in person at the Senior Center on Tuesday and 147 absentee votes were submitted.



Interim mayor Chuck Novak received 36 write-in votes. Novak was unseated from the mayoral seat last November by newcomer Eric Urbas, who dropped out of the race months earlier because of health concerns, but

still won. Urbas declined to accept the two-year term as mayor. Novak was appointed interim mayor in January. Skraba and Omerza were the top vote-getters in a five-candidate primary in April. Skraba will begin his term later this month after the council canvasses the vote totals from the special election. He term will last just 15 months. Ely voters will go to the polls next

November to again vote for mayor. Skraba was born and raised in Ely, 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 worked for Cold Spring Granite Company for two years after graduating from NDSU and moved back

to Ely. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Reserves and Minnesota National Guard after nine years of service, and serves as a member of the Ely Honor Guard. Skraba is also a veteran politician. He was elected to the Ely City Council twice and then as mayor three times. He is currently the chairman of the St.

See **SKRABA...pg. 5**

BOIS FORTE BAND

Bois Forte Band abandon business purchase

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Member feedback was unanimously against proposal

NETTLAKE- Failing to get a single favorable response after asking their members to weigh in with their opinions, the Bois Forte Band on Tuesday announced that they would not go ahead with the proposed purchase of a business that was never identified for members in either a public meeting or

in proposal documents. "The votes and comments are in and the total votes were 60 no and 0 yes," said a item posted to the Band's website on Tuesday morning. "Therefore, Bois Forte will not be pursuing this business venture." The feedback was foreshadowed at an Aug. 2 Tribal Council public hearing

during which numerous members expressed reservations about giving their approval to an estimated \$4 million purchase of a multi-location business without knowing what they were buying. While the Tribal Council did provide financial projections and general operating details

to members, Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers and Tribal Council members were unable to reveal the name, locations, and specific nature of the business because of a nondisclosure agreement they had made with the seller. That nondisclosure clearly influenced many of those submitting written

comments along with their "no" votes, as related in a summary also posted to the Band's website. "I attended the Zoom meeting on August 2, 2021. I am disappointed that the Tribal Council could not disclose the \$4 million business venture. They left me with many questions," one member responded.

"Although the details were limited, I know how challenging it is to organize and put together that information," another wrote. "As a Bois Forte Band member, I cannot support this potential purchase given the limited information."

See **BAND...pg. 5**

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Worker shortage

Opening immigration and investing in new housing are ways to address the problem

We hope that the July jobs report will put an end to claims that the extra pandemic-related federal unemployment benefits were keeping people from going back to work.

That talking point, which Republicans across the country used as justification for cutting off those extra benefits ahead of their scheduled phase-out in September, was one of those simple claims that seemed self-evident at first glance, but which quickly evaporated under scrutiny.

Turns out, two analyses of jobs and payroll data show that states that continued to accept the extra federal benefits for their residents saw bigger gains in new employment than those states that ended benefits early. Other studies had reached similar conclusions following the June jobs report. In fact, according to an analysis by Homebase, an employee management firm, those states that ended federal benefits early saw job numbers decline by 0.9 percent in July, while states that kept receiving the benefits saw employment increase by 2.3 percent.

While some might find those results surprising, they are perfectly consistent with standard economic theory. The U.S. economy is overwhelmingly fueled by consumer demand, which generates about 70 percent of total gross domestic product. The extra federal benefits put more money in the hands of families in which at least one breadwinner was unemployed. In other words, the extra money went to families that were likely to spend it, boosting their local economy in the process. That, in turn, gave businesses more incentive to hire new workers, and they did, to the tune of nearly one million in July alone.

What this demonstrates, more than anything, is that there are no easy answers when it comes to our current worker shortage. If businesses here in northeastern Minnesota are hoping for an increase in the workforce after the phase-out of the extra federal benefits next month, they are likely to be sorely disappointed.

That's why the discussion in Ely about the community's acute worker shortage is important. The shortage isn't going away next month, or next year, unless we begin to get serious about addressing the barriers in the workforce and begin to realistically look at allowing more workers to enter the country.

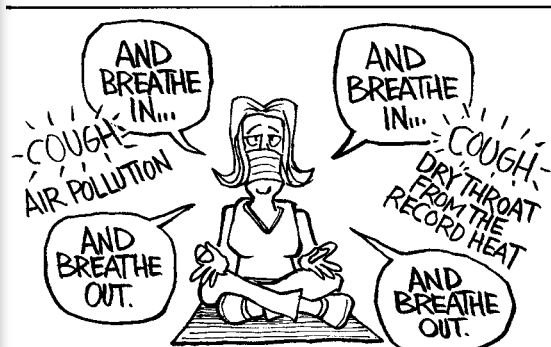
As of the end of May, there were 9.21 million posted job openings in the U.S. according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and yet we were paying hundreds of millions of dollars to house tens of thou-

sands of refugees from south of the border who want nothing more than a job in America. At some point, we need to connect the dots by returning to an immigration system that provides opportunity for more people.

The rapid aging of our population is another reason we need to open up our immigration system. According to Brookings, the latest census data shows that the number of people in the U.S. over age 55 grew by 27 percent between 2010 and 2020. The population of those under 55, by contrast, grew by just 1.3 percent over the decade. Businesses are struggling to find workers because our workforce is literally shrinking as ever more of us age out of the workforce without replacements to fill the gaps. There has been much consternation about the current, relatively low workforce participation rate. But that rate is going to continue to decline simply as a matter of demographics unless we figure out a way to bring more workers here.

Sadly, this obvious need is facing pushback from those who fear that those new workers might come from “s___hole countries” as our former president so ineloquently put it. While the former president said he wants more people from Norway (read: white), that's not going to happen. Residents of most other developed countries now enjoy a higher standard of living, better work conditions, more vacation, greater upward mobility, and far more affordable health care access than even gainfully employed Americans. Why would they choose to leave their homes to come here? For the developed world, America is no longer seen as a land of opportunity. It could still provide opportunity for residents of lesser-developed countries.

Yet bringing new workers to the area is only half the battle. They also need housing, which is in critically short supply in our communities, in part because both Washington and St. Paul have failed to make money available for this critical infrastructure in small towns. Until resources are brought forward to help fund the gap between the cost of building new housing and the revenue that can be generated from rents that are affordable to residents of small communities, this problem will only get worse. If we want more workers for our businesses, we need more people in the workforce and we need places for them to live in our communities. Until those things happen, there's not much hope for addressing our worker shortage.



Letters from Readers

Thanks for helping to preserve history

The Tower-Soudan Historical Society wants to thank the businesses, residents, and all who have supported the aluminum can drive. The historical society began the aluminum can drive this summer to raise money to help with the cost of restoring the old fire hall on Tower's Main Street. The fire hall is the oldest existing public building north of Duluth. With your help, the society will be able to restore the building and bring the old horse-pulled steam engine, the Tippet, into the old fire hall. The Tippet was bought in 1891 and named after the city's mayor at the time.

Please continue to support this great cause. Aluminum cans may be dropped off in the ally behind the fire hall. Thank you!

Jayne Sundeen
Tower-Soudan
Historical Society

Thanks on behalf of Hidden Valley

On behalf of the Ely Nordic Ski and Bike Club Board of Directors, I'd like to send a huge "Thank You" out to everyone who made our live music fundraiser at Hidden Valley a success! We were blessed with pleasant weather, some incredibly talented musicians, a strong team of volunteers and a community of people who generously support live music and trails in Ely.

The Bowl at Hidden Valley proved to be a welcoming venue for outdoor events, and the positive energy from everyone involved ensured it will continue to see more such performances. A special thanks to the City of Ely, the *Timberjay*, *Ely Echo*, Wilderness Woodfire pizza for the tasty food, Team Borealis Mountain Bike Team for providing beverages, and Dr. Chip Hanson for managing the live sound while also tending to the needs of area pets!

We also want to share gratitude for the volunteers, MTB team members, and USFS crews who helped clear our trails following the July 23 wind storm. These

efforts are what help Hidden Valley thrive as a gem of outdoor recreation in Ely.

Fundraising efforts continue, and we hope you'll help spread the word and support the club in any way you can, as we work to complete the new singletrack trail project.

Thank you!
Brett Ross
Board Chair
Ely Nordic Ski and Bike Club

County schools should focus on safety

It is with increasing dismay that I read the statements reported in local newspapers of the ISD 2142 superintendent and board members regarding COVID-19. It appears that their goal is to placate the parents who complain about wearing masks and taking precautions, rather than ensuring that the county schools are the safest possible environment for the children and staff in attendance.

I am not sure how the superintendent and board members came to know more about communicable diseases than the epidemiologic and medical experts at the CDC, MN Dept. of Health, the St. Louis County Health Dept. and the doctors in the local clinics and hospitals. Throughout the last school year, it appeared to me that working the numbers to keep schools open was celebrated rather than questioned.

Does the school district cut corners in all their safety practices, or just where COVID-19 is concerned? Do they cheat on school bus safety, food safety, air quality, athletic safety or building maintenance? I certainly hope not.

The last sixteen months of COVID-19 experience show that it spreads quickly and is more deadly than "just the flu". Greater than 616,000 Americans have been reported to have died due to COVID-19. Countless others suffer from long-term health effects. While it was thought that young adults and children were less susceptible to the original COVID-19 strain, the present upswing is now attacking them and making them sicker than before. School children are now more vulnerable than ever.

It has been proven by the recent drop in new cases that social distancing, wearing masks and getting vaccinated are effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19. The newly developing surge in unvaccinated, and probably unmasked people is further proof that vaccinations are effective and safe and unvaccinated people are vulnerable. Until almost everyone is vaccinated the school children are not safe.

Presently, 54 percent of St. Louis County residents are fully vaccinated. This means every other person you see is not vaccinated and could be spreading COVID-19, which is regaining ground in our communities once again.

Children under the age of 12 are still not eligible to be vaccinated. This means every student from Pre-K through sixth-grade is vulnerable to being infected by every other high schooler and adult they come into contact with. Aren't these children worthy of the utmost protection?

It should be the goal of the entire educational system to conquer ignorance and model exemplary civic and personal behavior. Cheating on the rules should not be tolerated at any level. Allowing any individuals to disobey any school board policy should not be tolerated. Forcing parents to look for safer schools in other districts should not be tolerated. Let the unsafe parents look elsewhere.

I would ask that ISD 2142 set the COVID-19 safety bar higher than that recommended by the health agencies rather than lower. This should be the same for all the goals of the school district. This is how you attract students instead of losing them. This is how students become the best citizens they can.

Bill Conger
Former ISD 2142 Director
Cook

Where the North Country Sounds Off!

On being a recovering prude

When I was growing up, I thought the "Dog Days of Summer" were days in mid-August when all the algae started appearing in the lakes and the best days of swimming had come and gone. Without getting



SCARLET STONE

from Farmer's Almanac and Wikipedia that "dog days" is the period of hot sultry summer days following the rising of the star system Sirius, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, meaning "big dog" in Latin. To Greeks and Romans, dog

days occurred around the time when Sirius appears to rise alongside the sun, in late July in the northern hemisphere. They believed the heat combined from the two stars created a period of the hottest summer days with drought, thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs and bad luck. In 2021, the Dog Days spanned from July 3 to August 11.

Looking on the bright side of all that, Dog Days or not, I can attest Lake Vermilion is still fit for

swimming. I recently found myself suited up and easing into the refreshing depths, after a "dry decade", one with no swimming. The last time I swam was at my mom's cabin on Burntside Lake, which is a much chillier "dunk" than Lake Vermilion. After mom died, my brother and I sold the cabin and for lack of a spot to comfortably and conveniently swim, I just didn't go for many years. What was I waiting for? Truth be told there has been that one

inside voice that has gotten louder as I've gotten older, "I'm not exhibiting my cottage cheese to anyone!" (Cottage cheese is here defined as... the lack of completely smooth thigh skin where previously-eaten French fries and Nutter Butter cookies now rest in subcutaneous peace.) Yet, another voice inside would say, "Hey, there's bigger cartons of cottage cheese than you out there on the beach....go have fun!" If it were possible, I now see

that I should have gagged some of these inside voices long ago.

Several weeks ago, I had mentioned to my bartender and another gal at the local tav one afternoon, that I had resisted an invitation from a friend to go swimming because I would feel embarrassed....and oddly, neither laughed. They said, "Nobody cares anymore, Scarlet." Summarized as....no matter what your

See PRUDE...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Ask others to get vaccinated

So many people are running around loose without having been vaccinated. Some because they cannot get someone to take care of their kids while they get the jab, some because they can't take time off from work, some because they don't have efficient transportation, and some because they just can't be bothered with reality that conflicts with what they'd prefer to believe. A full third of American adults get their news from Facebook, where they can choose to stay with whatever feels comfortable, regardless of what's actually going on.

It's really very simple. With enough options to change its molecular structure through evolutionary variation, we are now

moving towards having to face another version of the coronavirus that the present vaccines won't be able to handle. We'll be lucky if we can develop the next round within a year.

Maybe this is all too complicated to think about until hit with the disease, but it just breaks people's hearts when deathly ill people are asking to be vaccinated instead of intubated - and it's too late. Mask up, and get at least one friend, relative, neighbor, or associate to go get their damn shots.

**Dave Porter
Minneapolis**

Tower councilors answer ambulance questions

We felt the need to respond to the status of the

Tower Ambulance Service after hearing many individual opinions given, whether it pertains to finances or how the service is run. For example, even though *Tower News* accurately reported from a commission document on 8/3 that the ambulance fund recorded more expenses than revenue for the year, that revenue is now in line with expectations and positive because of revenue received in the city's general account that is now appropriately transferred to the ambulance fund.

Note that in 2020 there was a capital purchase of an ambulance, something that has not occurred since 2013. In 2021, a monthly snapshot of the financials that was provided to the ambulance commission showed \$50,000 in expenditures over revenues. A

large annual expense that was paid to the state of Minnesota which was later reimbursed by the state had not yet been recorded. The ambulance bank account currently has a \$43,000 balance. We encourage all people who are submitting stories or editorials to reach out to the appropriate officials to seek clarity and completeness of the information which they are disseminating.

We need to look at the big picture to fully understand the service.

The City of Tower established an ambulance service in 1958. Over 30 years ago, the State of Minnesota established the primary service area as it stands today, serving Tower, Bois Forte and many surrounding townships.

If we look at where the service is today we have made considerable progress

in many areas.

We have continually added personnel to our roster and currently have the highest on-duty hours we have ever had!

We have made changes to the number of hours that can be worked and to pay rates. Our residents are benefiting from the highest coverage they have had, but it does come at a financial cost. These changes were also necessary in striving to be compliant with state laws.

The financial structure has been updated in the financial system by cleaning up some of the codes, giving us a better handle on our expenditures and revenues. We are financially doing as expected.

We have had a Rural Assessment Audit from the EMSRB Board which will aid us in creating a business plan, which we have never

had in the past. We will be receiving the results from that assessment in the near future. We are looking forward to findings from the EMSRB review and the potential changes they will recommend.

One of our goals is to maintain a quality service with a maximum availability at a cost that is manageable.

In the last sixty years, there has been no change in the desire to provide an important service to the community. However, during the same period, much has changed in how ambulance services are regulated, staffed, trained, certified, and financed. We are currently working on establishing a solid foundation for the future.

**Councilors
Kevin Norby and
David Setterberg
City of Tower**

SKRABA...Continued from page 3

Louis County Planning Commission and vice chair of the Board of Adjustment. He also leads Club Mesabi, the Mesabi Bike Trail and is the trail adminis-

trator for the Tomahawk Snowmobile Trail and the local snowmobile trails.

In a candidate forum earlier this year, Skraba praised the established

businesses in the city, such as Steger Mukluks and Razors Edge and stressed the importance of working with such businesses to help them expand and grow.

"Razors Edge could be grown as big as Gerber Foods," he said.

Skraba also called for more fiber optic development to attract a younger

workforce.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has opened our eyes to more people working from their homes. And I see copper-nickel mining

as part of the solution to our 20-year vision."

BAND...Continued from page 3

"As a Bois Forte Band member I want to vote NO for the proposed business," a third said. "After spending hours reading the financial statement and also not being able to know what the business is I do not believe it's in the tribe's best interest to purchase any business at this time."

Several members questioned the advisability of taking on a new business venture at a time when the economy is still recovering from the recession brought on by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The current pandemic has the economy on thin

ice," one member said. "This is an extremely risky business move at this current time."

Differing priorities

As was made clear by tribal leaders in the public meeting and financial documents, the Band would have taken on an estimated \$4.075 million, 20-year loan to finance the business purchase, rather than using any existing tribal funds. Chavers also said at the meeting that no American Recovery Act funds would be involved in the purchase.

