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ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Road crews idled as they wait for spring weather

Officials say 1,500 miles of gravel roads worst in recent memory

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A seemingly never-ending series of snowfalls in April has left county roads across the region in the worst condition in recent memory, and St. Louis County public works officials say there's

little they can do about the situation other than wait.

With 1,500 miles of gravel roads, which provide home access to thousands of county residents, the current conditions haven't gone unnoticed, acknowledged Brian Boder, with the county public works office in Pike Lake. County

Some 1,500 miles of gravel roads in St. Louis County, including this one near Tower, are in bad shape this spring as a prolonged winter is preventing road crews from working on them. photo by M. HelMBERger



officials admit the roads are bad. "It's miserable," admits Boder, who said county officials have been trying to get the word

out about the situation so people understand.

It appears the brief

See...ROADS pg. 9

CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Easter traditions from a country now under siege



Class teaches ancient craft from Ukraine

by JODI SUMMIT
 Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN - John and Denise Lindquist are not Ukrainian, but they are fascinated with the traditional Ukrainian art of pysanky, colorful hand-painted eggs that feature complicated geometric and floral designs.

"It was a good time to offer this class," said Denise, who along with John taught a beginners' class to about a dozen women at the Vermilion Park Inn, that raised some funds for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

Pysanky have been in the news all month. With the focus on the war in Ukraine, people around the world have been teaching and learning this ancient craft, which traditionally issaid to be a sign of peace.

Most who signed up for the class were very aware of the cultural focus, and conversation often wandered to the fates of families whose lives and homes were being destroyed by the current Russian invasion.



Teresa McCue Thompson "bends the flame" to melt the wax on a hand-painted egg as she learned the ancient Ukrainian art of pysanky at a class in Soudan. The eggs feature complicated geometric designs. photos by J. Summit

The class was offered one day after Easter was celebrated here, but the week before Orthodox

See...EGGS pg. 12



CITY OF ELY

Ely organizations awarded federal COVID-19 funds

City council approved total distribution of \$360,000

by KEITH VANDERVORT
 Ely Editor

ELY — Four local non-profit organizations will share some of the \$360,000 allocated to the city of Ely from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Another one-third of the funds will be set aside for the city's broadband project, and the remaining one-third will be used to fund local infrastructure projects.

City council members Tuesday night approved the recommendation from the budget committee for the distribution of what they dubbed "COVID money" totaling \$122,259 to the following organizations: Ely Area Food Shelf, \$38,900; Happy Days Preschool, \$6,000; Ely Community Resource, \$56,000; and Ely Area Senior Citizens, \$21,359.

The amount of money was determined by funding request letters sent by the organizations describing their loss of revenue associated with the coronavirus pandemic and the public protocols and shutdowns put in place at the time, according to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

Council member Heidi Omerza questioned the process used by the budget committee to determine the allocation of the ARPA funds.

"These are all great organizations in Ely, but they are the 'haves' and there are a lot of 'have nots,'" she said.

Committee member Paul Kess said the city solicited non-profit organizations to apply for the funds.

See...ELY pg. 10

ELECTION 2022

GOP gubernatorial candidate stumps in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
 Ely Editor

Dr. Scott Jensen hosted by Minnesota Conservative PAC

ELY — One of several Republicans vying for the Minnesota Governor's seat spoke to Ely voters this week during a fundraising event hosted by the Minnesota Conservative PAC.

Dr. Scott Jensen, con-

sidered the GOP frontrunner looking to defeat Gov. Tim

More GOP news
 GOP candidates to face off in District 3A primary.
 Page 3

Walz this fall, was joined by Kim Crockett, Republican candidate for Minnesota Secretary of State, and Chad Walsh, who is running for St. Louis County Sheriff.

The candidates spoke before a packed house at the

Ely Senior Center on Monday night. Nearly 100 people took part in an enthusiastic fundraising pep rally.

"Joe Biden never told me this, but I'm quite certain

See...GOP pg. 11



Dr. Scott Jensen



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Community notices

Quiltmaker's Gift auditions to be held Sunday, April 24 in Ely

ELY - Auditions for the Quiltmaker's Gift will be held on Sunday, April 24 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church at 226 E Harvey St. in Ely. This production was the inaugural theatrical event in late January 2019 with four sold-out performances at Ely's Historic State Theater.

Organizers are seeking actors who can sing, specifically for the roles of The Quiltmaker, the King's soldiers and chorus members. If you cannot attend or have questions, please call Director Laurie Kess at 218-349-7237.

Performances for the show are planned for Friday and Saturday, July 15-16 at 7 p.m., and a matinee at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 17 to be held at Ely's Historic State Theater

The show is a one-act family musical based on the best-selling book of the same name written by Jeff Brumbeau, first published in 2000. To date, more than 750,000 copies have been sold worldwide and the book has been translated into Chinese, Korean, Greek, and German. The book's illustrator, Gail de Marcken, lives in Ely.

The book inspired a sequel, The Quiltmaker's Journey, two books on quilting, and a number of theatrical productions including a ballet with the University of Utah's Children's Dance Theater.

The Ely Rotary Club and Lake Country Power are supporting the shows. Community activities being organized for this summer will focus on high-school seniors since school is not in session. The Ely Public Library is developing an exhibit and a youth fabric project for mid-July.

Skywarn Spotter training set for Monday, April 25

MT IRON - Mesabi Wireless Amateur Radio Club (MeWA) will be hosting free Skywarn Spotter training presented by the National Weather Service on Monday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mt. Iron.

The training is open to the public. As a volunteer, help keep communities safe by providing timely



and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. This training may be especially beneficial for police, fire, dispatchers, EMS, public utility workers, coaches, farmers, tow-truck drivers, or those responsible for protecting others.

The free training will cover basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identification of potential severe weather features, information and reporting procedures and basic severe weather safety.