However, numerous Band members expressed

opinions that the Band should prioritize other investments.

"I believe the \$4 million could help the housing on the reservation," said one. "The houses are terrible up there on the Reservation. We need to invest in the families and grow our Reservation strong again."

"Let's grow food and hemp or buy a solar energy installation company and work with 8th Fire Solar out of White Earth," said another.

"There are many other areas the Band should be focused on, for instance, infrastructure on both

sectors of Reservation. There are many services in need of help to serve the members," a third member wrote.

Another voiced concern that the Band wouldn't see an immediate boost in Band member employment from the purchase.

"Through the meeting, it was also disclosed that at this time there are no Band members qualified to run this business and the managers presently employed would stay at least five years to train Band members. I feel this is also not in the Band's best inter-

est as we need more Band members to actually run the businesses," they said.

Future opportunity

This was apparently the first use of a tribal council resolution passed two years ago requiring proposed business ventures to be presented to Band members for their review and input, and another opportunity for a different proposal may come in about two months, according to comments made by Chavers during the public meeting.

"We'll be coming back in October with another

business option," Chavers said. "The city of Eveleth approached us and said they want somebody else in the area to do this business. It has to do with the Rock Ridge School being put in at Virginia, and it also has to do with larger vehicles, big rigs, that kind of thing, and fueling."

Chavers noted that this venture would have a long lead time, anticipated to start in 2024, which would allow the Band ample opportunity to pursue funding support from state and federal grant sources.

PRUDE...Continued from page 4

shape....just "go, do, be." I started lightening up... "Really, what's a little fun at a private stretch of the beach gonna hurt?" I am too hard on myself, I guess. I'd gotten a new, longer suit a few years ago and after the wrestling match of putting it on ended the other day, I decided I was just peachy. I did go to a local quiet beach and swam with my family, but did the "air mattress walk of shame", the one where you put the thing behind you as you ease into the water and casually saunter out of the water holding it against you all the while with a wet suit clinging tighter than a scared child. This is a summer reality for modest types.

So, this whole concept of loosening my own uptight reins is a long process. Another incident of reckoning occurred this summer at my annual July Third T-shirt sale in Tower, when a customer was convincing her mother to buy one of my tank tops. Mom was very concerned about her bra straps showing and as I listened, I was empathizing with her, then the daughter said, "No one cares anymore, mom, what straps are showing." I heard that; it ping-ponged from ear to ear several times, making a noted impression. The mom bought the tank top and I bought in to the daughter's way of thinking. After all, I had been studying the visual shoulder strap deal for years and getting used to it. When I first saw straps hanging out...some-time in the new century...I did raise my eyebrows and sour my mouth resembling the shocked characters

portrayed by British actress Eileen Atkins. I thought it was really tacky, downright cheap looking in fact. Years rolled by, miles and miles of straps passed in front of my eyes, and I have eased and concluded that the "strap look" can be achieved with narrow, smooth straps of varying colors...such as Victoria's Secret pieces, while chunky, contoured elastic support straps should be avoided at all cost. You know the kind I mean, if you recall the large, missile-resembling cupped support structures from back in the sixties and seventies. Heavily endowed females cannot rely on a couple of flimsy ribbons to support their missile base. This I know. It's head-shakingly worse if straps are dingy in color, fraying and pilled from being in co-ed wash cycles with towels and fleecy things.

Even decades ago, when I was trimmer and in good shape, I could never go as far as wearing a two-piece swimsuit or ever consider hip huggers with the tightly stretched "T" of a G-string manifesting itself across the top of my buns as I bent over in the grocery checkout line reaching for an issue of *Farmer's Almanac*! This never would have happened, the sight of a "T" on me, however buying the *Almanac* was fine. My mother, a trim...."one apple for lunch kinda lady," taught me never to wear horizontal stripes and steer clear of large prints or plaids. "Black is slimming, white enlarges, and never ever sew or purchase a blouse with large

flowers positioned over each breast," she directed. Add to it the "White Rule," and you see why I am who I am. "One doesn't wear white before Memorial Day and may only acceptably wear white up until Labor Day....Winter-white tones of cream or ivory are acceptable." Garment guidance was ferociously stronger in decades prior. I'm a prude, I guess. Clothing is just a costume, so who am I to dictate? After all, portions of undergarments have been visible for centuries....pantalons, corsets, slips, tights to name a few. Lately, I have been dressing more "Boho," (meaning Bohemian, an artsy vagabond living an unconventional lifestyle). I'm having new fun with my clothing, slamming plaid or striped shirts together with lively printed shorts in various colors of a prudent length, but then I fix my hair and add some jewelry, so it doesn't look accidental.

Many years of Dog Days have come and gone but strapless formal wear on heavy-set women will never look comfortable to me. This style has been sticking around for too many years in my opinion and I always worry there will be serious wardrobe malfunctions coming down an aisle or at the altar when I see the heavy packing that occurs. When stretched to capacity, fabric just wants to roll...down...off and away. I am a seamstress and I know these things. Zippers want to buzz apart with aching teeth and be left in a dark closet wondering why they were torn from the comfort of the

notions drawer to be put to such a demanding task of holding it all together. I see this ongoing strapless style...it's now in serious overtime...and I think three words, "You need straps." Straps could be the life saver, like strong 550-rated paracord is to a jumper. My worrying does no good, it's not my party, not my wedding....I've had my share and more. My own response to self being, "Always the bride and never the bridesmaid." My maids had sleeves, lovely flutter sleeves back in the 80's. Nothing could or would fall or tumble out. After that first nuptial there was no need for more maids, it was maid-free, and carefree actually. Simply put, there are more suitable styles for us voluptuous American gals...but again I am still a recovering prude.

I could rattle on about my concerns for changing styles but, in the end, people dress how they dress and it's what's inside their hearts that matters. My corseted ideas have been challenged by the changing times. The 2021 Dog Days have come to an end and soon enough the temperatures will begin to fall. There will be less skin in view as bathing suits get packed away until next season, and fewer chances for wardrobe malfunctions as full sleeves will push strapless things to the back of the closet. The changing season will bring out long pants, socks and sweaters, too, with those cool temperatures hopefully ending the drought, thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs and any bad luck.



the
TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2021 by *The Timberjay*. *The Timberjay* (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$39 year Elsewhere: \$54 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

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

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

Week of Aug. 16

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.

Vermilion Senior Living hosting community barbecue, Aug. 17

TOWER-Vermilion Senior Living, in Tower, is hosting a community barbecue on Tuesday, Aug. 17 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be hot dogs, burgers, and live music. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Courtney or Demetrius at 218-753-7788. Vermilion Senior Living, an assisted living facility, is located at 1232 Birch St. N.

St. Paul's Garage Sale on Aug. 21

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan is hosting a garage sale on Saturday, Aug. 21 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. The sale is sponsored by the Women of the Church, with proceeds going for charitable projects. Coffee an' will be served. The church is located at 36 Church St.

St. Martin's Annual Rummage Sale set for Aug. 28

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will host a rummage sale on Saturday, Aug. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the church social hall. Due to the great response in the past, we will once again offer EARLY BIRD SHOPPING at 8 a.m. for the cost of \$5. In addition to the rummage sale, coffee and caramel rolls will be available for purchase, and a 50/50 cash drawing will be held, with chances for the cash drawing at \$1 each. The winner will be announced at 12:45 p.m. Hope to see you there.

LAKE LIFE

Olson family celebrates 100 years on Birch Point



Above: Family members who attended the reunion this summer. Front row of daughters-in-law of Herman T. Olson. Middle row: Grandchildren. Back rows: Great-grandchildren. Below: A photo of the original cabin dating back to 1921. A copy of the sale papers, showing the purchase of four lots at \$175 each, a 28'x32' cabin for \$2,960, ice house for \$300, and two docks for \$200. submitted photos

LAKE VERMILION- In June of 1921, Tower businessman and Mayor Herman T. Olson purchased four lots on Birch Point, Daisy Bay, Lake Vermilion. Featuring both a sand beach and a rock promontory, he named the land Birch Rock. He later acquired two more lots and his sons, Bob and Paul, built family cabins next door.

On Aug. 1, 2021, twenty-five of the Olson grandchildren and great-grandchildren, together with two of Herman's daughters-in-law and several family guests, held a get-together at Birch Rock to celebrate this momentous 100th anniversary. The property is now owned by Greenwood Township residents Eric and Karen Olson. Eric's father (Herman's son, Dr. Richard

T. Olson), purchased the land in 1969 and it has been the scene of countless family get-togethers for the far-flung Olson clan over the last century.

The first family reunion was held in 1962. Eight people who attended this summer had also made it to the 1962 event. Olson gatherings are always the same— lots of storytelling and raucous laughter accompanied by a ton of food. Many of those oft-told stories were captured on film by interviewer Carrie Olson and videographer Gunnar Olson,



establishing an archive to augment "Grandpa's stories". In recognition of "passing the torch" to the fourth generation, the Birch Rock Band performed a wildly popular concert as the sun set over Lake Vermilion. Band members Gavin (guitar) and Finn Olson (drums) plus

Date	Description	Amount
June 1921	4 lots 67-7-8-9 Birch Rock	\$700
	Cabin 28'x32'	\$2,960
	Ice house 1924	\$300
	Two docks	\$200
June 1922	Beach 26'x44'	\$1,100
	Trunk pump, water tank	\$100
	Cupboard for water, coffee	\$200
June 1923	Lot 10, Birch Rock	\$175
	Cabin 16'x24'	\$1,100
June 1924	Beach 26'x44'	\$1,100
	Trunk pump, water tank	\$100
	Cupboard for water, coffee	\$200
May 1925	2 new docks	\$200
	Beach house	\$1,100
	Water wheel	\$100
	Beach house	\$1,100
	Beach house	\$1,100
	Beach house	\$1,100
	Beach house	\$1,100
	Beach house	\$1,100
	Beach house	\$1,100

"Late-summer" Midsummer Fundraiser update

Final decision on event to be made this week

TOWER- Due to the increasing rates of the Delta variant of COVID-19 in our area, the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center Board is still considering whether or not they can safely put on this year's Midsummer. Either the event may need to be canceled, or it may occur with safety measures in place. The final decision is set to be made this week. One option being considered is to require that masks be

worn during the Midsummer Fundraiser on Aug. 28, except when eating or drinking. The board is also considering requiring that all attendees be fully vaccinated by Aug. 17. Proof of vaccination is required by taking a photo of your vaccination card, which can be emailed to vermillionculturalcenter@gmail.com or brought to the event. Guests who had already registered and are not vaccinated would receive a refund. The annual Midsummer

fundraiser is normally held in late June, but was delayed this year due to the pandemic. The fundraiser had to be canceled in 2020. The event includes a silent and live auction, catered dinner, and a musical concert, this year featuring the country of Norway. The event is raising funds for the completion of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center building on Tower's Main Street. keyboardist Brie Norrell are sure to return for future engagements. They will try to ensure that Olson family celebrates on Birch Rock for the next 100 years.



Charlemagne Attic Sale set for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 13 and 14

TOWER- A select crowd got a sneak peek of the Charlemagne Attic Sale and the building that is housing it after the Immigration History Talk on Monday. The sale, which features antiques, collectibles, and other vintage items, will be open to the public from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 13 and 14. The building has been a part of Tower's history since its earliest days, and at the sneak preview,

folks started reminiscing. "Remember when there was a video store next store?" someone said. Another answered, "yeah, we owned it." The building's previous owners regaled with stories of their boys schlepping water up from the basement. "Water and gook were everywhere," they said. The culprit likely leaking from the cistern that has long been housed in the building's basement. The Historic Fire Hall was the impetus for both the Historic Tower-Soudan map and the History Talks on Main Street. "It was the historic fire hall story- because it has a story- and that led to me doing this and then I thought, 'well, the way we can do it then is to have

history talks and call it 'On Main Street' because we wanted our business owners to get involved." Nancy Larson said of the building. Larson has been instrumental in helping the Tower-Soudan Historical Society receive major grant funding to help save this important piece of Tower's history. The historic fire hall was built in 1895, and it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building has been everything from fire hall to jail to recreation center to retail space (including the Timberjay's office back in the early 1990s), and now is being restored to serve as a museum and event space.

Little Church meeting on Saturday, Aug. 14

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church Committee will be meeting on Saturday, Aug. 14 at 10 a.m. at the church, located on Cty. Rd. 26, Wahlsten Rd. All are welcome to attend and the group is looking for people interested in keeping the Little Church preserved and maintained for the community. The group sponsors a Men's Group, all are welcome, that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

renovated train car is air conditioned. Linda Hagen and her crew of volunteers will have an assortment of refreshments and desserts for you to enjoy. Tickets are \$20 each and advance reservations can be made by contacting TSHS Secretary Linda Folstad at tshssecretary@gmail.com or by call/text at 218-750-0193. Payment can be made at the door by cash or check payable to the TSHS. Advanced reservations are appreciated so we can properly plan for refreshments.

Learn about the Skala Bar at a history talk set for Aug. 24
TOWER- 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 Fire Hall fundraiser features Erie Mining history

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is holding a fundraiser as part of its efforts to raise funds for the exterior masonry rehabilitation phase of the Historic Fire Hall. The community is invited to attend a book presentation on Tuesday, Aug. 17, at 2 p.m. in the Tower Train Depot Coach Car 81. The

Garage Sale
Please Join Us
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
GARAGE SALE
Saturday, August 21 • 8 AM to 2 PM
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
36 Church St., Soudan
(Corner of Main St.)
Coffee an' will be served
Sponsored by women of the church with proceeds going towards charitable projects

TOWER FARMERS MARKET
VARIETY LOCAL FRESH
HARVEST BASKET RAFFLE
\$1 Tickets
Fridays 4-6 PM at the Train Depot

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

The overhanging portion of the Ely Memorial school building media center was demolished last week to make room for the new building that will link to the Washington School building. Footings for the new building were poured this week. Construction materials are staged in the front yard of the school as work on the \$20 million facilities renovation project continues for ISD 696.

photo by K. Vandervort



Higher Ed

Ely students honored at UMD

DULUTH - The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) announced its Dean's List for Spring Semester 2021. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Three Ely students made the list, including, Stewart F. Cox, Senior, Swenson College of Science and Engineering Computer Science B S, Emma R. Kari, Senior, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Graphic Design B F A, and Daniel R. Mattila, Junior, Swenson College of Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering B S E E.

Ely Police Department Activity Report - July 15-31, 2021

Arrests/Citations

➤Criminal Sexual Conduct- Individual arrested for 3rd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct.
 ➤Domestic Assault- Individual arrested for 3rd Degree Assault, 4th Degree Assault, Obstruct legal process, and Domestic Assault.
 ➤Assault- Individual arrested for 2nd Degree Assault, 3rd Degree damage to property, and Domestic Assault.
 ➤Traffic Stop- Individual arrested for 4th Degree DUI and driving without headlights.
 ➤Disturbance- Individual issued a citation for Public Nuisance.
 ➤Damage to Property- Individual issued a citation for 3rd Degree damage to property and possession of drug paraphernalia.
 ➤Traffic Stop- Individual issued a citation for Underage Drinking and Driving.

Complaints

➤Power Line- Officers assisted the Ely Fire Department with a powerline down at a residence in town.
 ➤Vehicle Crash- Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash. Both vehicles received minor damage and no injuries were reported.
 ➤Public Assist- Officers assisted a person collect their belongings.
 ➤Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.
 ➤Vehicle Crash- Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash. Both vehicles received minor damage and no injuries were reported.
 ➤Disturbance- Officers were contacted about an intoxicated individual causing a disturbance at a house. The individual agreed to call it a night.
 ➤Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a disturbance.
 ➤Information- CPS report received.
 ➤Animal Disturbance- Officers attempted to locate a dog that was running around town. Officers did not locate the dog.
 ➤Threats- Officers were contacted about threatening messages being sent to a local business. This case is under investigation.
 ➤Trouble Neighbor- Officers mediated a dispute between neighbors.
 ➤Paper Service- Officers served a paper to an individual about a city violation.
 ➤Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a

medical.