MeWA is a local amateur radio operators club. For questions, please call John Lindquist at 218-750-6614 or visit <https://n0agx.com/mesabi-wireless>.

Cook Timber Days set for June 10-12

COOK - The Timber Days committee announced the Cook Annual Timber Days festival is being planned for June 10-12. Dozens of food and craft vendors will again be in Cook all weekend as well as favorite shows and events enjoyed during Timber Days 2021. New entertainment is also being added. The spectacular fireworks show will be on Saturday night, June 11 and Timber Days will culminate with a huge parade on Sunday, June 12.

Mesabi Community Band concert on Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

EVELETH - The Mesabi Community Band, under the direction of Larry Baker and Bill Lavato, will present "A Spring Renewal Concert," on Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at the Eveleth City Auditorium. The band is in its 49th year. The concert will feature selections including marches: Americans We, The Klaxon, and The Minnesota March. Additional selections will include Procession of the Nobles, Yorkshire Ballad, October, West Side Story, and others.

Donations will be accepted for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. A band member's son teaches at the American School in Warsaw, Poland, and is working with local relief agencies to distribute funds where needed.



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EARTH FEST

Earth Fest to be held Saturday, April 23 in Mt. Iron



MT IRON- Earth Fest free activities will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Hwy. 169 corridor in Mt. Iron. Activities include a local marketplace, silent auction, demos, exhibits, speakers, phenology walk, local lunch by Go Figur's, and music by Nadair (Sara Softich and Ryan Lane).

This is an annual event initiated by the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability. It is the largest sustainability fair on the Range, attracting over a thousand participants. Earth Fest connects people from all over the Range around topics that foster a future that our children can be proud of. What do we need to do in order to leave the Iron Range in better shape than we found it? How can we meet our needs without compromising our grandchildren's ability to meet theirs? These are ques-

tions addressed at Earth Fest. You are invited to join the larger conversation.

Saturday's feature presentation is by Macalester College's Dr. Roopali Phadke on "Recycling Precious Metals from e-waste." The concluding presentation will be by Robert Blake of Solar Bear, "Native Nations Leading the Way in Renewables." The phenology walk will be led by KAXE's resident phenologist John Latimer at 12:30 p.m. starting

at the Merritt Elementary School entrance.

Presentations, exhibitors, vendors and activities are spread throughout three different buildings on Enterprise Dr. and Emerald Ave. (located just off of Hwy. 169) at the Mt. Iron Community Center, Messiah Lutheran Church, and Merritt Elementary School. For more information, visit <https://www.irmsmn.org/earthfest>.

SUPPORTING ARTISTS

Northland Foundation awards Maada'ookiing grants to Indigenous individuals for community projects

REGIONAL - The Northland Foundation is pleased to announce individuals and projects awarded Mada'ookiing grants. The Mada'ookiing board met in March to review and approve \$17,000 in funding.

Maada'ookiing, ("the distribution" in Ojibwe), is a Northland Foundation program to strengthen relationships with the Indigenous community, build partnerships with Native nations, and offer support for community members to expand capacity in northeastern Minnesota. A grant opportunity is offered three times each year, awarding up to \$2,500 per grant for Tribal citizens, descendants, or those with kinship ties or an affiliation to Indigenous communities within the foundation's geographic service area. Grant applications are accepted anytime on the online grant portal. The next application deadline is Sunday, May 15.

The March 2022 grantees are: Sarah Agaton Howes, for \$2,500, to create an updated edition of the Nookomis Obagijigan Moccasin



Pattern Book, which will share the traditional practice of making moccasins; Sherelle Graves, for \$2,500, to teach traditional quilt-making practices along with how they are used in ceremony and with Ojibwe language; Emily Smith, for \$2,500, to support the preservation and sharing of Ojibwe culture through Big Drum ceremonies in the Sawyer area; Cheyanne Peet, for \$2,500 to create opportunities for Anishinaabe women across generations to learn traditional quilt-making and foster healing; Gerald White, for \$2,400, to create a series of videos that share history and techniques for making traditional Ojibwe style canoe paddles; Theodore DeFoe, \$2,500, to provide programming for youth to share knowledge on the gathering and the use of birch bark and basswood in traditional ceremony

and crafts; and Amber Reynolds, \$2,000, to provide positive, enrichment opportunities to help people maintain sobriety.

The Northland Foundation, a publicly supported foundation, invests in people and communities to support a thriving region in seven northeastern Minnesota counties: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis, as well as Native nations sharing this geography: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (District I), and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (District II). Visit northlandfdn.org to learn more.

LIVE MUSIC

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra closes season with concerts April 23 and 24

REGIONAL - The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra (MSO) will close out its 2021-22 season with the proverbial bang on Saturday, April 23 at 7 p.m. in the Virginia Goodman Auditorium and on Sunday, April 24 at 2:30 p.m. in the Moose Lake Community School Auditorium.

Artistic Director and Conductor Ben Nilles commented, "This is going to be a patriotic concert featuring music from different countries." Specifically, Finland

will be represented by Sibelius' Finlandia, Czechoslovakia by Dvorak's Eighth Symphony, and Mexico by Arturo Marquez's Danzon No. 2. All are exciting, accessible pieces, perfect for a first orchestra experience, or thousandth.

Don't miss this world concert. Buy your tickets online at mesabisymphonyorchestra.org, or at the doors of the venues. As always, students are admitted free with a ticket from their music teacher(s). The website

and the Orchestra's Facebook page are both good places to learn more about MSO, the concerts, and so much more.

Operating support is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

April is National Occupational Therapy month

COOK - Occupational Therapy (OT) is a profession that works to empower patients to overcome barriers and adapt tasks to participate more fully in daily activities. Cook Hospital's occu-

pational therapist, Amy Rice, OTR/L, CLT offers a wide range of services including the following:

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- Hand, wrist, and elbow rehabilitation.

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CAMPAIGN SEASON

GOP candidates to face off in District 3A primary

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— For decades, the Republican challenger in a northeastern Minnesota legislative district was little more than a sacrificial lamb. But those times have changed and along with the GOP's newfound competitiveness in the Arrowhead, has come real competition for the Republican endorsement in the general election.

For the first time in recent memory, at least two GOP candidates will be facing off in a primary election for the right to take on incumbent District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL, of International Falls.

It's likely to be a hard-fought contest, featuring Ely Mayor Roger Skraba and Bob Wolfe, a political newcomer from Loman, on the far western end of the sprawling legislative district.

A relative handful of GOP delegates assembled earlier this month at the North Woods School, where they voted 17-17 to endorse Wolfe. While the vote may appear to have been a tie, the delegates were weighted differently depending on the GOP vote totals in the most recent general election. Delegates from counties like Itasca and Koochiching, with more Republican voters than in



Roger Skraba

St. Louis or Lake counties, were weighted more heavily, which allowed Wolfe to come away with the endorsement despite what appeared to be a tie vote.

Wolfe, who spent 40 years in the poultry industry in California before retiring, moved back to the border country about a year and a half ago, where he lives off-grid, using solar panels for electricity. Wolfe grew up in International Falls, where his family ran a hardware store but he said his family lost its business and was forced to move away after a downturn in the wood products industry.

Wolfe served in the Marine Corps before entering the poultry business. While a self-proclaimed



Bob Wolfe

"chicken dude" he was active in the California Poultry Federation, and is a past president of the organization. During that time, Wolfe said he did engage in some political lobbying in Sacramento, an experience which left a bad taste in his mouth. "I had enough of a glimpse to see that it was something I would like to do," he said. "I'd like to try to be part of the solution. I don't believe the government is being run the way that citizens want it to be run."

Even so, Wolfe said he hadn't considered running until he attended his precinct caucus earlier this year. "That's when I was told there was no conservative candidate in the race,"

he said. Wolfe said he's a firm believer in the three "Ts" of the North Country economy, including taconite, timber, and tourism. "We've got the mineral deposits and we need to be capitalizing on that," he said. Given his family's previous experience in International Falls, he said he wants to support the timber industry to ensure that it survives. Wolfe is enthusiastic about the tourism attractions in the region. "It's just a fabulous area. Outstanding fishing. Great trail riding."

Living off-grid has been challenging, but fulfilling, said Wolfe, although it has made campaigning more challenging than it might otherwise be. While he produces his own electricity with solar photovoltaic panels, he still gets by without running water. "I haul my water in five-gallon buckets," he said.

The party endorsement was likely essential to Wolfe's hopes to make it to the general election. He acknowledges he's starting with "zero name recognition" and a very limited campaign war chest.

Skraba, by contrast, has been campaigning for office for decades, and has twice been elected as Mayor of Ely, the second-largest city in the district. Skraba said the party endorse-

ment presents a challenge, but one he expects to overcome as the race moves forward to the Aug. 9 primary. "I'm hoping that folks in the district see the difference," he said. "I've been here my whole life. People know me."

And while Wolfe was busy laying claim to the conservative wing of the GOP, Skraba made it clear he would buck the GOP caucus at times if it's in the best interests of the district. "I'm not going to be a Republican who wants to cut LGA, for example," said Skraba. "If I'm in the caucus, I'll explain how important it is to my community."

Ely, as Skraba is aware, is heavily reliant on LGA, or Local Government Aid, to balance the city's budget.

Naturally gregarious, Skraba has spent most of his work life as a wilderness guide in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Even so, he remains a vocal supporter of copper-nickel mining upstream of the wilderness.

He's also had a few run-ins with federal authorities over the years, for a series of violations in the federal wilderness. While those incidents landed him in court, and slapped with various penalties, they appeared to only burnish his credentials for elected office with many in Ely.

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board considers additional student support services

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The St. Louis County School District was boosting its student support systems even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. And as challenges to students' social and emotional well-being have mounted over the past two COVID-scarred years, the district has continued to evaluate systems and consider more supports.

At their April 12 working meeting, ISD2142 school board members heard about the newest addition to the district's

efforts to foster student success. Project AWARE is a special five-year initiative intended to pull all of the pieces together into a comprehensive mental health system focused on social-emotional wellness, mental health supports, and suicide prevention. AWARE stands for Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education.

Federally funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services, Project AWARE is a collaborative project of the Minnesota Departments of Education

and Human Services that is being piloted in only six school districts in the state. The goal is to create an effective school-based mental health framework that can eventually be utilized throughout the state.

Project AWARE Mental Health Coordinator Alicia Isom, MSW, LGSW, told board members that educating staff about mental health concepts and support strategies will be integral to the project.

"We'll be looking at just how we can educate teachers and professionals to understand what's going on with some of the students who are really

struggling, knowing how to manage and regulate their emotions."

With the work of senior fellow of The Child Trauma Academy and internationally-recognized psychiatrist Bruce Perry providing the basic framework, Isom said she will be coordinating staff training that is rooted in neurobiology and how it is affected by adverse childhood experiences (ACES), experiences which are considered traumatic and detrimental to healthy social-emotional development. Perry's neurosequential model, as it is called, is an integrated evidence-based approach to

select and apply educational, enrichment, and therapeutic activities that match the needs and strengths of individual students.

"What (Perry) is seeing is that just learning about the neurobiology of the brain will help decrease behaviors," Isom said. "Learning about where kids are at and that they're not being spiteful intentionally has decreased behavior itself."

"It's been a challenging couple of years. People are stressed," Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said of district staff. "As we roll this out, we'll look at how to help teachers understand

where we're going so that they feel there's some hope."