➤Adult Abuse- Officers were contacted about an adult being taken advantage of. This case is under investigation.
 ➤Theft- Officers were contacted about a theft at a local business. This case is under investigation.
 ➤Order Violation- Officers were called about a violation of a protection order. Officers determined the violation did not occur.
 ➤Disturbance- Officers were called about yelling at a residence. Officers determined the two individuals were in a verbal argument.
 ➤Loud Music- Officers were called about loud music at a party. Officers were unable to locate the music.
 ➤Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a package being delivered to the wrong address. The situation fixed itself before officers arrived.
 ➤Civil Issue- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that was sold and not transferred. Officers assisted the individual in the proper steps to resolve the issue.
 ➤Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a possible fight inside a vehicle. Officers determined there was no crime committed.
 ➤Information- Officers were informed of an individual moving to town.
 ➤Order Violation- Officers were contacted about a violation of an order. Officers referred this case to the City Attorney.
 ➤Suspicious Activity- Officers were informed that somebody moved things around inside a house. This case is under investigation.
 ➤Vehicle Theft- Officers took a report of a theft of an ATV. Officers located the ATV a short time later and are investigating this case.
 ➤Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on a person that was upset outside a business. Officers determined the person was fine and they went home.
 ➤Vehicle Crash- Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash. Both vehicles received minor damage and no injuries were reported.
 ➤Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual that did not show up to work. Officers located the individual safe.
 ➤Security Alarm- Officers responded to a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined the alarm was caused by an employee.
 ➤Structure Fire-

Officers assisted the Ely Fire Department with a possible structure fire. This was determined to be a false alarm.

➤Security Alarm- Officers responded to a security alarm at a local business. The alarm was caused by the storm.
 ➤Hazards- Officers responded to multiple hazards around town from the storm.
 ➤Parking Complaint- Officers were contacted about a camper parked that was running. Officers located the owner and they moved to an appropriate area.
 ➤Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a person that was in a garage with a flashlight. Officers located the person and determined it to be the home owner.
 ➤Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about possible animal abuse. Officers found the cats to be healthy and did not see any forms of abuse.
 ➤Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a barking dog. Officers did not locate a barking dog.
 ➤Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a bear trying to get into a house. The bear ran off and officers were unable to locate it.
 ➤Loud Music- Officers were called about loud music at a party. Officers were unable to locate the music.
 ➤Found Property- Officers were called about property that was lost. This case is pending locating the owner.
 ➤Check Welfare- Officers were requested to check on an individual that had not been around the area for a couple weeks. Officers located the individual that was out of town.
 ➤Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a barking dog. The owner was notified and the dog was brought inside for the night.
 ➤Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.
 ➤Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a fireworks complaint.
 ➤Disturbance- Officers were called to a local business over an upset employee. Officers escorted the individual out of the business.
 ➤Disturbance- Officers were contacted about an argument over a parking spot. Officers mediated the situation.
 ➤Vehicle Crash- Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash. Both

vehicles received minor damage and no injuries were reported.

➤Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.
 ➤Extra Patrol- Officers were contacted about a request for extra patrol around their residence.
 ➤Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual get fingerprints for employment.
 ➤Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about people causing a disturbance outside of a tent. Officers were unable to locate anybody.
 ➤Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a suicidal individual.
 ➤Neighbor Trouble- Officers were called about an ongoing neighbor dispute. Officers mediated the situation.
 ➤Unknown Trouble- Officers were contacted about a phone call to 911 with no response. Officers determined it was a phone issue.
 ➤Damage to Property- Officers were contacted about an individual that broke a windshield on a vehicle. This case was sent to the County Attorney for charging consideration.
 ➤Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.
 ➤Found Property- Officers were called about property that was lost. This case is pending locating the owner.
 ➤Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a suspicious activity call.
 ➤Vehicle Crash- Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash. Both vehicles received minor damage and no injuries were reported.
 ➤Assist Other Agency- Officers assist-

ed a neighboring agency with an intoxicated individual.

➤Burglary Report- Officers were contacted about a possible theft at a house. Officers arrived and the owner determined nothing to be taken.
 ➤Information- CPS report received.
 ➤Vehicle Crash- Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash. Both vehicles received minor damage and no injuries were reported.
 ➤Disturbance- Officers were called to an individual that was having a mental health issue. Officers determined the individual to not be a harm to themselves or others.
 ➤Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a vehicle that was driving erratically.
 ➤Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.
 ➤Fire Alarm- Officers were called to an automatic fire alarm. Officers were told the alarm was false prior to their arrival.
 ➤Fire Call- Officers assisted the Ely Fire Department with a reported fire call for smoke in a residence.
 ➤Parking Complaint- Officers issued a warning for a vehicle parked over 24 hours. The vehicle was moved.
 ➤Vehicle Crash- Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash. Both vehicles received minor damage and no injuries were reported.
 ➤Theft- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that had a license plate removed. This case is under investigation.
 ➤Disturbance- Officers were contacted about two individuals arguing. Officers mediated the situation.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



moving toward fall one half of august flies by gardening pays big

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

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

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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

Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Wed., Sept. 1 to schedule a grant review meeting.

VETERANS RIVERFRONT PARK

Veterans park project receives \$1,900 donation

Quotes for Good gift from State Farm agent aids park group's fundraising efforts toward \$60,000 goal

COOK- Past good works have led to a financial windfall for the Veterans Riverfront Park project, as State Farm Insurance Agent Tim Johnson, of Cook, presented Cook Friends of the Parks with a \$1,900 check on Monday in support of the endeavor.

"I've seen what they've done in the community, like at the Doug Johnson facility, all the countless hours and labors of love that they've given to the community," Johnson said. "From the time I drove by here, when we moved up 12 years ago, I thought it was a nice place for a park. Then one day you hear the announcement, they're going to do it. And we just happen to have this program where we could partner with different nonprofits, so it just seemed like a perfect fit."

The program is Quotes for Good, a charitable program initiated by State Farm Insurance and primarily funded at the local level by contributions Johnson makes for giving insurance quotes during a two-month period for a charity he chooses.

As the son of a World War II veteran and with many family members who have served, Johnson also wanted to do his

part to support the park's primary purpose, to honor military veterans.

"We can do pretty much whatever we want in this country because of what they did. They put their lives on the line," Johnson said.

Friends of the Parks representatives Tammy Palmer and Valerie Annen were at the park on Monday to receive the donation. While they had originally hoped to have the park ready in June, they're now looking tentatively at a September completion date.

"Part of that is due to COVID," Palmer said. "The company that we ordered our equipment from actually moved and then they were cut back for employees because of COVID. So we were delayed a few months in getting tables, grills, benches, and a swing, but we're on a roll now. The tables are installed, the grills will be in this week, and the trash receptacles."

Palmer noted that sidewalks will be installed to a handicap-accessible picnic table and to a small reflection garden where they also plan to put benches.

And along with the financial boost, the project was set to get a volunteer



Cook Friends of the Parks representatives Tammy Palmer, left, and Valerie Annen, right, are all smiles as they accept a \$1,900 donation from Cook State Farm agent Tim Johnson for the Veterans Riverfront Park project.

photo by D. Colburn

boost this week as well from members of IUOE-Local 49.

"The 49ers are going to come in and they're going to do some dirt work, some cleaning up, and they're going to prep the site so that we can place the flagpole and place the fence," Annen said. "And then we just need to go from there."

"It's just beautiful how the whole community is coming together

to work to support this park," Palmer said. "It's been wonderful."

Friends of the Parks applied for and received major grants from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and Canadian National Railway, but gifts such as the one from Johnson and another recent one from the 49ers have been equally important.

"It's not just those big donations, it's the do-

nation from State Farm and others," Palmer said. "Some people donated \$25, and everything is helpful here. It's a community investment project."

There's still about \$8,000 left to raise to hit the project's budgeted goal of \$60,000, Palmer said, and the organization continues to welcome contributions small and large.

"Regardless whether

we have to have a fundraiser, whatever it's going to take, this project will be completed," Palmer said. "Hopefully in September we'll be all done."

Donations can be mailed to Cook Friends of the Parks, P.O. Box 1141, Cook MN 55723. For more information about the Veterans Riverfront Park project, call Tammy Palmer at 218-780-8445.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Divas return for park concert on Wednesday

COOK- The popular musical trio "The Divas" will perform again at Cook Music in the Park on Wednesday, Aug. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Shannon Lee Gunderson, Sharon Rowbottom and Rosie Gams sing three-part harmonies accompanied by keyboard, guitar and percussion. Their diverse music style encompasses familiar favorites from the 1940s and on.

Grab a blanket or a lawn chair or sit in your car near the gazebo to hear a different sound of music each Wednesday for four more weeks. Enjoy a root beer float, a burger or a brat provided by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church.

In case of rain, the concert will move to the Cook

VFW near the park. Concertgoers are encouraged to take advantage of special open hours from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, just down the street next to DreamWeaver Salon and Day Spa, to view the exhibits.

Music in the Park is made possible by Cook VFW Post 1757, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, the Cook Lions Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and free-will community donations.

Classes and exhibits on tap at NWFA Gallery

COOK- Plan for your artistic future by enrolling early for upcoming "Curious and Creative Art Adventures" classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Ely artist Cecilia Rolando and artist Lyn Reed, of Orr, are the featured instructors for opportunities to create your own jewelry and design and print your own etching. These classes are held at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S. River St. in Cook.

Rolando, a creative instigator at NWFA, will teach "How to Create Your Own Jewelry" on Friday, Sept. 17 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Learn how to design your own beaded necklace, matching earrings, and beaded ring. All materials are provided for you to learn about the basic techniques and tools used. Create this initial set, and be done, or continue on to make many more for yourself and others! If you have any favorite beads or pendants you wish to add to your necklace, bring them.

Reed, a former art teacher at North

Woods School, has a two-session class, Etching I and II, coming up in October. In the Saturday, Oct. 9 class, students will design and print a simple etching. The class scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 16 will involve coloring the etching. Both classes will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The class has a \$5 materials fee.

These classes are \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members.

An added September bonus is a two-day watercolor painting workshop on Thursday, Sept. 9 and Friday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., taught by Mary Beth Downs. The cost for this extended hours art experience is \$60 for NWFA members and \$75 for nonmembers.

To register, drop by the gallery at 210 S River Street, which is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fri-

days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or call 218-666-2153.

Art enthusiasts are also encouraged to visit the NWFA Gallery to view the featured exhibit, "Up North," by Sue Anderson Rauschenfels. The featured exhibit for September will be a collaboration of regional artists inspired by the Ancient Cedars Trail in Tower. The exhibit begins Aug. 28.

Bluegrass and more highlight benefit concert

COOK- They've toured the country from coast-to-coast, but Monroe Crossing is bringing its award-winning brand of bluegrass music to Cook for a concert on Thursday, Aug. 19 at the Cook Community Center.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts is renewing its annual

musical fundraiser with local talent as well, as Cook's popular Beefeater Brothers duo, Eric Pederson and Mike Randolph, perform with vocalist Anna Marie as the 6 p.m. warm-up act before Monroe Crossing takes the stage at 7 p.m. Over the past two decades, Monroe Crossing has made more than 1,500 concert appearances throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, and has been inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. Audiences are treated to old fashioned bluegrass and gospel sound, as well as the lively stage presence of band members David Robinson, banjo, Derek Johnson, guitar, Matt Thompson, mandolin, Lisa Fuglie, fiddle, and Mark Anderson, bass.

Concert goes will also have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win

beautiful gifts of merchandise, services and art donated by local artists and friends of the arts.

Advance tickets are \$20 and are available at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook Wednesdays through Saturdays or by email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com. To order by phone, call 218-780-6510 or 218-750-1989. Tickets at the door are \$25.

The Cook Community Center is located on Gopher Dr. at the Doug Johnson Recreation Center.

NWFA nurtures the arts in Cook and the surrounding area in many ways, including hosting youth and adult arts programs and classes, arranging public concerts, operating a gallery featuring local artists, organizing the annual Cook Spring Art Expo and hosting community art-related events.

ORR CITY COUNCIL

City will update 1970s zoning ordinance

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- While Orr's zoning ordinance was adequate to allow for review of an impervious surface variance request for a proposed Dollar General store here, which was subsequently denied, a second request suggested it might be time for a thorough review and update.

The ordinance, passed in 1978, included a directive for parking for businesses that mandated three square feet of parking for every one foot of building space. Midwest MN LLC asked for a variance from that requirement, noting that it would have required more than 100 parking spaces when the Dollar

General needed only 30. It was suggested during initial review of the request that the regulation was an error, as other cities have similar requirements with the numbers reversed, a point Mayor Joel Astleford readily agreed to at the time.

At Monday's city council meeting, Clerk/Treasurer Cheri Carter asked for permission to go over the ordinance in concert with the city's attorney, Kelly Klun, to identify sections that need updating and recommend revisions.

"1978, that's a long time ago," Astleford said.

Council members unanimously approved the review, which Klun estimated would cost between

\$200 and \$300 to correct references to numerous state statutes that have changed.

In other business, the council:

► Accepted the retirement request of fire chief Dallas Johnson and approved the department's selection of Jeremy Wright as his replacement.

► Approved deposit of Cook-Orr Hospital Special Assessment funds of \$38,137 into the ambulance service checking account with Park State Bank.

► Approved a five-year renewal of the Iam-Responding subscription for the ambulance service, saving \$150 per year over the one-year renewal rate.

► Reviewed proposed

changes to the IUOE Local 49 contract in the length of the agreement, on call time, and wage increases. As city staff have raised concerns about some of the language, council members agreed to table any action in order to more thoroughly review the document and possibly enter into discussions for revisions. The current agreement expires at the end of December.

► Accepted the low bid from Rainy Lake Oil for propane at \$1.37 per gallon. It was noted that the Lakes Gas propane tank at the Orr Muni will have to be switched out to accommodate the change in suppliers.

► Tabled a building permit application from

John and Karen Barto, 10671 Hillcrest Dr., as the planned construction will require a variance request that will need to be presented at a public meeting for comment.

► Approved the purchase of a \$588 "mini doppler" device designed to assist ambulance personnel who are hearing impaired. Funds for the device are being covered by a donation from Bob Detherage.

► Tabled an item related to work to be performed to correct faulty wiring for the beacon at the airport, as no cost estimate to dig and repair the wiring has been received by the city.

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Greenwood to apply for more broadband funding

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP-Chairman Mike Ralston told the Greenwood Town Board that the township's \$5.5 million request for broadband funding is part of the just-approved Senate Infrastructure bill, having been put on the list by both Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar.

This funding, if approved by the House of Representatives and signed by President Joe Biden, would provide the vast majority of the estimated \$6.6 million project.

The township will also be applying for grant funding from a new St. Louis County broadband program that will award a maximum of \$400,000, and grant dollars from the IRRR.

Greenwood Township also received \$50,316 in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, but whether the board will set aside those funds for a local match to the proposed broadband project is yet to be determined. The township will receive a similar amount in 2022.

Supervisor Sue Drobac asked Ralston why other

board members weren't informed that the township had received the American Rescue Act funding as of the end of July. She said that members of the township's broadband committee had submitted their own application.

"We need more communication," Drobac said. "We spent a lot of time on this."

Ralston agreed, and said he had sent the application to Deputy Treasurer Tammy Mortaloni to complete.

"There was a long list of COVID-related items we could use it for," he said.

The board asked the broadband committee, which includes Drobac and Supervisor Barb Lofquist, to be in charge of submitting the grant to the new St. Louis County broadband program, which will distribute a total of \$1.75 million in American Rescue Plan monies for broadband projects. That grant application is due in September.

The board voted down a motion by Drobac to place the \$50,316 in American Rescue Plan dollars into a restricted broadband account, with Ralston and Supervisors Carmen

DeLuca and Paul Skubic all voting against.

The board then approved, unanimously, a motion that any grants written specifically for broadband infrastructure would go into a restricted account. This still leaves the township the option of using some or all of the \$50,316 for the broadband project.

A survey for township residents to gauge interest in receiving broadband should be available on the township website, www.greenwood-townshipmn.com, and all township property owners will be mailed a letter urging them to complete the study, or to return a paper copy as soon as possible.

Other business

In other business, the town board:

- Had unanswered questions on why the township was assessed late payment and penalty fees by the State of Minnesota for payroll taxes. Treasurer Belinda Fazio was not at the meeting and Clerk Debby Spicer was unable to answer the board's questions. The board also had other questions on the month's disbursements, including a \$226 bill from Culligan for

a service visit that no one on the board knew anything about. This was on top of the regular bill for salt and filters. The board also questioned a missing check that was not on last month's or this month's register.

- The board authorized Drobac to get in contact with the ADP payroll service to correct an issue with the dating of payroll that Treasurer Belinda Fazio has been unable to correct since she is not working at the township office during regular office hours.

- Discussed the idea put forward at the annual meeting of splitting the ambulance subsidy payments between the Tower and Cook ambulance services, since Cook does service some of the western portion of the township. The township would need to figure out the number of year-round residents served by the Cook Ambulance Service.

- Heard that the equipment from the medical loan closet in Tower is being distributed among various township and city of Tower locations, including the Greenwood Town Hall. The closet had been centrally located in the Jeanne's Card

building in Tower, but that building has been sold, so a new home for the equipment was needed. Organizer Pam Lundstrom urged area residents to check with the loan closet for things like wheelchairs and crutches before purchasing them for short-term use.