Another aspect of the project is to ensure that various support systems are coordinated and aren't needlessly duplicating services. Toward that end, Isom decided after coming on board in January that a school-by-school comprehensive assessment would be more effective than an overall district assessment, and she provided a sample of the 46-page assessment instrument to the board to inspect. Board members responded enthusiastically-

See **SCHOOLS**, pg. 5

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Editorial

Remembering Earth Day

U.S. made tremendous environmental progress, but times have changed

It's worth remembering on this April 22, otherwise known as Earth Day, just how far the United States has come in terms of its environmental progress.

When the first Earth Day was celebrated back in 1970, many rivers in America were toxic sewers. Standing near the lower reaches of the St. Louis River near Duluth, in the 1970s, would make your eyes burn. Many species of wildlife were on the verge of extinction due to habitat loss or the spraying of toxic chemicals, like DDT. Smog choked many, if not most, of our major cities, and young children regularly ingested significant amounts of lead from the burning of gasoline.

It's worth considering that the trumpeter swans that now routinely grace Minnesota skies with their beauty, or the sandhill cranes, whose calls now commonly echo across North Country swamps and fields, were once nearly gone or greatly depleted. The Rainy River below International Falls, which was so toxic in the 1970s that few fish could survive, has been restored and the fishery is teeming once again. It was an environmental ethic demanded by the public back then, that brought countless improvements in our environment and quality of life.

The litany of new laws penned, beginning in the 1960s and accelerating in the 1970s, set the stage for cleaning up our waters and our air, and taking steps to protect the critical habitat necessary for the survival of so many species. Laws like the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, helped to ensure that environmental impacts are considered when undertaking major projects in the U.S. The Clean Water and Clean Air acts provided a regulatory framework that helps to hold polluters accountable when they despoil our public waters or the air we breathe. The Endangered Species Act provides for the protection and recovery of species before it's too late.

Despite the tremendous progress we've made, the prospects for the future of environmental protection in the U.S. and around the world, look increasingly cloudy. It's worth noting that the landmark environmental bills mentioned just above were all passed nearly half a century ago, at a time when attitudes toward environmental protection in the U.S. were much different from today's.

Half a century ago, support for environmental protection was found across the political spectrum. Back in 1973, the Endangered Species Act was approved unanimously in the U.S. Senate and the House voted in favor, 355-4. Other major environmental

laws enjoyed similarly lopsided margins in Congress. Republican President Richard Nixon signed many of them into law.

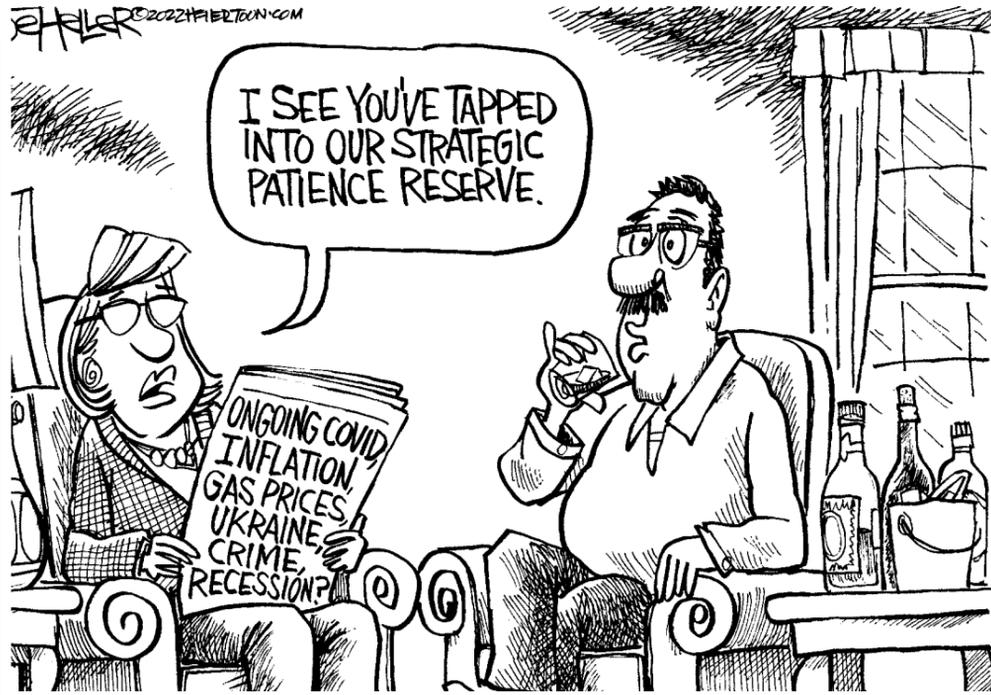
Indeed, in the early years, Republicans often led the way in support of environmental protection. One of the earliest environmental laws, known as the Lacey Act, won passage in 1900 and protected many species of plants and wildlife from destruction for commercial purposes. At the time, countless herons, egrets, pelicans, swans, and other birds were being slaughtered commercially for their feathers and meat and many were close to extinction by the time Congress took action. The law was named for its chief author, John Lacey, an Iowa Republican.

Times have certainly changed, as have the environmental challenges. While the United States made real progress in addressing environmental concerns a half century ago, we have struggled to respond to the single biggest environmental challenge humans have ever faced— climate change. That's true, in large part, because one of our nation's two major parties has turned disturbingly hostile to environmental protection. Indeed, none of the major environmental laws, passed in the last century, could possibly get past a Republican filibuster in the U.S. Senate today. They remain law only because Democrats would block any attempt at repeal.

Perhaps the success of the environmental movement paved the way for its own derailment. Most of the landmark environmental laws have proven so effective that Americans can be forgiven for failing to recall the horrible environmental conditions found in so many parts of the country back in the 1950s and 60s.

Yet Americans are increasingly experiencing the effects of climate change and the dramatic increase in the number and severity of extreme events. Climate change is reordering the natural world and threatens an entirely new round of mass extinctions that laws like the Endangered Species Act have little ability to combat. Yet there's little reason to expect meaningful action out of Washington given the current state of our politics.

While it's worth celebrating our environmental successes on this Earth Day, we must make note of the fact that these successes are legacies of a political era that has long since disappeared. As we are faced with even greater environmental challenges today, it is very clear that America— both politically and culturally— is not up to the task.



Letters from Readers

Longing for Yesterday and some better springtime weather

An ode to our “springtime” weather to the tune of Yesterday:

Yesterday, winter seemed so far away.

Now it looks as though it's here to stay.

Just another winter day.

Suddenly, there's more snow than there used to be.

And the sun is something I rarely see.

As the wind is always blustery.

Why is it so awfully cold? My lips have froze so I couldn't say.

All of this seems so very wrong.

As I long for yesterday.

Yesterday, flowers grew in the warm sun's rays.

Now I just see white with clouds of gray.

Oh, I believe in yesterday.

Why is there another low? Bringing snow, and freezing rain?

I did something wrong.

Now I long for yesterday.

Yesterday, spring was here with summer not so far away.

I really want to put the shovel away.

Oh, I believe in yesterday.

Mm mm mm mm mm mm.

Kelly Dahl Cook

Were you there when it mattered?

Were you there? I was there when my children graduated from elementary school, and from high school. I was there when so many wonderful things happened in my life.

But I was not there when they crucified my Lord. When Kathy Siskar sang that song at the Tenebrae service on Good Friday, I felt myself overwhelmed by the pure terror of what our choir was singing about, the hideous torture and

dehumanization of a wonderful, incredible man.

Nor was I there when the first slave ship arrived on the shores of a new America in 1619. I was not there, and I was so thankful I wasn't. Nor was I there during the horrible era of Black slavery which still is imbedded in our culture today in our White supremacy. And as a White person I have the good luck of not having been there to witness the hangings, the beatings, the separation of families, the deaths because of no medical care. I did not see the laws prohibiting the education of Blacks, and the complete legal separation of the races, that caused such unseen trauma, invisible to Whites.

Nor was I there when my grandparents received a quarter section of Native American land for free. Nor was I there when a mass of Native men were hanged in Mankato, or in Duluth.

It is crucial that we White people recognize our power and relate with Blacks and Browns with kindness. Why? Because we believe in democracy where all are equal, where we believe God loves every person on earth equally, and where we can face the crimes that caused immense terror and trauma for so many people. Whether I was there or not, I am able to face our complicity as a White person. I need to be with those who “were not there” when their grandparents and parents were beaten and hanged and give up my whiteness and claim our humanness. I am here. I pledge to be kind to everyone. “The Lord sets a table before me, in the presence of my enemies,” to make peace. At his table it is easy to be kind.

Art Dale Soudan

U.S. needs to invest more in hydrogen

The Biden Administration plans to spend \$8 billion to build four “hydrogen hubs.” It is part of the infrastructure legislation. It appears that Minnesota and its surrounding states will not be beneficiaries of the hydrogen hubs.

Unfortunately, two of the

hubs are likely to use natural gas to produce hydrogen resulting in fossil fuel emissions, a provision supported by Senator Manchin of West Virginia.

Nevertheless, a couple of the hubs will focus on producing “green” hydrogen using renewable energy. The process emits no greenhouse gasses.

It is encouraging to see the Biden Administration recognizing hydrogen as an energy alternative. Hydrogen can be transported by pipeline, rail, trucks, and ships in a wide variety of container sizes, and can be used as fuel for factories, houses, cars, trucks, trains, ships, and airplanes.

The Administration is giving some recognition to the value of hydrogen as a fuel, which would reduce our dependence on the growing use of the national electric grid system. The grid is vulnerable to areas of failure that are produced by severe weather conditions, aging components, insufficient capacity, potential sabotage and from fast growing numbers of electric cars depending on the reliability of the grid. (There are approximately 287 million cars registered in U.S.)

Despite the fact, the Administration is beginning to recognize the importance of hydrogen, its efforts are a drop in the bucket, compared to massive subsidies they are intending to use to promote electric vehicles.

It is also a drop in the bucket compared to the pursuit of hydrogen technology development that other countries such as Saudi Arabia, China and Australia are pursuing. We are likely to end up depending on importation of hydrogen from these countries to meet our future energy needs, even though hydrogen is not a scarce resource, nor is it indigenous to these particular countries. Hydrogen is one of the most plentiful elements spread over the Earth.

We should have more than a few “hydrogen hubs” to establish a nationwide viable hydrogen industry to meet future prerequisite energy needs.

Gerry Snyder Ely

Family... you can't live with them

I am sending in this column from the Deep South, a region I have never visited before. I hadn't seen my brother and his wife for six years, and his health has been poor, so we both felt it might be the last time we would see each other. They moved



BETTY FIRTH

Dallas two years ago to be near her family, so that was the first destination on my trip.

My relationship with my brother has rarely been easy, so I had some concern about the visit, limiting it to four and a half days. Though only three years apart, we were not close, and I've spent a lot of energy throughout my life trying

to figure him out. We were so disconnected, I have felt that we were like two only children that just happened to be in the same house, living very different realities. I hadn't known until quite recently that he has Asperger's Syndrome, which explained a lot of the difficulty that he has with social skills and dealing with the world generally. I felt compassion for him, but I also refused to be the dumping ground for his sarcasm and anger.