- Election Judge Ruth DeLuca, during public comment, said she did not agree with the statements read at the annual meeting by several other election judges. "I don't appreciate being listed as one of the judges asking for an apology from Mike [Ralston]," she said.

- Approved a proposal from the township's current website provider, Tech Bytes, to update the township's website for \$1,500, with additional fees, as needed for monthly support time.

- Heard that the township's errors and omissions insurance carrier was no longer offering that type of coverage and was transferring the township to a different non-affiliated carrier. Ralston said the township has already received the application from the new insurance broker and said the transfer should be com-

plete before the existing policy ends in October. The Minnesota Association of Townships' insurance division, MATIT, which holds the township's other policies, stopped offering the township this type of insurance due to the high number of claims being filed against the board, which forced the township to pay for an additional policy.

- Approved signing the 2021 ambulance subsidy agreement contract and sending the first half payment of \$6,750 to the Tower Ambulance Service.

- Will send a letter to St. Louis County requesting they repair potholes and shoulders along the Birch Point Extension Road.

- Approved increasing the annual EMS pension amount to \$2,000 a year, beginning in 2022.

- Drobac noted she still had not received the copies of the fire department minutes she had requested, as well as a timesheet detailing the hours spent by the deputy treasurer on specific duties. Ralston said he would talk to the clerk and treasurer to make sure she received this information.

RIVER...Continued from page 1

was made available at the meeting, which indicated that the city had no authority to block the removal.

The letter from Darrell Schindler, the DNR's Northeast Regional Manager of the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, was blunt: "The retaining wall located along both shores of the East Two River between the city's harbor and Lake Vermilion is very old— at least 50+ years and in considerable disrepair. The wall has not been maintained during its lifetime and no entity, including the city of Tower, has shown documentation of ownership."

Schindler went on to note that the current landowners have riparian rights that allow them access to the water under state law. "Riparian rights are property rights arising from owning shoreland and they include the right to wharf out to a navigable depth," he noted, adding that no permit was required to remove the pilings given that it did not meet any of the criteria that would require a permit.

Schindler indicated that the shoreline in ques-

tion along the river appeared to be stable and well-vegetated and that any serious ongoing erosion problem from removal of the pilings was unlikely.

Broten countered that Rose had "destroyed" all the vegetation along the shore during removal of the pilings, which she said was a city responsibility to address. A visit to the site by this reporter on Tuesday found that some shoreland willows and sedges had been flattened or cut during the removal of the pilings, which involved heavy equipment. But seeded grass was already sprouting along the area and Rose installed straw battens along the shoreline this week to prevent any erosion in the event of rain.

Broten also complained that Rose had blocked an easement that had been provided to some Mill Point residents, although none of the residents have ever utilized the easement. Broten has raised the issue in the past, but city officials have told her that the easements are private rights which the city has no role in defending. Broten said she

was disappointed with the city's position.

In related action, the council reiterated its support for development of a city ordinance to better guide how development takes place along the river. Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua has been urging the council for months to develop a river ordinance that would help guide development as well as establish a mechanism for funding ongoing maintenance of the river channel.

Council member Sheldon Majerle said the city should rely on grants to fund future maintenance, but Ranua said much of the city's ongoing account deficits were created by that approach. "The deficit in the harbor account built up because money was pulled from elsewhere to cover harbor expenses," she said.

While the council had agreed back in April to form an ad hoc committee to develop a new river ordinance, the committee has not been active. The council, however, reiterated its support for the idea through a motion, approved 4-1, with Majerle voting no.

In other business, council member Joe Morin gave an update on the hiring process for a new clerk-treasurer. Ranua had announced her plan to resign back on June 1, but the city has yet to hire a replacement. Morin said the city's latest posting for the position is still open, although the city has received four applications to date. He said an interview had been scheduled for Tuesday of this week and that the hiring committee hoped to conduct at least two more interviews before the posting of the position closes.

The council also agreed with a request by Morin to hold a strategic thinking session ahead of the council's next budget process to better guide city spending. He said such sessions have been commonly used by corporations he's worked for during his career and are typically very helpful in setting priorities. Council member Kevin Norby said he was "very supportive" of the idea, although he asked for a clearer picture of what would likely come from the exercise. "I would also want us to do some homework

in advance so we come prepared," he said.

Ranua noted that the council would need to act quickly if they wanted to hold their session ahead of the preliminary 2022 budget, which Ranua will need to present to the council in September.

In other action, the council:

- Heard an update on the ambulance fund after false reporting in the *Tower News* suggested the service was in a financial freefall. Ranua said the financial reports which she had provided to a recent ambulance commission did not include a number of ambulance receipts that come automatically into the city's general fund, which are eventually transferred into the ambulance fund. She said the reports she had provided the ambulance commission may have given a false impression because of that. "It was just a snapshot in time," she said, noting that the ambulance service's checking account as of Monday was sitting at \$43,000.

"You have to understand the numbers," said

council member Dave Setterberg, who also serves on the ambulance commission.

- Heard an explanation from Ranua about the city's longstanding shortfall to the city's TIF district, which was created more than a decade ago as part of construction of the senior assisted living facility in Northstar Addition. Ranua said she had contacted Ehlers about the issue and was informed that the problem stemmed from an error made when the TIF district was established, which had set the tax increment at \$1.1 million on a bonded project that actually cost \$1.8 million. She said the city's property taxpayers have been making up the difference on the bond payment ever since.

- Heard an update from campground manager Randy Pratt on plans for billing seasonal RV campers at Hoodoo Point for electrical usage beginning next year. The city council previously approved the installation of electric meters at the seasonal sites, which will be installed in October after the campground has closed for the season.

- Approved submitting a pre-application for a sewer and water extension to the Marina Drive area, which would include the new Renner RV park.

- Heard Mayor Orlyn Kringstad present new guidance from St. Louis County about the sizable jump in the rate of COVID-19 spread in the county and that county health officials are recommending the wearing of masks for all indoor public spaces in the county. The city council took no action on the issue, however, and masks are not currently required in city-owned facilities in Tower.

- Heard from Linda Haugen about the need to move the medical loan closet. Council member Morin agreed to work with Haugen and longtime coordinator Pam Lundstrom to find a new location for the equipment, since the building where the closet has been located for years has been sold.

- Opted to maintain the city's contribution to the Tower Cemetery Association at \$2,000 for this year.

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Recommendations replace mandates despite year-to-year similarities

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - As Minnesotans begin winding down a relatively normal summer and prepare for the start of school, differences from last August to this abound in the state's approach to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

What hasn't changed much at all, however, are many of the key indicators for COVID-19 infections.

A year ago this week, the state's test positivity rate was 4.7 percent, and the seven-day case average here in St. Louis County was 17.6. The average number of cases reported for the first five weekdays of August 2020 was 752. Minnesotans were coping with a weeks-old mask mandate for indoor spaces and new size restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings imposed by Gov. Tim Walz under his peacetime emergency powers. School personnel were

busy rearranging instruction methods and space as they put the finishing touches on state-mandated Safe Schools plans with rigorous requirements for masking, social distancing, and contact tracing, as well as plans for switching to hybrid and distance learning models of instruction if COVID-19 rates increased.

All statewide COVID restrictions are gone this August, but the test positivity rate, which has been climbing in recent weeks due to the spread of the Delta variant, hit 5.1 on Tuesday, higher than last year at this time. The average number of 743 cases reported for the first five weekdays of the month is remarkably similar to last year.

St. Louis County's seven-day average of new cases is only slightly lower at 15.7. The county also had more COVID cases in June and July of this year than last, 368 compared to 342.

Vaccination impact

What's completely different from last year are vaccinations. At this time last year, the first COVID-19 vaccine was still months away from distribution, and cases, hospitalizations, and deaths were far more prevalent in older adults.

Today, about three million Minnesotans are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, including 92.2 percent of those age 65 and older. As the vaccine was rolled out to older Minnesotans first, the burden of new COVID cases gradually shifted to younger age groups.

In St. Louis County, those between 15 and 29 years old now represent almost one-third of the total cases here since the start of the pandemic, significantly more than any other similar age grouping. There have been 437 more cases among children from birth to age 14 (most of whom are not eligible for vaccinations) than among

those 75 and older.

Spurred by a combination of the spectre of the Delta variant running amok in other states, a growing number of workplace mandates, and a new \$100 limited-time state incentive program, the pace of weekly vaccinations in Minnesota has picked up from a mid-July low of about 36,000, hitting 55,619 for the first week of August.

New approach

Given the slowly growing number of fully vaccinated people and the end of the statewide emergency, state health and education officials have been openly reluctant to suggest new COVID control mandates. In their place are strong recommendations that are in concert with the Centers for Disease Control that recommend masking in public indoor spaces regardless of vaccination status, and universal masking in schools.

The response, as one might anticipate, varies across counties and organizations.

As of Wednesday, Aug. 11, masks will again be required to enter all St. Louis County government buildings. "St. Louis County continues to experience substantial transmission of COVID-19," said communications manager Dana Kazel in a Tuesday press release. "The CDC defines substantial transmission as 50 or more new cases per 100,000 residents in a week. St. Louis County, with 200,000 residents, has had 120 new cases in the last week."

Meanwhile, as the bi-weekly case rate used for schools has climbed to 8.67 in northern St. Louis County, double that of Duluth, ISD 2142 St. Louis County Superintendent Reggie Engebretson told school board members on

Tuesday that the district will strongly recommend masking for students and staff, but will not require it. The district has systems in place to closely monitor COVID developments at its schools, Engebretson said, and is prepared to take appropriate additional steps if local data warrants. Local data

New COVID-19 cases were reported in last week's state report in three of the six North Country zip codes monitored by the Timberjay.

Embarrass, which had no new cases from the end of April to mid-July, has had 12 new cases in the past three weeks, including eight in last Thursday's report. Cook and Ely each had four new cases. Tower, which had three new cases a week prior, had none last week. No new cases were reported for Orr or Soudan.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ely man, 65, accused in sexual assault of teen boy

ELY - A 65-year-old Ely man is facing two felony charges in connection with an incident at Pioneer Apartments last month involving a 16-year-old boy. Dennis Sipe, 114 8th Ave., was charged with third-degree sexual conduct and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct last week in St. Louis County District Court.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and/or a \$30,000 fine and a 10-year sentence and/or a \$20,000 fine.

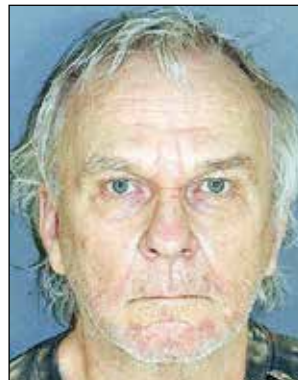
According to a criminal complaint released by the Ely Police Department, who responded to the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital for a report of a sexual assault, Sipe allegedly provided alcohol to the victim and an 18-year-old male witness who reported that both he and the alleged victim spent the night of July 29 in the suspect's apartment.

The witness said he went to sleep at about 4 a.m. and he slept in the bedroom of the apartment. The victim, according to the complaint, slept on a small couch and the suspect slept on a large couch in the living room. The witness said he and the victim "often spent the night at Sipe's apartment and drank alcohol there."

The witness told police he woke up at about 5:20 a.m. to use the bathroom and observed Sipe assaulting the victim, who was asleep. The witness said he woke the victim and the two teens left the apartment immediately. Police were also provided with text messages sent by Sipe later that morning.

According to the complaint, the victim was reluctant to speak about the incident, but later said Sipe assaulted him and he did not give his consent.

Executing a search warrant at Sipe's apartment, police found bottles of alcohol consistent with the descriptions provided by the witness. Property of



Dennis Sipe

the victim was also found in the apartment.

Sipe was placed under arrest and a DNA sample was taken from him pursuant to the search warrant, according to the complaint. In a statement, Sipe admitted that the alleged victim and witness stayed in his apartment "40-to-50 times" in the last year. He denied ever providing the teens with alcohol or engaging in physical contact with them.

Babbitt stabbing, shooting incident

Two men made court appearances last week in connection with a stabbing

and shooting incident last month at a Babbitt screen printing shop.

Dylan T. Patson, 29, of Grand Rapids, who attended an omnibus hearing in Virginia's Sixth District Court, was charged with two counts of second-degree assault and one count of third-degree assault. Petersen was released on \$100,000 bail and is scheduled to be back in court of Oct. 18.

At his initial appearance hearing in district court last week, Joel Earl Vandervest, 38, of Babbitt, was charged with three felonies, including second-degree assault, intentional discharge of a firearm that endangers safety, and reckless discharge of a firearm in a municipality. He was released on \$75,000 bail and is scheduled to appear in court on Monday, Aug. 16.

Petersen allegedly used an ice pick to stab the owner of the NE Time-NE Wear store multiple times on July 10. According to the criminal complaint, Vandervest,

an employee of the store, was arrested for allegedly shooting at Petersen after the stabbing incident.

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Recently I have received my certification as a **Certified Lymphedema Therapist (CLT)** through Klose Training. Lymphedema is an abnormal accumulation of protein-rich fluid that causes inflammation and fibroses tissue of the affected area (Klose Training, 2018). Lymphedema can be categorized either as primary or secondary lymphedema. Primary lymphedema develops due to an abnormal development of the lymph vascular system, which may be present at birth or develop later in life. Secondary lymphedema has a known cause such as; surgery and/or radiation from cancer, severe trauma, infection, chronic venous insufficiency, filariasis, or obesity (Klose Training, 2018).

Lymphedema is a chronic disease that can be managed through Complete Decongestive Therapy (CDT). CDT is the most effective form of treatment for lymphedema, which consists of four components. These components are Manual Lymph Drainage (MLD), Compression Therapy, Exercise, and Skin Care. MLD is a gentle manual treatment that is used to re-route the lymph flow around blocked areas to healthy lymph vessels. Compression therapy is used to increase tissue pressure to improve muscle and joint pumps, as well as, helping to prevent re-accumulation of fluid. Teaching patients about exercise and skin care are also important factors in managing lymphedema.

Through Klose Training, I was taught the skills and knowledge necessary to safely and effectively treat patients with primary and secondary lymphedema through the use of Complete Decongestive Therapy (CDT). I welcome any referrals for the treatment of lymphedema. If you have any questions about the lymphedema treatment I provide, please contact **the Cook Hospital Rehabilitation Department at (218) 666-6225.**

Thank you!
Amy Rice, OTR/L-CLT

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ART...Continued from page 1

1989, the Trust has awarded more than \$823,000 to support the arts and artists in the Ely community.

A celebration was held last Saturday under a cloudy sky with cool temperatures and breezy conditions in Whiteside Park. Local watercolor artists demonstrated and encouraged children and adults to create their own works of art.

Applications are due next month for the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust's second grant cycle of 2021. Grant applications are due by noon on Friday, Sept. 24.

Artists and groups can apply for grants in the following five categories:

- Individual Artist Grants encourage developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending, concrete



Courtney Forsberg, 7, of Ely, concentrates on one of several watercolors she painted Saturday at the Breakfast in the Garden party at Whiteside Park. photo by K. Vandervort

opportunity.

- Organization Project Grants support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. Grant support is intended to make it possible for organizations to present or produce a fine

arts activity.

- Youth Grants are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts. The youth grants of up to \$750

can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships. Youth Grant applicants need to schedule a grant review meeting with Executive Director Keiko Williams. "This meeting is intended to help the individ-

ual youth make their applications as well-written as possible," she said. Youth Grant applicants must call or email her by Wednesday, Sept. 1 to schedule their grant review. "Any suggested changes can then be updated and submitted by the grant deadline of Sept. 24," she added.

Scholarships are available for graduates of Ely Memorial High School who are in their third or fourth year of college studies or in graduate school. Trust scholarships are awarded to students majoring in one of the disciplines of fine arts or library science.

Operational Funding Grants fund high-quality, established Ely area organizations that produce, or present fine arts activities or provide services to artists.

Individuals and organizations that would like to have a draft application reviewed should contact Williams by early September. Office hours are usually on Monday and Tuesday. She can be reached by phone at 218-365-2639 or email at info@

gardnertrust.org.

Grant forms and eligibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at www.gardnertrust.org. Those without internet access can contact Williams to have a paper application mailed to them.

The deadline for applications is at noon on Friday, Sept. 24. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731 or dropped off at the Ely City Hall Clerk's Office at 209 E Chapman Street.

"Some exciting news for (future) grant applicants is that the Trust is working on a grant portal to be ready to use by next spring" said Williams. "This will allow applicants to apply for their grants on-line through our website and no longer have to provide nine paper copies for the board to review."