I had hoped that we would be

able to do better and have time to share and compare memories and stories, as he is the only living tether to my past. We each feel there is so much we don't remember, and have seen where our distinct perspectives have imprinted quite different recollections, but he is the only other person who has experienced our family from the inside and the only witness to my childhood, so I value what he does recall. In fact, I have no contact with anyone who experienced our

family from the outside either. I had unearthed a sketchpad that belonged to my father, which had some drawings and journaling in it, and I wanted to discuss it with my brother. There were also a few pages of writing in my mother's handwriting tucked in between the pages.

I never anticipated my brother's explosive reaction to my request to talk about our parents' written thoughts. He just said he

See **FAMILY...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

Lake Country Power should take seasonal cabin owners into account

It is good that Lake Country Power held meetings in February this year at various locations within its boundaries, but unfortunately the meetings were not held in the summer so that seasonal residents could better participate. There should have been a virtual option for participation for those who were not in town that day or primarily use Lake Country Power at seasonal residences. The technology to do so exists. Some states require this option be offered at public meetings.

It is unfair for seasonal cabin users to subsidize year-round residents, especially those who live in more remote areas with higher maintenance costs. Besides lowering the monthly facility charge, we suggest a graduated rate structure with a lower base rate for minimal essential electricity use and higher rates for those who use more. Off-peak heating could be at a lower rate. We suggest 3-4 levels or tiers: 6 cents/kWh for the first 500kWh and then progressive higher rates for the next levels. Consider offering various packages or combinations of facility charges and electricity charges from which a customer could select. We also encourage Lake Country Power to offer broader incentives for solar photovoltaic and hot water. Lake Country Power should be more considerate of those who struggle to keep a cabin in the family given high property taxes.

**Robin and Irene Vora
Ely and Bend, Ore.**

The “community” is MIA at WELY

In mid-April of '95 word drifted through town that CBS icon Charles Kuralt was going to purchase Ely's radio station, WELY. Mike Hillman shared the news with me and a few others. He was not joking.

On July 4, 1995, Gil Knight, Dave Huston, Mike and I went on-air and it was extremely exciting. We were sleep deprived, frazzled, and star struck but not yet sure what was to come.

CBS icon, host of CBS Sunday Morning, whose favorite place, one of them, was Ely, and Moose Lake. Kuralt and WELY were top news as other famous broadcasters stopped by to pay us a visit. That added to the rush and more all-nighters writing copy and news, choosing music and jingles. “Chopper Bob” helicopter traffic reports from above the Quetico-Superior, complete with sound effects, reported jammed portages, loose canoes, pile-ups down the Fernberg and an accident where a large motor home drove into the Kawishiwi River at Lake One thinking it was a drive-thru.

A lot of people came to town, all summer, testing our patience driving on Sheridan Street. Best of days. Kuralt didn't care much for the Smooth Jazz I was playing after 7 p.m. but he laughed at Chopper Bob. And Iron Mike's mix of folk music, poetry and quotes won him over.

What a time in our lives. Merchants had their own hour of chosen music. Mealey's relaxing dinner music played from 6 to 7 p.m. You wanted to tune in and listen to 94.5 AM. We even held a couple live radio Garrison Keillor-style shows at Washington Auditorium, reviewed by Duluth's Dominic Papatola, the now-retired critic for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. He loved it. We took donations and, again, it was the time of our lives.

But in radio, as in television and motion pictures, egos can go wild. A power trip took over at WELY when the smell of fame and notoriety consumed the boss. Firings and termination were a steady play back. Dozens of local volunteers, excited to be there and just wanting to contribute, were “let go.” I trained many to run the boards. Then, with a simple misunderstanding, Chopper Bob was missing in action, never to be heard again.

But it was the best community radio station. Personal messages were heavy and often funny. News was professional with Gil Knight as news director. Dave Huston, our engineer, read the newspaper with the best music, and I had a following with sounds from a Quiet Storm. Damn good contemporary jazz. One evening Jim Brandenburg called in to say he never expected to hear Pat

Matheny and Lyle Mays as he was cruising into town. Best of days.

Almost 30 years later, what is playing on the station now? And who's on-air? One early morning recently my blood pressure rose when I tuned in and heard Kuralt's voice speak the call letters immediately following the trashiest of songs. How sad and, even more so, disrespectful. No more live requests Saturday polka music. Why was Polka Ron Forsman let go? Budget issues? Sell more advertising. As I tune in today, Saturday, no one is managing the station at 8:30 a.m. It's dead air. No Polka Ron. Does that bother anyone or is there so much streaming music to choose from that no one cares? WELY has become a computer-driven formulaic sound, with little resemblance to the live community-centered station it once was. Based on my informal survey of dozens of local citizens, the station has been turned off in most households. They don't care to listen anymore.

There are dozens of area residents who would love to volunteer and be on the radio, on our so-called community radio station, like in the old days. Unfortunately, with the exception of Trader Craig and DJ Hanson, it's a one-man show with little regard for the residents who matter the most. The end of the road comes, eventually.

**Mark Haarman
Ely**

Regional EMS study should be valuable

At the April 12 town board meeting, Greenwood Supervisors voted 5-0 to request proposals from various Emergency Medical Service consultants to do an unbiased, professional study, including recommendations, for a path toward a modern Advanced Life Support ambulance service for our region. The study itself will define the region and point out what the most likely options are. Greenwood's focus has purely been on the best possible well-being of folks in the area who dial 911 for an ambulance. I always keep in mind that “the patient comes first.” That's an easy guideline to follow.

The city of Tower and the other townships in the TAAS district should have nothing to fear

from this unbiased, professional study. We hope there is cooperation from all once the chosen consultant begins work. That's important. Naturally included in the area to be studied will be Virginia, Cook and Ely.

It's been after considerable thought that Greenwood decided the best way forward to provide modern ambulance care in our area is by hiring an unbiased, professional EMS consultant to gather the facts and come up with recommendations.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp**

Support our St. Louis County teachers

Throughout the pandemic, St. Louis County educators have dedicated themselves to educating our students. We have created and maintained safe, high-quality learning environments that kept students in school and educators in buildings.

Now, we are asking St. Louis County Schools to step up with a contract agreement that honors the work of school staff, and attracts and keeps the best educators for our students.

Our district can't afford to lose good teachers. Educators are at a breaking point—not just here, but across the state and nation. School districts are scrambling to hire and keep teachers and other school staff. The district's current offer would put St. Louis County educators' compensation behind similar districts in our area.

St. Louis County can afford to offer more than a 1 - 1.5 percent-increase in salary. That doesn't come close to covering the rate of inflation. There's \$3.3 million in the district's rainy day fund – 11 percent of the district's annual budget.

Our next step is mediation with the district on May 4. Our union believes we can reach a fair settlement, one that puts students first while acknowledging and respecting the efforts of staff.

St. Louis County educators have been working without a contract for nearly one year. We want to get our focus back where it belongs – in the classroom teaching the future generations of our communities.

**Tim Herring
President, Local 1406
Education Minnesota**

ISD 2142 teachers are hard working

The teachers of ISD 2142 are some of the hardest working teachers I have ever met. I have had the privilege to work in the schools with these teachers for many years as PTO president, a classroom volunteer, a substitute, parent and friend. They are passionate and committed, some driving more than thirty miles one way to teach in our schools. Their goal is to give each student every opportunity possible to help them succeed. They are coming in early, working through lunch, and putting in long hours after school to accomplish this goal. These teachers put in extra hours on weekends and days off to grade papers, make lesson plans, and find resources to make learning fun and engaging for students, while constantly working around budgets and allotted funds to achieve the best learning experience possible. Sometimes they pay for these opportunities and resources out of their own pockets. The teachers of ISD 2142 see students at their best and worst every day. Handling social and behavioral issues that disrupt classroom learning and listening to the cares, concerns and problems that students face every day. At the end of the day, they are physically and emotionally exhausted, but they continue to teach because that's where their heart is. A passion to see the students in our communities learn and be successful, to graduate and go into the world and make it a better place.

The teachers of ISD 2142 deserve to be compensated for their time and the extra efforts they put into their jobs, going above and beyond their job qualifications. This compensation will show that they are valued and appreciated in the community for all their efforts and ensure that our students will have these wonderful, hardworking, committed teachers for years to come.

**Leigh Backe
Babbitt**

FAMILY...Continued from page 4

didn't want to dig into the past, saw no benefit in it, and was very angry when I asked why. That incident clearly showed how we reacted to our upbringing differently. Our parents were very concerned with “looking good,” and my father did not cope with unpleasant emotions, so there was a lot of pretense along with suppressed emotions and “cold” anger. I was the kid with the radar always on alert to figure out what was going on, so I became the adult who wants to discuss and process everything out in the open because that feels safer. My brother followed my dad's lead and prefers to stuff feelings down and walk out of the room or situation or relationship because that feels safer to him. So, we each are a threat to the other. And we were on Day One. I was wishing I'd opted for a three-day visit.

We did have some good moments, but it never felt really relaxed and easy. He resented any expression of concern for or discussion of his health, exhibiting quite a bit of denial. More than once he went from zero to full-blown anger in micro-

seconds, misinterpreting what I had meant or even hearing incorrectly what I actually said. By Day Four, I decided I would just pack up and leave in the morning, exploring the area a bit on my own and catching my flight in the afternoon. I had a wonderful Louisiana lunch with crawfish and beignets and enjoyed the local art museum, wishing we could have done that together because we both enjoy art exhibits, but not for a moment regretting stepping out of the emotional roller coaster.

I did have some good talks with his wife. In fact, I spent more time talking with her than my brother. On that last morning she said that his angry reactions had been getting steadily worse, and she was concerned he might be in the early stages of Alzheimer's. I knew he was feeling sad, too, because he wanted the visit to go well and had done some very thoughtful planning beforehand to ensure my comfort, but he just couldn't control his reactions, and I couldn't find a way to get through to him without triggering more negative reactions. It

was very exhausting.

In planning my trip, I intentionally scheduled my brother first and my good friends in Mississippi second. I've known Susie for 35 years, and she's like a dear sister. We mirror each other in many ways, particularly in our persistent fascination with and need to understand how the world works, meaning what makes people tick, how do organizations and communities function, and, most importantly, how can we create positive change. Sometimes—oftentimes these days—that means trying to discern meaning in chaos while keeping a grip on sanity in a world that often feels berserk. Susie and I can chew on a subject until all the flavor's gone.

We're also very comfortable with each other's differences. She is a professor of chemistry and can get passionate about hydrogen bondings, which all sounds like Greek to me. But she's an intuitive, creative, sensitive person, and we flow from one topic to the next and one activity to the next, just enjoying ourselves and each other's company. Her husband is a perfect match

for her, also a scientist, also a creative, smart, curious, inventive, accepting, and loving person who wants to leave the world a better place.

He welcomes me into their life and has become a good friend. We get each other's humor and laugh a lot.

Coming from my brother's to my friends' home felt like escaping from a gloomy, gray unsafe mental ward into a warm, sunshiny nest of welcome, acceptance, and friendship. I will always be sad that my brother struggles to make friends and that he and I have not been able to figure out how to be easy with each other, but I am eternally grateful for the wonderful friends I have been so lucky to have in my life.

I found a fitting quote this week from Siobham Shaw: “The Easter egg symbolizes our ability to break out of the hard, protective shell we've surrounded ourselves with.” May we all be so blessed and have loving others around us to help us hatch.