The 2021 Trust Board of Directors are: Beth Ohlhauser, Jill Swanson, Mary Setterholm, Angela Campbell, David O'Donnell, Brooke Lund and Vince O'Connor.

FLAWS...Continued from page 1

on here, we've got our water towers on here, we've got our boilers on here. Did anybody do their job when they designed these schools or thought about these plans?" board president Dan Manick said. "Who's responsible for all these crappy decisions?"

Manick's comment came in the midst of a discussion about the water towers at North Woods and South Ridge, which have had ongoing issues of freezing during the winter because their capacities are larger than what each school uses.

"We do not use enough water to turn the water over in these towers, which causes numerous issues, including freezing," Wudinich said in his report. "Last year we installed mixers in the towers to keep the water moving. This year we will be installing heating elements to prevent total freezing."

Wastewater treatment plants at both schools fall short of state standards and will have to be upgraded next spring to bring them into compliance, Wudinich said.

Manick and board member Chris Koivisto tag-teamed on a comment zeroing in on what they believe to be the primary root of the problem.

"When we're talking about South Ridge and North Woods, it's always about ..." Manick began.

"Poor engineering," Koivisto chimed in. "Poor engineering."

Wudinich reported that solutions for a sinking concession stand and the uneven football field at North Woods are still being studied.

"We are still waiting on Max Gray and contractors as to how to deal with the concession situation," Wudinich said. "Their thought as of right now is to use a mini-excavator, go through a wall and work from the inside out, make the necessary soil corrections, replace and repair utilities, and set it back on a new slab. Soil borings have been taken from the football field and we have contractors looking into how to proceed to make the necessary repairs."

Water is coming into the North Woods library and at another

location, and Wudinich reported that a fix "may involved removing all existing exterior material, starting fresh and installing correctly."

Replacement of the water-damaged gym floor at Northeast Range is nearly complete at a cost of \$190,000, covered by both insurance and long-term facilities maintenance funds.

Johnson noted that the district has multiple sources of funding for facilities projects, including the long-term facilities maintenance fund, taconite maintenance funds from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, health and safety funds, and a portion of federal COVID funds.

COVID plans

Superintendent Reggie Engebretson updated board members on the district's COVID-19 plans, largely unchanged since they were reviewed by the board in July.

Of primary interest was the decision to start classes with a "strong recommendation" for students and staff alike

to wear masks.

As the highly-contagious Delta variant of COVID-19 now accounts for about 85 percent of new COVID cases in Minnesota, guidance from state health and education officials aligns with the Centers for Disease Control in stating that "all students, teachers, staff, and visitors in school buildings should wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status."

ISD 2142's plan will encourage all to mask up but won't mandate it for any setting other than school buses, which are subject to federal regulations requiring masks on "public transportation."

"I'm not asking bus drivers to discipline kids if they don't have masks," Engebretson said. "We'll have masks available. The bus driver's job is to keep the bus on the road and get kids from point A to point B, versus turning in kids if they're not wearing a mask."

But Koivisto disagreed about enforcement on buses.

"There's a reason for the rule and we've got to go back to that," he said.

"If you're not wearing a mask, they should get in trouble, because they're putting people's lives at risk, hence the CDC guidelines. It's pretty clear. You're just saying you don't want to make the bus driver the bad guy and have them enforce it. I would disagree. They need to wear the mask because that's the rule, that's the mandate that's coming across for buses."

Engebretson noted that the imposition of a mask mandate by the district could bring into play a host of issues related to discipline for both students and staff.

"If the board decided that we were going to require everyone to wear a mask, we would have to be ready then for the principals to suspend or expel kids who aren't following that rule, right," she said. "Or staff, if they're choosing not to wear a mask and the board says we have to, then we would have to discipline staff or write them up to the point of possible terminations."

Engebretson expressed confidence in the ability of the district to closely monitor situations

at its schools and make adjustments in accordance with local data and recommendations of school nurses and county public health education specialist Aubrie Hoover. Aside from brief closures at schools for "resets" after COVID outbreaks, Engebretson noted that ISD 2142 got through the pandemic last year with primarily in-person learning by utilizing these same strategies.

As this was a working meeting, no vote was taken regarding the COVID plan, but board member Bob Larson registered his discomfort with the masking arrangements.

"If I had my druthers, the governor would be just like he was last year and say the whole state's going to do it, because I agree," Larson said. "Everything I read says we should be masking, but I understand what you're saying, how do we enforce it? So sure, I guess I can say I'm okay. Obviously, it's not what I want. I wish we were masking."

Koivisto, who is serving as the interim

provost and chief academic officer at Vermilion Community College in Ely, added his thoughts.

"I have to agree with Bob," he said. "I'm requiring masking at the college. We're bringing all these folks back to one space, so if nothing else I'd rather see that we mask, even the first two weeks of school when we come together, because we're doing that for the first time as the Delta variant is ramping up. It would be a good move to move from highly recommended to required."

Gate fees

In unrelated discussion, Engebretson brought up gate charges for school events, primarily sporting activities. Engebretson recommended that the district continue the moratorium on collecting entry fees from patrons that was initiated last year, indicating that the district was in a position to absorb the loss in gate fees of approximately \$46,000 district-wide. Board members offered comments supporting the suggestion, with no disagreement.

Advertisement for ACE Hardware featuring a '2 for \$5.00' sale on insect killers, a '2 for \$8.00' sale on Rust-Oleum paint, and a 'Buy Two Get One Free' offer on basic pleated furnace air filters. The ad includes images of the products and the ACE logo with the slogan 'The helpful place.' At the bottom, it says 'SEE YOUR HELPFUL HARDWARE FOLKS' and 'Merhar's Ace Hardware 48 E. Chapman St., Ely • 218-365-3129'.



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COUNTDOWN CONTINUES

New Zup's Market set for mid-October grand opening

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Like the making of their legendary sausage, construction of the new Zup's Market here is coming along, one step at a time. No one wants to see how it's made, but the end product will be worth the wait.

Trying to pin down owner Jimmy Zupancich on a timeline for when the new grocery market, liquor store and pharmacy will open is as difficult as finding out what he puts

in his sausage.

Just getting Zupancich to find the time to talk about his plans with a visitor in his cramped office in the current store on top of the hill proved difficult late last week.

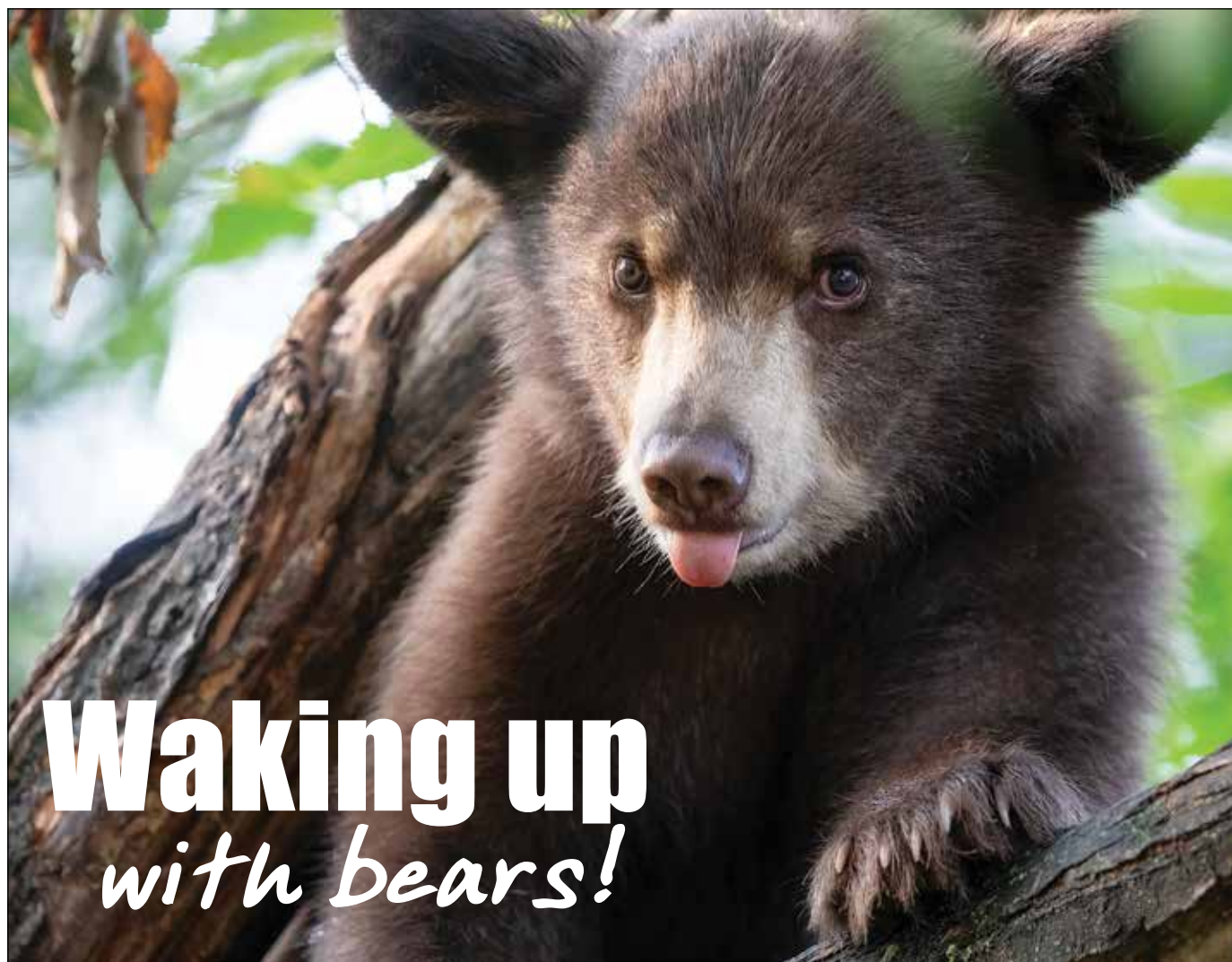
"Right now our plan is to close our store here on Sept. 28," he said. Before he could complete his sentence, he was paged by a clerk, "Line two for you Jimmy, and we're short carryouts." The store owner told the caller he would "get right back" to him, and went out front and bagged groceries for a couple of customers.

Right: Plans for the new Zup's Market were laid across a table inside the former Shopko building, which will soon be the new home of an expanded Zup's store in Ely.

photo by K. Vandervort

When he returned to his office, he lamented the fact that he can't find enough workers to keep up with the demands of running Ely's only grocery business. It will likely get

See MARKET...pg. 4B



Waking up with bears!

Shute's Breakfast with the Bears offered goodies for everyone, even bears

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- People attending the summer's second edition of Breakfast with the Bears at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary last Saturday knew they'd be seeing black bears. But most seemed both surprised and thrilled to have around 50 bears, young and old, wander in for their viewing pleasure.

"I thought maybe I'd see three or four," one patron said. Summer interns were on the viewing platform to provide information and answer questions, including the oft-repeated, "Why are there so many bears here?"

That's because the berries and other vegetation that make up the largest portion of a black bear's diet are either seriously restricted or non-existent, leaving the bears to depend more heavily on the mash provided by the sanctuary.

And although there was a glut of bears to look at, the cubs, eight to ten of them, got the most attention. Several pairs engaged in entertaining rough-and-tumble play, and in a particularly good stroke of fortune for viewers, most of the climbers chose trees



Top: An incredibly cute bear cub people watches at the Vince Shute Sanctuary during a recent Breakfast with the Bears event.

Above: Two wrestling cubs appear to be dancing.

Right: Yes, there were adult bears present at the sanctuary as well, but wouldn't you rather see another cute cub?



photos by D. Colburn

See BEARS...pg. 4B



A massive smoke plume rises over the Pagami Creek Fire back in 2011. photo by M. Helmberger

COMMENTARY

Fighting fire with more fire

Excess fuels leave our forests primed to burn

by LAUREN SOERTEL
NORTH ST. LOUIS SWCD

With the severe drought and wildfire conditions we're experiencing this summer in Minnesota, it is worth remembering that this past Wednesday, Aug. 11, marked 10 years since a lightning strike in the Boundary Waters ignited the Pagami Creek Fire. Smoke wasn't detected until seven days later and U.S. Forest Service wildland firefighters soon responded to the call. Because the fire was contained in a bog and the weather forecast announced high humidity, low winds, and wet conditions, fire managers decided to let it burn as a management strategy. It seemed unlikely the fire would escape containment and over the next couple weeks, only 130 acres burned while the Forest Service burned an additional 2,000 acres near roads and populated areas to buffer the flames from traveling in those directions.

Then, Mother Nature, as unpredictable as she is, sent in high winds. The flames responded by growing in size, intensity, and taking off to the east. Lawless flames devoured the landscape and anything in its way, forcing canoeists and hikers to leave the area, roads to close, homeowners outside the wilderness to prepare for the worst. More than 900 wildfire responders attempted to control its spread, which took until late October to bring under control, leaving 93,000

See COMMENTARY...pg. 4B



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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Portions of region now in extreme drought

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A regionwide drought that intensified dramatically in July is showing no signs of easing so far in August, even as more southerly parts of the state received some relief this past weekend. Much of the North Country has seen almost no rain over the first ten days of the month, a period when the region would have normally seen close to an inch and a half.

It's all compounding a moisture deficit that has been building all year. Places like Ely and Embarrass

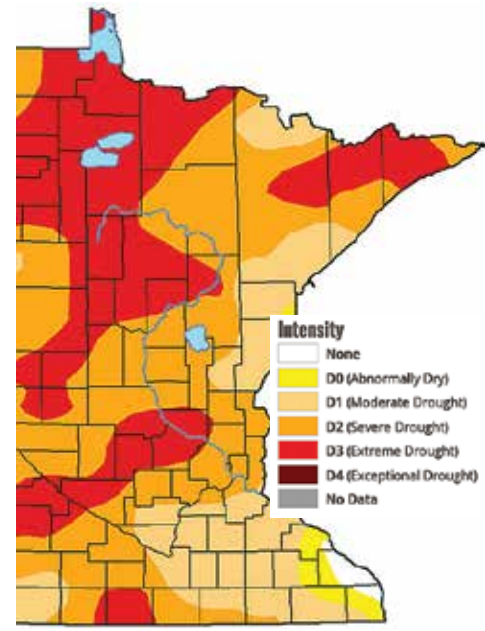
are among the hardest hit areas locally. On average, Ely should have received about 17.5 inches of total precipitation since the first of the year. Yet as of this week, the area had seen just 8.43 inches, or just under half of its long-term average. It was much the same story in Embarrass, where the official weather observer, Jack LaMar, has recorded just 8.85 inches as of this week.

"It's grim," said Chuck Neil, who lives a few miles from LaMar and says he's seen a bit less than his neighbor down the road. "I've

See DROUGHT...pg. 3B



Above: The backside of the Pike River dam shows the water level down at least four feet from the lip of the dam. photo by M. HelMBERGER



Right: The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map showing portions of northern St. Louis and Lake counties (deep red) now in extreme drought.



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Science one sweep at a time

Researchers gather data, often with little recognition or inkling of its eventual utility

When I picked up the phone at the office last week, Steve Wilson was on the other line and he sounded excited. "I've got a big breaking story for you," he said, with just a slight tone that told me there might be a catch.

But I played along and soon learned that I had the chance for what Wilson described as a "career-making" story, an interview with a research associate from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City who is, without question, one of the world's foremost experts on... you guessed it, spittlebugs. OK, you probably didn't guess it.

I recognize that some journalists might have passed on this opportunity, but I knew there was probably more to this story than what lay at the center of a bunch of spittle on some weeds in the ditch.

This entire tale, not surprisingly, was pure serendipity. Wilson, who has been spending most of his time this summer on his lake home renovation in Isabella, was taking a break for a roller blade down Hwy. 1, not far from the Knotted Pine Tavern. As he was cruising down the highway, he spotted a couple kindly-looking seniors in the ditch up ahead, sweeping the roadside weeds with insect nets. Steve, a wildlife biologist himself, was naturally intrigued at the confluence of unusual events—someone rollerblading on Hwy. 1, which one could argue is a nearly suicidal act, along with someone

Above: Vinton Thompson sweeps his insect net across the grass near the Soudan iron mine monument. He was retracing his steps from a previous collecting visit to the area in the early 1970s.

Right: Thompson looks at notes he took during his 1970s collecting visit, while his wife Ruth looks on.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

sweeping for insects along this same out-of-the-way highway.

So, he stopped to chat, which is how he came to meet Vinton Thompson and his wife Ruth, who were taking the long way on a trip from New York City to California to allow Vinton to do some insect collecting. After sweeping the roadside near the Knotted Pine, Wilson learned the couple was next on their way to Soudan to sample the spittlebug population around the wayside rest at the iron mine monument.

It all seemed pretty random until the rest of the story unfolds. It turns out, in his much younger days, back in the early 1970s, Thompson had sampled for spittlebugs in northeastern Minnesota, among many other places, and discovered that our region has the highest percentage of dark morph spittlebugs in all of North America. Who knew?

And before you ask, "Who cares?" this is exactly what is so amazing about basic science and the folks who invest so much of their lives in the pursuit of it.

See SCIENCE...pg. 3B



More on spittlebugs

Per the University of Minnesota Extension Service:

Spittlebugs are common in Minnesota gardens and are known for the frothy spittle mass their nymphs produce while feeding on plants. Of the 54 spittlebug species known in Minnesota, the most common is the meadow spittlebug (*Philaenus spumarius*), which is non-native, having been introduced from Eurasia.

Spittlebugs eggs can live through the winter in leaf litter. Nymphs come out in late April or early May and start feeding at the base of the plants. They keep

moving up, to look for tender leaves and flowers.

Nymphs pump bubbles into fluid that is secreted as a foamy substance during feeding. This frothy mass protects spittlebugs from enemies and from drying out. It also protects them from pesticides.

The nymphs mature in five to eight weeks. As adults they move to nearby grassy areas, pastures or areas with broadleaf weeds.

The females return in September and October and lay clusters of eggs in plant debris or in leaves and stems. There is only one generation per year.

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
SPOTTED JOE PYE WEED



Open wet (or at least normally wet) locations are a good place to look for **Spotted Joe Pye Weed**, *Eutrochium purpurium*, a tall late summer bloomer whose flat-topped flower clusters, called umbels, are easy to spot right now. The pinkish-to-purple flowers are tiny, but each umbel may contain more than a hundred individual flowers, so they do make their appearance known.

The plant is also distinctive, both because of its height (as much as five feet) as well as its large, pointed leaves, which are attached in whorls of five.

It's a member of the aster family.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleyes seemed to have settled in around 10-15 feet of water as the majority of good reports continue from those depths. Anglers have been having good luck trolling spinner rigs out around islands and sunken islands during the evening hours. Anglers have also been reporting good luck trolling deep diving crankbaits during the evening hours on many area lakes. Best lakes for this have been lakes with strong cisco populations.

Little has changed with the excellent bass fishing on many area lakes. The early morning topwater bite remains excellent for both smallmouth and largemouth, with whopper ploppers, pop-r and torpedoes proving to be very effective on smallmouth. Frogs in thick cover have been the most effective bait for largemouth. As the sun gets up, throwing in-line spinners, spinnerbaits and soft plastics keeps anglers busy catching fish.

Sunfish and crappie fishing continues to be very good for many anglers. Anglers report finding both either along weedlines or in thick stands of weeds. Anglers have been catching fish with jig and twisters, casted around weedlines, and lily pads. If the bite slows, simply switching to jigs tipped with a piece of a crawler or wax worms has helped get the picky biters to bite. Crappie minnows have been more effective for crappies.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

FISHING



Kelsey and Mike were pretty pleased with the nice mess of walleye they caught recently while out with fishing guide Rob Bryers on Lake Vermilion. Bryers said the fishing has been very good in recent weeks, with lots of action. The average size is still relatively small but the 2018 and 2019 age classes are growing and are already big enough for great eating. photo courtesy R. Bryers

DROUGHT...Continued from page 4B

had a garden for 44 years in a row and this is the driest it's ever been in that time," he said. "I'm glad I'm retired because I need to water the garden all the time. Otherwise, we'd be in real trouble."

The worsening conditions prompted the U.S. Drought Monitor to designate extreme drought across a wide band through northern St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties. Most of the rest of the county is listed in severe drought, while the far southern and far northern parts of St. Louis County are in moderate drought.

The continued lack of rainfall has pushed river and streams to astonishingly low levels. The Vermilion River, which flows from Lake Vermilion to Crane Lake, would typically see water flowing at about 350 cubic feet per second, (cfs), in early August. But as of this week, the flow was down to a mere trickle at 33 cfs, a decline from the 48 cfs reported the week before.

Ed Tausk, who co-owns and operates Vermilion Dam Lodge said a little water is still coming over the lip of the dam. "I've seen it this low before, in late fall, but never this early in the season," said Tausk. "There's just a limited amount of water flowing over it right now so definitely at some point, if we don't get rain, it will stop flowing."

The Little Fork River has seen its flow fall from a similar 350 cfs this time of year to just 36 cfs as of this week. Those flows are recorded weekly by the Department of Natural Resources. The Basswood River was down to just 145 cfs, or far below its typical August flow of 940 cfs.

The low water likely isn't affecting the area's fishery, according to Edie Evarts, who served as Tower DNR area fisheries supervisor for the past ten years.

While the conditions in most area rivers may not be suitable for most fish, Evarts noted that fish are mobile and will seek out better habitat when stressed by low water or low oxygen. That could mean finding deeper pools or leaving rivers altogether by making their way to lakes that might be connected.

"Where they can run into problems is when

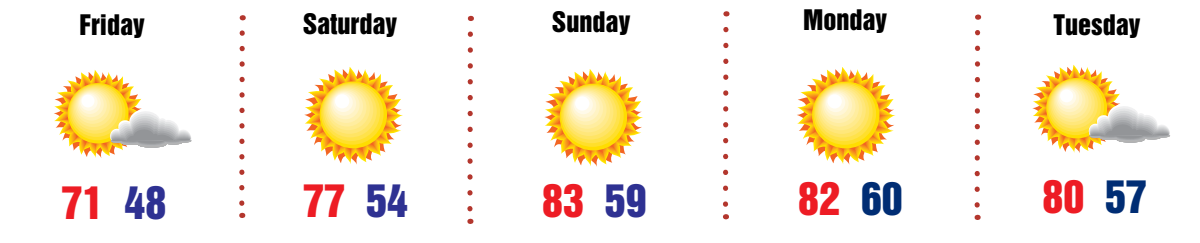
they run into dams," said Evarts, which can block a fish's ability to move to better water.

The lack of rainfall is also impacting lake levels, such as on Lake Vermilion. "There's more beach property than ever on the lake this year," said Rob Bryers, who grew up on Vermilion and now guides anglers on the lake. "I can't remember the water ever being this low," he said.

Evarts said this summer's heat and low water could begin to affect some fish species, like cisco, that require cold, well-oxygenated water. "I'm surprised we haven't seen some cisco die-off this year," she said.

But Bryers said the ciscos seem okay for now and he notes that water temperatures on the lake seem to have moderated recently, perhaps due to all the smoke in the air from Canadian fires, which reduced the amount of sunlight reaching the ground. "The water temperature on the lake never got as warm as last year," said Bryers. "I'm sure all the smoke may have cooled things a bit."

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather



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.
08/02	75	46	0.00		08/02	76	47	0.00		08/02	74	52	0.00		08/02	81	55	0.00		08/02	75	49	0.00	
08/03	81	50	0.00		08/03	81	48	0.00		08/03	80	55	0.00		08/03	84	55	0.00		08/03	81	49	0.00	
08/04	87	51	0.00		08/04	86	48	0.00		08/04	84	60	0.00		08/04	84	59	0.00		08/04	85	51	0.00	
08/05	85	54	0.00		08/05	86	51	0.00		08/05	84	64	0.00		08/05	81	63	0.01		08/05	84	54	0.04	
08/06	79	62	0.29		08/06	81	61	0.47		08/06	80	62	0.03		08/06	75	59	0.03		08/06	80	62	0.22	
08/07	78	57	0.00		08/07	76	54	0.00		08/07	73	58	0.00		08/07	75	57	0.00		08/07	75	58	0.00	
08/08	73	59	0.00		08/08	72	58	0.00		08/08	71	58	0.00		08/08	79	57	0.00		08/08	74	58	0.00	
Total			8.72		YTD Total			9.32		YTD Total			10.04		YTD Total			12.97		YTD Total				12.76

Outdoors in brief

More fire restrictions in Lake and Cook counties

REGIONAL— Worsening drought and fire danger have prompted the Department of Natural Resources to impose additional fire restrictions in Lake and Cook counties, which took effect Aug. 10. Under the additional restrictions, all campfires and recreational fires are banned and the use of welding devices and other torches is prohibited when in proximity

to combustible vegetation (unless special permission is granted). Under these additional restrictions, the campfire and recreational fire ban in Cook and Lake counties now includes all public and private land.

Evarts takes fisheries post in Bemidji

REGIONAL— Edie Evarts, who served as the DNR's Tower area fisheries manager for the past ten

years, has transferred to a new position with the department, working from the regional office in Bemidji. Evarts, who lives in Park Rapids, made the change about two months ago, leaving a vacancy in the top fisheries job in Tower. She said the DNR is in the process of finding a replacement for the fisheries staff, which is currently missing their top two positions in Tower. Evarts said she enjoyed her time in Tower but made the move to be much closer to home.

SCIENCE...Continued from page 4B

Thompson, who actually spent much of his career in academia as President of Metropolitan College of New York, still had his notes from his collecting efforts in the 1970s, which he had brought along for reference as he retraced his steps nearly half a century later.

The data that he collected back in the 1970s is now an invaluable resource. Recent studies have documented the overall decline in insect populations globally, both in terms of numbers and species diversity, so his systematic insect sampling over the years is one way to document that trend. While some other past sampling sites he had visited along the way had seen major declines in insect populations, mostly due to the conversion of rural lands to various human developments, this was not the case in our region, where Thompson said the insect life still appears to be as prolific as ever. He showed me a plastic bag filled with insects he and his wife had gathered while sweeping the roadside in Isabella and it was a writhing mass of diversity, which he would eventually count and catalog, insect by insect, spider by spider, as part of his efforts to document the insect life in our region. By comparing his 2021 findings with the data he gathered in the 1970s, we can see

the changes that have taken place over time, changes which can tell us many things.

Among the changes Thompson will be watching for as he catalogs his latest collection over the next several months is whether the percentage of dark-morph spittlebugs has changed in our region. Thompson hypothesizes that the percentage will have declined, based on his belief that the dark morph is an adaptation that primarily benefits spittlebugs in cold climates, since a darker body will absorb more heat from sunlight, which is an advantage in a place not known for the kind of hot summers we've had this year.

Which brings us to the second part of his hypothesis, namely that a warming climate should reduce the percentage of dark morph spittlebugs in the population, since the advantage of a darker body largely fades away in a warmer climate. If so, it would be confirmation of just another, admittedly small, way that humans are impacting the balance of biological diversity on the planet, even if the consequences of this particular change may never be known.

We won't know if his hypothesis bears out, of course, until he gets back to his lab and catalogs his spittlebugs. And it's worth remembering that Thompson wouldn't have a way

to even detect a change in the makeup of the spittlebug population if he hadn't come by with his insect nets a half century earlier to survey what was living in our roadside ditches.

Perhaps that's why Steve Wilson stopped to talk to him last week—he recognized a fellow scientist. While most people don't know it, Wilson has been engaged in much the same sorts of endeavors for decades. That includes getting up at 2:30 a.m. multiple mornings each spring to drive the same miles-long routes with dozens of stops to listen for the exact same period of time for the songs of breeding birds.

That's the wonder of basic science, which involves people simply gathering data, often receiving little recognition for it, until at some point, perhaps decades in the future, their seemingly obscure data set becomes invaluable to answering any of a hundred possible questions. It's people like Thompson and Wilson, who are devoted and methodical, who advance our understanding of our world with each sweep of an insect net or tilt of an ear. It's often lonely work, but fortunately there are folks out there doing it every day. It's what science is all about.

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

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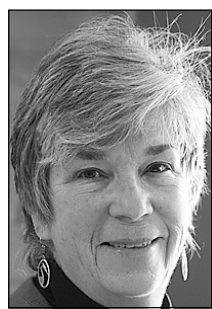
Folk school honors retiring Betty Firth

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Betty Firth is a do-it-yourself person, a veritable Jill-of-all-trades.

"I have experienced many different types of work," Firth recently said to a colleague over a cup of coffee as she reflected upon her career.

Firth recently announced her retirement as program coordinator at the Ely Folk School, where she worked for nearly five years. She visited with her EFS successor, Lacey Squier.



Betty Firth

The Ely Folk School board of directors is hosting a potluck celebration in honor of Betty on Sunday, Aug. 22, from 4 - 6 p.m. at the folk school campus, 209 E Sheridan St. The public is invited to mark

the occasion. Indoor and outdoor seating will be available, and participants are asked to wear a favorite hat.

"Betty's professional experience runs the gamut," Squier said. She taught first grade in a public school. She sold real estate in Chicago and then Minneapolis. She did independent contractor work for 3M and other companies. She started a business with a partner selling computers and providing marketing services, then went solo publishing marketing materials for realtors, which allowed her to move to Ely. "Betty was working remotely long before this era of remote work," she said.

"Along the way Betty always maintained space for volunteerism, work she felt connected her to the real world," Squier

continued. "Betty volunteered for the Ely Food Shelf, co-hosted a book club with children via Ely Community Resource, made ceramic ornaments with Kindergartners, taught majolica ceramics decoration to high schoolers, and served as a founding member of the EMPOWER board. And these are just some of her Ely commitments."

"If you get a kid to volunteer, you've got a volunteer for life," Firth said. This value came from her mother, who was a leader in their community. Firth began volunteering as a Candy Stripper and working on other church projects as a child.

In her tenure at the fledging Ely Folk School, Firth recruited and trained volunteers, hosted events, coordinated nearly a thousand classes, and served as her own technology services department.

"The list pales in comparison to the magnitude of the tasks completed and the tender-loving care offered to the persistence of the institution," Squier said. "The Ely Folk School weathered the challenges of pandemic-related

closures with Betty at the helm. We even served a record number of students in 2020."

Firth told Squier she was drawn to work for the Ely Folk School because she saw it as a way to make a difference.

"The Ely Folk School presented an opportunity for apolitical activism," she said, and quickly added, "though activism is not a dirty word."

"Mission alignment was not the only draw," Squier said. "Betty's do-it-yourself mentality lends itself to projects around her house as well as arts and crafts. She has engaged in a wide variety of artistic pursuits including knitting, crocheting, weaving, sewing, calligraphy, painting, fabric collages, ceramics, decorative metal working, stained glass, beading, and puppet-making. Betty is an artist at heart."

With the help of grants from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and many volunteers, Firth was able to make her dream of an Ely Folk School ceramics studio a reality.

"She will continue to teach

ceramics classes, along with stained glass and others," Squier said. "Her day-to-day relationship with the folk school has changed in retirement, but her commitment to the mission remains the same."

Firth said her hope for the Ely Folk School is that it will thrive by providing diverse opportunities for lifelong learning, bringing people together to explore their "can-do" creativity and the treasures of new friendships.

"I hope that people will value the joys of volunteerism and being instrumental in providing the support and leadership that sustain an organization they love," Firth added.

What's coming next? Firth said she planning on diving into her own artwork more deeply, spending time with friends, organizing a long-neglected house, and just taking some time to breathe. She also plans to re-energize her part-time acupuncture practice and has already started a year-long class in Compassionate Communication.

COMMENTARY...Continued from page 1B

acres of charred landscape.

Foresters and land managers reflect on the sequence of events and decisions that led to such a devastating forest fire. So what's to blame? Fuel loading. This is when there is an abundance of "fuels" in the forest including downed trees, standing damaged trees, and branches. This same issue is what has led to such catastrophic wildfires in the western states. The buildup of these fuels is an unforeseen byproduct of fire suppression over the last century. Historically, Minnesota's forests experienced low intensity wildfires every 50-100 years, which would burn up dead plant material and encourage regeneration of native trees and shrubs.

An intense fire will burn hot, allowing it to consume green, living plants and persist on the

landscape longer. Many native plants and animals of Minnesota are adapted to more frequent fires— from jack pine cones, which need heat to open and disperse their seeds, to plants having large root-storage abilities that allow abundant re-sprout. Native American tribes in the area and across the U.S. realized the benefits of fire and would purposely burn areas to promote growth of edible plants, like blueberries, and to attract wildlife, like moose.

When settlers moved into the area, wildfires were viewed as a threat to homesteads and the logging industry. In 1894, sparks ignited 28 million board feet of stacked lumber at Brennan Lumber Company in Hinckley and led to 350,000 burnt acres and 418 mortalities (plus an unknown number of Native

Americans). The Hinckley fire ignited fear in the hearts of locals and land managers. The name of the game became fire suppression and the USFS crowned Smokey Bear as a national symbol, teaching people that "only you can prevent wildfires." It's possible he was too effective, seeing how today's forests are thirsty for fire disturbance.

Fire is an efficient way to manage large areas of forested land and thankfully foresters of today have realized the benefits of diverse fire regimes: the pattern of wildfire frequency, intensity, and fuel consumption. Management efforts such as thinning a stand of trees and piling the downed wood to burn later, emulates the disturbance of wildfires and produces similar results in plant regeneration and wildlife habitat.

An even better strategy, prescribed burning is effective in woodlands and prairies because it restarts succession. Succession is the development of a system from early stages of young growth of grasses, forbs, and seedlings, to mature or climax stages of mature forests. This reset results in young plant growth and a diverse matrix of wildlife habitat by creating places for foraging, camouflage, and nesting. Furthermore, prescribed fire is conducted on days when weather conditions are appropriate, producing less intense fires and less smoke.

The devastation playing out in western states should serve as a wake-up call, prompting us to learn how to prevent the same thing from happening in our own state. While foresters, land managers,

and wildfire technicians of Minnesota have come to recognize the value of prescribed fire and conduct prescribed burns, significant barriers still exist that limit the use of fire. Changing regulations and liabilities that restrict who, where, and when controlled burns may be conducted would allow for more such techniques to mitigate fire risk and fuel loading.

As we all experience the smoky haze from this summer's forest fires, I challenge you to change your disposition on fire. Taking a look at the Pagami Creek Wildfire area today, we see lots of young jack pine seedlings, new growth, and wildlife such as moose moving into the area. Fire can be an effective tool and there are things we can all do to ensure we do not lose homes or lives to future wildfires. You can

start by educating yourself. The Firewise® program is excellent in teaching home or cabin owners on how to reduce the risk of a wildfire consuming their structures (www.minnesotafac.org). Steps you can take today include removing potential fuels from around your property, like cleaning your gutters and removing stacked wood from under your porch, and learning about the benefits of fire in this region.

Please refer to www.nslswcd.org for more helpful resources or to schedule a visit with a forester.

Lauren Soergel is the District Forester for North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District.

MARKET...Continued from page 1B

worse before it gets better.

"Our plan is to close this store on Sept. 28. The last day to shop in this store may be Sept. 27, we'll see," he said. "We're going to take all of our staff and move everybody down to the Northland Market."

Zupancich bought Ely's competing grocer and the former Shopko building late last year as part of his expansion project, estimated to cost upward of \$7 million. When all is said and done, Ely area shoppers will have the benefit of a 35,000-square-foot, full-service, modernized grocery store, complete with dry goods, expanded sausage factory, a separate liquor store and a second pharmacy in the community.

"We'll work together at the Northland Market until Oct. 13 when we open the new store," he said. "But the problem is the new store won't be complete. We're taking some of the cases out of the Northland Market and moving them into the new store. We will also be taking the Northland deli equipment to the new store as well."

When the current Zup's Market closes at the end of next month, the computer system and freezer and refrigerator cases will be moved.

"It will take a couple of weeks to get everything set up, especially the cash registers and the computers," he added.

Delays in obtaining building materials have plagued Zupancich all summer.

"If things went right, we would have been open by Aug. 7," he admitted. "But we've had trucking issues. We just got our flooring, that was supposed to be here two weeks ago, and hopefully we can start to get that in this week. We're still waiting for shelving."

An impromptu tour late last week showed that many freezers and cooler cases were in place around the perimeter of the store. On the west end, an expanded deli area with a long, rounded counter and stand-alone fresh food displays, was recognizable. Electricians continued their wiring projects in the ceiling. Pallets of flooring and other materials were

staged in the middle of the expanse.

"The electricians are always here," said Project Manager Randy Stumlin, of DBS Group. "With every grocery store I've built the electricians are the first ones in and the last ones to leave."

Zupancich is maintaining a positive attitude despite many setbacks.

"Everything is going perfect," he said. "They're planning on putting shelving in on Aug. 23. We'll have all our shelving up and ready to go by the first of September. I think we could be ready to open (the new store) by Aug. 30, but the problem is, we can't close this one nor Northland Market because we're taking so much equipment out. That transition will take time."

Zupancich said the expanded sausage-making facility is taking shape.

"We're going to have a huge set-up for our sausage. "We'll have Joe Zup and Steve Zup, and we'll have Dan from Northland Market down there, too. It's exciting to see all this come together."

Despite the labor shortage in Ely, Zupancich noted he has openings for workers in the store's new deli, and for cashiers in the new liquor store, to be located on the east side of the facility.

"We'll have at least 15 openings in the new store," he said. "We hope to have at least 90-95 employees."

The availability of dry goods is in the business plan. The COVID-19 pandemic is responsible for the delay in that plan, according to Zupancich.

"The majority of the dry goods buying shows were canceled last year," he said. "We purchased some online in March so we could have some in the store by October. We're hoping that this October and November we can go to the (buying) shows so we have product by next spring and summer. It's a COVID issue. Manufacturers are behind so we're behind in our buying."

The new Zup's Market will have three times the freezer selling space.

"Our dairy case will be tripled," he said. "Produce will be doubled. The deli will be twice the size of

the Northland store. We'll even have a caramel corn machine."

The new liquor store will feature a walk-in beer cooler. Shoppers will gain access to the store through a separate entrance and will be able to use shopping carts and leave them outside in a cart corral. He noted that nine check-out stations in the market will feature up to four self-check-out areas.

"We're working with the city on another entrance into a parking lot off Sheridan Street," he said. "We've asked for a stop light down there, but we need MnDOT approval

on that."

Zupancich said he signed a contract with a national pharmacy chain. "We have been asked not to reveal the name yet," he said. "They'll have the drive-thru, too. They are hoping to be ready to open when we are."

As for plans for the two current grocery store buildings that will soon be vacated, Zupancich said he has two parties interested in purchasing the facilities but would not confirm any identities.

BEARS...Continued from page 1B

right next to the viewing platform. A pair settling into a tree closest to the gift shop drew a paparazzi-like response from the crowd, with most of the 35 participants angling for position to get the best pictures.

There's one more Breakfast with the Bears scheduled for 7 a.m. on

Tuesday, Aug. 17. Once again, the special guest will be naturalist, writer and photographer Stan Tekiela. As of Tuesday there were still a few spots left for the session, according to Melia Marquez, visitor center manager.

Visit <https://www.americanbear.org/>

event-calendar/breakfast-with-the-bears for more information or to book reservations. The cost is \$40. The viewing platform is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The wildlife sanctuary will close for the season on Sunday, Sept. 5, and will not be open on Labor

Day. The visitor center on Hwy. 53 just south of Orr is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information about admission prices, black bears, and the sanctuary is available at americanbear.org.

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Kathrine E. Hawkinson

Kathrine E. Hawkinson, 75 of Cook, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, at her home. Funeral services will be held at 12 noon on Friday, Aug. 13 at Dougherty Funeral Home in Hibbing. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Interment will be at the Morcom Cemetery immediately following the service. Arrangements are with Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing.

She was born on Aug. 14, 1945, in Cook, to Rudolph and Ann (Mravinc) Edblom. Kathrine grew up in rural Cook and later moved to Virginia with her twin sister, Kathleen; they lived in an apartment above a business and even in her later years she would always point it out to whomever she was in the car with. On Oct. 5, 1968, Kathrine was joined in marriage to Robert Hawkinson. They spent their early years together camping, fishing and enjoying time with family and friends; later on they would enjoy spending summers at the campground in Warroad and snowbirding in Arizona. Kathrine enjoyed playing cards and she would often watch the Hallmark Channel; she also looked forward to gathering with her siblings every Sunday.

She is survived by her children, Wes (Cheryl) Hawkinson of Bear River and Stacy (Jeff) Ohmann of Wright; grandchildren, Colton, Logan and Jade (Brody Hicks) Hawkinson, Katie and Ben Ohmann; siblings, Warren (Harriet) Edblom, Irene (Jerry) Simonson, Loretta Turman, Barbara (Jerry) Gunderson, Donna (Roger) Billington, Joyce Hanson and Robert (Lois) Edblom; sister-in-law, Edith (Zig) Tauginas; brother-in-law, Jerry Sternberg; many nieces, nephews and extended relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert; siblings, Vivian Hanson, twin sister Kathleen Sternberg, Rich-

ard Edblom and infant brother Jhalmer.



William C. Heiam

William C. "Bud" Heiam Jr., 92, of Cook, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Friday, Aug. 6, 2021, at the Cook Nursing Home. A service will be held in Mitchell, S.D., in the fall where he will be buried next to his wife, Ginger and son, Jim. Memorials may be made to the W.C. Heiam Medical Foundation at heiamfoundation.org or by mail to PO Box 1195, Cook, MN 55723.

Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Bud was born to Dr. W. C. Heiam and Louise Neal on May 12, 1929, in Cook. He attended the Cook School, graduating in 1947. He then attended UMD with his best friend and roommate, Elder Metsa, and later attended pre-med at St. Olaf. He married Virginia Joan "Ginger" Geyerman on Aug. 31, 1952. They began their married life in Mitchell, S.D., on a ranch/farm where they lived happily for many years. They had four children, Bobbie, Becky, Bill and Jim. Family was the most important thing to Bud and Gin. They both loved people, loved to entertain, travel, serving their community, and living life to the fullest. Bud was a Mason, a member of the Elks, and a very active Shriner/Jester. In 1980 they lost their youngest son, Jim.

Bud began his second career as a golf course su-

perintendent at the Mitchell Country Club. He loved being in the outdoors and using his knowledge from his years of farming. He retired after many years and became the caregiver for Ginger, whom he lost in 2006. He then moved back to Cook, where he was reunited with many old friends. He became the first resident in the Carefree Living Center and had resided at the Cook Nursing Home for the last eight years. His family is very grateful for the care he received from both places.

Bud is survived by two daughters, Bobbie (Mike) Pritchard and Becky (Larry) Barnes; son; Bill (LeAnn) Heiam; granddaughters, Tiffany (Nate) Briggs, Taryn (Matt) Erickson, Chelsi (Greg) Mickle, Jamie and Jordyn Heiam; and seven great-grandchildren, Kohen and Isaiah Briggs, Braeden and Chase Erickson, and Lillian, Oliver and Bronwyn Mickle.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ginger; son, Jim; and sister, Barb Barriger.

Marie M. Olson

A Memorial Visitation for Marie Mae Olson will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14 at the First Baptist Church in Cook. A Memorial Service for Marie, her sister, Doris Bakk, and her sister-in-law, Gwen Forsline, will be held immediately following the visitation at noon at the First Baptist Church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Anthony C. Rutar Jr.

Anthony C. "A.C." "Aunch" Rutar Jr., 89, of Buyck, passed away on Monday, Aug. 9, 2021. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 13 at St.

Mary's Catholic Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.



Darren V. Sokoloski

Darren V. Sokoloski, 50, of Grand Rapids, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, at his home. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Aug. 9 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grand Rapids with Fr. Jerry Weiss officiating. Family wished to see guests in Viking or fishing gear or something that reminded them of Darren. Burial with military honors was at Harris Cemetery in Grand Rapids. Arrangements were with Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rapids.

Darren was born in 1970, to Victor and Patricia (Rablin) Sokoloski in Buyck. In 1977, the family moved to Grand Rapids. He graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1990. Darren then worked and attended technical college for a short time before enlisting in the United States Navy for nearly five years, part of which time he served on the U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower. After his discharge, Darren returned

to Minnesota and worked with his brother driving semi-trucks in Buyck for quite some time. He continued driving trucks in Grand Rapids and then began working for Hibbing Taconite, where he was currently employed. Darren and his family also owned and operated D&S Stump Grinding.

Darren was married on June 28, 2003, to Shannon Prebeck, and together they had two children, Brady and Karley. Darren's favorite past time was watching his son and daughter at their sporting and extracurricular activities. His first priority was his family and he loved spending time with them. He enjoyed camping, snowmobiling, and watching the Minnesota Vikings. He loved fishing, but more than that, he loved sharing the excitement and joy with the ones he loved. Those who knew him and loved him will remember his goofiness, big heart, and willingness to help others. He will be greatly missed.

Darren is survived by his wife, Shannon; children, Brady and Karley; mother, Patricia; brother, Mike (Char) Sokoloski; sisters, Kelly (Ken) Gunderson, Dee (Chad) Osborne and Tricia (Don) Wahlstrom; in-laws, Rob (Sandy) Prebeck, Derek (Faye) Prebeck and Jessica (Aaron) Kalstad; nieces and nephews, Ashly, Adam, Ryan, Lindsay, Jordan, Caylee, Jaymeson, Elyjah, Tyler, Austin, Aaron and Aryella; and great-niece, Aurora.

He was preceded in death by his father; grandparents; and numerous aunts and uncles.

Vida Anderson

Vida Dickson Anderson, 95, of Cook, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021. Her grandchildren and niece were by her side in her final days. Her family would like to thank Essentia Hospice, the staff at Cook Carefree Living and Dr. Vidor, for their thoughtful care and respect for Vida's honored life of service. At Vida's request, no service will be held. Memorials can be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, the Cook VFW Auxiliary, or the Cook Area Hospital Auxiliary.

She is survived by her beloved grandchildren, Joel (Becca Latimer) Anderson of Virginia, Kelly (Keith) Erickson of Hermantown and Kevin (Nicole) Anderson of Ramsey; great-grandchildren, Scott, Matthew and Ellyann Erickson, all of Hermantown, Lillian and Harrison Anderson of Ramsey; daughter-in-law, Judy Anderson of Anoka; foster sons, George Francis of Duluth, Blake (Barb) Francis of Hermantown and Dane Francis of Cook; and numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Elliot S. Hannine

Elliot Scott Hannine, 60, of Linden Grove, passed away on Monday, Aug. 2, 2021. No service will be held. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

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- Free- No cost to attend.
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EMPLOYMENT



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- Positive working environment

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Please email a resume with cover letter to: marylee.erickson@klunlaw.com

POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools Substitute Custodians

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for substitute custodians for the 2021-2022 school year. A background check is required.

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

A complete application must include: District Application

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

Rate of Pay: \$15.70/hour

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 6 & 13, 2021

POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools Substitute Bus Drivers

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for substitute bus drivers for the 2021-2022 school year. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:

- Minnesota Class B driver's license
- Minnesota School Bus Endorsement
- Minnesota Passenger Bus Endorsement
- Must have good driving record
- Pre-employment drug test required

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

A complete application must include the following: District Application

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

Rate of Pay: \$18.36/hour

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 6 & 13, 2021

POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools Substitute Cafeteria Aides

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for substitute cafeteria aides for the 2021-2022 school year. Training will be provided. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:

- Preferred experience working with school age children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

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

A complete application must include: District Non-Licensed Application

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

Rate of Pay: \$13.72/hour

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 6 & 13, 2021



Social Studies Teacher .5 FTE

Vermilion Country School in Tower, MN is seeking to hire a .5 FTE Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Position can be combined with other openings.

Position open until filled.

Application material would include a cover letter, a resume, and license.

Only electronic applications will be accepted. Please send application material to: director@vermilioncountry.org



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- Competitive Wages
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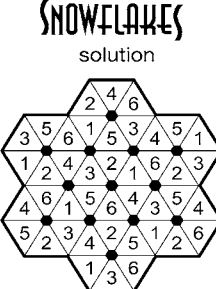
PUBLIC NOTICES

DNR PUBLIC NOTICE

ORR PUBLIC WATER ACCESS


Ramp repair and replacement will be taking place at the Orr Public Water Access starting Monday, August 23, and continuing until Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021. At any given time, one of the two ramps will be available for the public to use. Please practice caution while using the ramp and parking lot, as there will be heavy equipment in use for the rampwork.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 13, 2021



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Answers

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

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Scepter
 - Israeli airline
 - Staffer
 - Brit. record label
 - The Big Easy acronym
 - Not worth debating
 - Picnic crasher
 - Bird with yellow plumage
 - Popular take-out entree
 - Use a shovel
 - Golden Fleece ship
 - Atkinson of "Mr. Bean"
 - Wood pigeon
 - Long tale
 - Mil. morale booster
 - Gladden
 - Decay
 - Lost traction
 - Pink wading bird
 - King of Judea
 - Faux pas
 - Belly
 - Tribal emblem
 - Coastal diving bird
 - Chopper
 - mater
 - Bassoon's kin
 - Director

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	52			53	54			55		
56					57				58		
59					60				61		

- Burton
 - Longings
 - See to
 - Packed away
 - Ordinal suffix
 - Fragrant tree
 - Abrupt turn
 - Michelle Wie's game
 - Cameo shapes
 - Tip off
 - Awestruck
 - Peacekeeping org.
 - Hurry
 - Capri, for one
 - Pinot -
 - And others (Lat.)
 - Sent forth
 - Doctrines
 - Wall St. debut
 - Pair
 - Jog
 - "Toodle-oo!"
 - Way out
 - Viral web phenomenon
 - Low isle
 - Flamenco cheer
 - LBJ's successor
 - Copper head?
 - "Smoking or -?"
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EMPLOYMENT



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FT Radiologic Technologist

Care Center
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PT RN or LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Dietary
PT Dietary Aide/Cook

Activities
Casual Activities Assistant

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FT Housekeeper
Casual Laundry Aide
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More Info? Contact Human Resources
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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

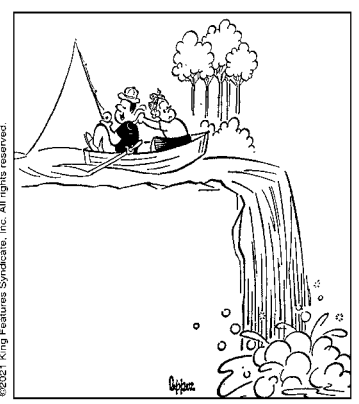
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

SCRAMBLERS

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



Stew

SHAH

Concede

IDELY

Berate

CLODS

Remove

TEELED

TODAY'S WORD

"A what? Who you kidding, dear?
Rivers don't have _____."



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.

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

MARINE

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HOSPICE

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• Cut/trim trees & brush
• Brush removal
Jack Luecken 780-9750
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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.

WANTED

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

LAWN SERVICE

VERMILION LAWN SERVICE- We can help with: overgrown lawns, pruning, brushing, clearing. Call for estimate. Lake Vermilion/Eagles Nest areas. Call Casey at 218-750-4510. 8/27p

ARONSON BOAT WORKS

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- COOK NEEDED- full-time or part-time at Melgeorge's on Elephant Lake. WEEKEND CABIN CLEANERS Also needed. Call 218-374-3621. tfn

GARAGE SALE

MOVING/RUMMAGE SALE- ONE DAY ONLY- Friday, Aug. 13, 8-5, 5595 Pine St., Tower. Furniture, household items, garage stuff, bedding, clothes, much more. 8/13p

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Super Crossword E-Z DOES IT

- ACROSS**
1 Not dozing
6 Rock band boosters
10 Make of the XK-E, in brief
13 Leading nun
19 Adage
20 Irrational suspicion
22 Dark-haired man
23 Cracker consumed to become a fraternity member?
25 Against: Prefix
26 Dry stretch
27 Sessions with mediums
29 Vidalia, e.g.
30 Cochlea site
33 Comment when pointing out your aunt's child?
35 Ducky insurance company?
40 Bloody — (cocktails)
44 Wee child
45 Spanish pronoun
46 German poet who founded a ketchup company?
50 — Minor (Little Bear)
53 Keyless, in music
54 Marilyn of old movies
55 Was a snitch
59 Kindly
61 Shoplifts or embezzles
63 Three-horse wagon
64 Lead-in to byte
66 Cap required to be worn to gain entry?
68 Author Nin
72 Be liable to
74 Big antelope
75 Teal relatives
76 Impudent
77 actress who played Cleo?
81 — bad example
83 Furtive observation
84 Having some replacement parts?
86 Hybrid citrus
91 Perilous stuff to skate on
93 Lethargy
95 Nomadic sort
96 Iraqi, say
97 Walk just beyond a northern Austrian city's border?
99 Pick, with "for"
102 Stir-fry tidbit
104 Dumbbells
105 Many-time golf champ
106 Small squirt of a zero-calorie drink?
111 With 37-Down, fin-footed mammal
113 "Tiny Dancer" singer John
114 Road show groups
118 Uncrowded
124 Sadness
126 Classic figure-skating painting?
129 Sculpted torso, maybe
130 White rat's condition
131 Chavez of labor
132 "Plus" qualities
133 Vote "for"
134 The whole nine yards
135 Additional
DOWN
1 In amongst
2 Lose power
3 Allies' foe
4 Eagle cousin
5 Persian Gulf ruler
6 Fitting
7 — tai
8 Whizzes
9 Of right mind
10 Wrist or hip
11 Letter after G, spelled out
12 Eye steadily
13 It airs "The Conners"
14 Witch's "vehicle"
15 Bugs is one
16 Lure
17 Watery, as a membrane
18 Unit of lyrics
21 Gp. backing guns
24 Had a bite
28 Heavily built
31 "Better Call Saul" ailer
32 Chicago mayor — Emanuel
34 Some low clouds
35 Melville captain
36 Grand party
37 See 111-Across
38 Oscar winner Hathaway
39 Event for artisans selling wares
41 They follow pis
42 Gossip spreader
43 Fathered, as a foal
47 Nastase near a tennis net
48 Chomsky of linguistics
49 1983 Woody Allen role
51 Beef dish in a sour cream sauce
52 Make right
56 Spirit
57 Wrings (out)
58 Astonish
60 Gator cousin
62 IRS form
65 Spin — (emulate Spider-Man)
67 Raw beef fat
68 Assist in evil
69 Have a bite
70 High peaks, in Italian
71 Menzel who voiced Elsa in "Frozen"
73 Fixes text
77 He drew Li'l Abner
78 Rioter's haul
79 How a loss may be marked
80 Nada
82 Root for poi
85 "Far out!"
87 Grand party
88 Old film actor Jannings
89 Give for a bit
90 Tiny pasta
92 Roger of film review
94 Dull routines
98 Mao — -tung
99 City in west Texas
100 Aviators
101 Aquarium favorites
103 Windpipe
107 Rich dessert
108 Animal nose
109 Actor Peter O'—
110 Fitness program with Latin music
112 Hearth waste
115 — gow (casino game)
116 City of central Sicily
117 Actress Loretta
119 Tempo
120 TV's Trebek
121 Corrode
122 Sky twinkler
123 Biblical prophet
125 Craven of horror films
127 Prefix like "equi-"
128 Celebrity gossip site

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: ♦♦♦♦ Difficult
♦♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Easy

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King Crossword — Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution
1.Hash 2.Yield;
3.Scold; 4.Delete
Today's Word
HILLS

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TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Talks on Main Street series kicks off with the story of the jingle dress

by KAREN BARTUNEK
Contributing Writer

TOWER- The origin of the jingle dress traces back to a dream...and Copenhagen tobacco tins.

Tower-Soudan area residents got a look into our area's history and culture on Aug. 5 in a talk hosted by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. The talk was held in Coach Car 88, the renovated train car that also serves as a meeting spot, and was the first in a series of three history talks offered this summer. The final talk will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 24 at 2:30 p.m. at Good Ol' Days, with owner Randy Semo talking about the history of his bar, and other stories about the olden days in Tower when there were over 20 bars in the city.

Adrienne Rose Whiteman, a Bois Forte Band member from Nett Lake, related a variation of the Ojibwe story about the origin of the jingle dress in which a grandfather had a granddaughter who was very ill, and he prayed for a way to heal



her. He was very distraught and worried about her, her well-being, her body, her soul, every part of her.

In the dream, four ladies came to him in dresses with metal cones on them. They told him if they danced for his granddaughter and did the ceremonies that go with it, she would be healed.

His wife put the dress together according to his description and then asked, "How are we going to dance in this dress if

it's a dancing dress?" He replied, "Well, you have to do a sidestep, which is like this."

Whiteman, whose given name of Gey zha gunni gook means "traveling spirit," showed the attendees what the dance step looked like as she finished telling the story.

"And then you follow," she said. "All the ladies line up in a circle with that dress on and dance in a circle, and none of the ladies will go in front of another lady because you



Adrienne Whiteman gave a talk about the history of the jingle dress in Tower last week.

photos by K. Bartunek

don't want to break that circle of healing. That's how the jingle dress originated."

But, why the Copenhagen tins?

It's a testament to the importance of tobacco to the Ojibwe people.

"Tobacco is like our cell phone, when you want to be heard," Whiteman said. "It is our money, our telephone with any spirit, living or other."

When asking for spiritual guidance, tradition holds that there must be a tree, rock, or lake where tobacco will be placed for the prayer. In the morning, it must be the sunrise side, and in the evening it must be the sunset side.

The Ojibwe belief is that everything has a spirit and must be blessed by ceremony, Whiteman said.

Whiteman elaborated that even the items displayed in a museum exhibit have to be blessed and recognized by going through annual spring and/or fall ceremonies.

"The way it was explained to me was that if you were put behind a glass, for everybody to view and everything, you would also want to be handled correctly, in the ceremony." Whiteman said. "It's also to let the spirit know that it's okay to be in there."

The jingle dress is no

exception, and also must go through a ceremony and be blessed. Whiteman has not yet taken the step to make a traditional jingle dress for herself because she doesn't yet feel ready to perform the ceremonial healing dance.

"I have not asked for it yet. I want to be able to have a full knowledge (of) what power (the dress) has for me and my healing, and in my being able to heal other people by dancing in this dress," she explained.

To Whiteman, it is empowering to share this knowledge with others outside of the Ojibwe culture.

"I am proud of what I know, and have always enjoyed learning about other cultures myself," she said.

Her given name does mean traveling spirit, after all.

Ely Rotary 100th anniversary celebration this Saturday

The Ely Rotary will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in Whiteside Park in Ely this Saturday, Aug. 14, with food, music, live and silent auctions, a beer tent, and will be capped off by a drawing for \$10,000 in cash raffle prizes.

The public is encouraged to stop by, and enjoy food starting at 11 a.m., live music at 1 p.m., beer tent opens at 1 p.m., and a live auction beginning at 3 p.m. The live auction features items donated by area businesses that will be sold off to highest bidders. At 4 p.m., the winners in the \$10,000 cash raffle will be drawn, followed by more food and music.

Go to elyrotary.org and check out the sale items, which include a valuable outdoor furniture set, \$1,000 meat packages from Zup's, a log splitter, and many other useful items, as well as great gift certificates for everything from food to fuel, and a variety

DFL Party to open new office in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Supporters and members of the Minnesota Democrat Farmer Labor Party will soon be able to take advantage of increased outreach efforts for progressive politics here with the opening of a DFL office.

"We are thrilled and delighted that a DFL office in Ely will be a reality in mid-August," said Valerie Myntti, of the North of the Divide DFL Network. "It is due to the generosity of some generous local donors and the state DFL that the party is able to have a robust presence here in the North Woods."

The new office will be located at 1311 E Sheridan Street.

"We are chomping at the bit to get started with our DFL outreach efforts, and the sky is the limit to what we can do," Myntti said. "We need your good brains and your passion for progressive politics to help the DFL staff this office and to help plan a robust calendar of events. We need a lively presence here if the Democrats are to be successful in 2022 and 2024."

Myntti said the DFL's outreach efforts will be to invite the public to Sat-

urday morning coffees, develop a door-to-door canvassing effort, continue to grow the number of DFL volunteers who are willing to engage in DFL outreach, host evening discussions on specific topics that are open to the public, plan issues forums for this fall, invite candidates to share their ideas about pressing challenges, conduct voter registration drives at the high schools and community college, fundraise for the DFL, and other activities.

"The first order of business is to furnish the new office," Myntti said.

Donations of items listed below can be dropped off at the new Ely DFL office on Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 16-17, 2-6 p.m.

Contact Mary Louise Icenhour at icenhour22@yahoo.com or Myntti at vmynntti@frontiernet.net

to let them know what you would like to donate. Requested items include:

- > Cleaning and other supplies – vacuum, shovel, garbage can (large) and garbage bags, waste basket, toilet cleanser/brush, glass cleaner, broom/dustpan, toilet paper, paper towels, and two durable entrance mats to wipe feet (one outside/ one inside)

- > Office supplies – paper, pens, and pencils, envelopes, stapler, scissors, telephone, scotch tape, large events wall calendar, large white board and markers

- > Furniture – small side table, lamp, three comfortable upholstered chairs, bookcase, one table for four, small filing cabinet, one large table with leaves that could seat 14, folding chairs (approx. 35), posters/art of great American Democrats,

both national and Minnesotans.

- > Coffee station – assorted mugs, card table, large coffee maker, cream/sugar packets, coffee stirrers, napkins, spoons, small refrigerator (dorm room size).



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	<p>THE VERMILION CLUB 3191 Old Hwy 77, Tower • 218-753-6277 No frills eatery/bar featuring jumbo & specialty pizzas, steaks, seafood in a rustic interior.</p>	<p>Hours: Tues-Sun Noon-1 AM Closed Sun</p>

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	<p>MONTANA CAFE 29 S River St, Cook • 218-666-2074 Breakfast & Lunch, Take & Bake Items: Pasties & Chicken Pot Pies</p>	<p>Hours: Sat & Sun: 8 AM-3 PM M-F: 9 AM-5 PM Tues: Closed:</p>
	<p>NORTHERN DIVIDE BAR & EATERY 1308 18th St N, Virginia • 218-748-7534 Brunch, Lunch, & Dinner. Menu changes seasonally. Larger dining room for parties. Reservations recommended for large groups.</p>	<p>Hours: Tues-Sun: 11 AM-8 PM Mon: Closed:</p>
	<p>BAYVIEW BAR & GRILL 2007 Co Rd 77, Tower • 218-753-2964 Brunch, Lunch, & Dinner. Great atmosphere, full bar, outside tiki bar and decks for relaxing.</p>	<p>Hours: DAILY: Wed-Sun Noon-11 PM M, Tu: Closed</p>

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The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota to perform a free concert in Cook on Aug. 22

COOK- A wonderful free summer concert by the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute will be held on Sunday, Aug. 22 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook at 3:30 p.m. The concert will feature quartets, sextets, octets, and string orchestra.

Please join us for an evening of beautiful chamber music performed by 30 participants of the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute. The NLCMI is an annual summer institute where 10 days of intense chamber music studies take place at Camp Vermilion on pristine Lake Vermilion outside of Cook. Gifted young musicians of college and high school age, along with internationally-acclaimed faculty will participate in this concert.

The NLCMI faculty are violinist Young-Nam Kim, artistic director of the Chamber Music Society, Sally Chisholm, viola professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Daniel Kim, violist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Antony Arnone, cello professor at the University of Iowa.

The program will consist of quartets, sextets, and octets by Bartok, Beethoven, Bruch, Dittersdorf, Dvorak, Haydn, Hindemith, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Schumann, Smetana, Schulloff, Vanhall and Shostakovich.

All participants join at the conclusion of the concert and play together in a string orchestra.

The Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute-Festival is the premiere educational wing of the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota, Young-Nam Kim, Artistic Director.

County Attorney Mark Rubin announces retirement

DULUTH- St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin has announced plans to retire at the end of September following more than 42 years of public service.

Rubin first joined the county attorney's office as an intern in 1975 while attending The College of St. Scholastica. He went on to attend what is now Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and after graduation was hired as an assistant St. Louis County attorney in 1978. With the exception of two years spent in private practice during the late '80s, Rubin has worked in the county attorney's office ever since.

Rubin was elected County Attorney in 2010 and re-elected twice. Because he is retiring prior to the end of his term in 2022, the County Board will appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

While much of his career focused on prosecuting offenders charged, Rubin also advocated for improved services for survivors of domestic abuse and sex trafficking. He helped form partnerships to address truancy and create diversion programs for lower-level offenders. Rubin also has taken an active role in restorative justice programs to help offenders take accountability for their actions and seek change. In 2019, Rubin was named to serve on the statewide Deadly Force Encounters/Officer Involved Shooting Working Group.

Among his numerous awards, he was honored with the Jules Gernes Minnesota State Bar Association Prosecutor Award for Excellence in 2011; and the M.A. Johnson Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota County Attorneys Association in 2020.

In a letter to commissioners announcing his retirement, Rubin expressed immense gratitude for the opportunity to serve, and to those he served under and alongside, both in the attorney's office and law enforcement. He concluded the letter stating, "I am proud of the work we have done and what we have accomplished together over the years. It has truly been my honor to have served with you as your St. Louis County Attorney."

ST. LOUIS COUNTY FAIR



More than 90 children from across the Iron Range flocked to the county fair in Chisholm on Friday to test their mettle in the annual kids' tractor pull event, with the top three finishers in each age group qualifying to move on to competition at the state fair.

Above: As others wait patiently, five-year-old Walter Townsend, of Ely, prepares for his pedal run. Below right: Leah Los, of Orr, puts on her first-place medal for winning the 8-year-old division. Below left: Seven-year-old Cynthia Zupancich, of Embarrass, grimaces as her tractor grinds to a halt. photos by D. Colburn



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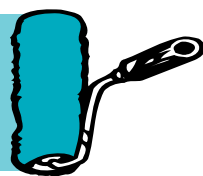
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