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

ly and indicated that they would like to see the results for individual schools. “If you think about my role, I'm really kind of a case manager for the schools,” Isom said. “I'm trying to figure out how to strategically plan and assess a school's readiness for training. I'm really looking

at each school individually and thinking about who is ready for this, just like we would do in a classroom when somebody's ready to learn information.”

Isom also noted that one crucial element in ISD 2142 being selected as a pilot district for Project AWARE was the county's

suicide rate among young people.

“St. Louis County has had a higher number, unfortunately, of suicides between the ages of ten and 24 for the last ten years, so that is also a reason we received this grant,” she said.

Project AWARE

won't be focused solely on in-school resources, Isom said, but will also look at how schools interface with community mental health resources to help students.

“I do think we're on the right track,” Engebritson said. “It's exciting, and it's exciting that it's for five years.”



the
TIMBERJAY

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Week of April 25

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 May 17.

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

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

Tower/Soudan Community Bible Study- Thursdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Tower Elementary School cafeteria. All are welcome. Call 218-984-3402 for more info.

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on April 28.

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

Cemetery clean-up day in Vermilion Lake Township

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township is holding its annual cemetery clean-up day on Saturday, April 30 starting at 1 p.m. Rain date will be May 7. Please bring shovels and rakes since the township supply is limited.

Golden Eagles Youth Soccer

TOWER- Join us for our second year of after-school soccer in Tower. Soccer will be held Thursdays after school from 3 to 4:30 p.m. starting April 28. Thanks to a generous grant from Lake Country Power's Operation Roundup® program, the program now has regulation size nets and shin guards. Children ages 7 - 12 are encouraged to register through Community Ed at <https://slc2142.revtrak.net> by Wednesday, April 27. Class fee is \$6. Contact Coach Amy Banks at 612-281-5808 with questions, or if you have soccer expertise and want to help. Additional parent coaches are welcome.

Northeast Range Spring Band Concert on April 26

BABBITT- The Northeast Range Music Department invites the community to their Spring Band Concert on Tuesday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at the School Auditorium in Babbitt.

Students from both Babbitt-Embarrass and Tower-Soudan will be performing in the Elementary and High School Bands. They will be directed by Mr. Kyle Ballou.

This is a free event; however, donations are always welcome.

Come and recognize our students' great achievements this school year.

T-Ball and Coach Pitch Baseball sign-up info is on page 3B

EASTER EGG FUN



Family fun

TOWER- The Tower Fire Department sponsored this year's Easter Egg Hunt on April 16 at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center. The event was back after being canceled the past two years. About 1,000 plastic eggs were scattered on the grounds, but they were quickly picked up by all the kids who attended. There was plenty of candy and prizes for all. The Easter Bunny was there to hand out even more candy, and children had the opportunity to decorate an Easter egg cookie.

Zup's Grocery donated hot dogs and chips for the event.

Top: Ella Trancheff says hello to the Easter Bunny. Left: Volunteer Amy Raj help children pick out their prizes. Below: Ellie Jankowski gets some candy from the Easter Bunny. Bottom: Collecting eggs on the snowy morning.
photos by T. Trucano-Majerle



EASTER FUN AT CARE FREE LIVING



The Easter Bunny made a surprise visit to Ely's Care Free Living facility Saturday afternoon. Resident Betty Kunstel, left, jumped on the visitor's lap for a photo opportunity. photos by K. Vandervort

Tuesday Group

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

► April 26 -- Looking ahead to Mental Health Awareness Month. This program will be offered in-person only.

► May 3 -- Meet New Elyites.

► May 10 -- On Facilitating a Dialogue with Nature with Rachelle Elizabeth. Rachelle Elizabeth will share her work on how aesthetic dialogue, can create a relationship with nature.

AROUND TOWN

Prospector Alliance seeks bridge railing help

ELY - The Prospectors Alliance has a major project and they need a group of volunteers. This winter they had a contractor build a permanent bridge over the Beaver River, and the club needs to construct the railing on both sides of the structure. About two thousand feet, approximately one thousand on each side, needs to be built, including some curbing, but no railing. They hoped to begin this week, and need to have it completed before Sunday, May 1.

Alliance officials will try to have a crew leader available whenever most volunteers are available, during the day, after work

or on weekends. The Prospectors Alliance will try to provide tools and equipment. Most of this work will be drilling and securing treated lumber with either carriage bolts or lag screws to the existing bridge platform. The Prospectors Alliance has some cordless drills, hammers, generators, chainsaw, pry bars and other necessary hand tools.

Depending upon conditions, volunteers may be able to access the work site by pickup. If it is too wet or frost is still coming out, access may be by ATV only.

To volunteer, contact Ron Potter, 218-235-0382 or rgpotter@frontiernet.net.



Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



new birds landing near trying to identify

still a bit unclear

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays Phone: 218-365-5140

Babbitt library

Monday Noon-6 pm
Tuesday Noon-6 pm
Wednesday Noon-6 pm
Thursday Noon-6 pm
Friday Noon-5 pm
Phone: 218-827-3345

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 - at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is canceled.
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerrock Church, 1515 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

Ely Rotary Club collects funds for Ukraine relief

ELY - The Rotary Club of Ely has received an overwhelming response to their call for donations supporting the Rotary Foundation's Ukrainian Disaster Relief Fund. Last week, the Rotary Club held a social Bingo night at the Ely Senior Center with all proceeds to support the Ukrainian Disaster Relief Fund.

To date the Rotary Club of Ely has raised almost \$14,000 from the community, Ely Rotary members,

and including a \$4,000 match from the Rotary Club of Ely.

These contributions will go to support the Rotary International Foundation Disaster Relief Fund. A second check will be sent at the end of the campaign later this month.

"We are thrilled with the response by both members of our Rotary Club of Ely and the community. The need for Ukrainian Relief does not

seem to be going away anytime soon, so we are proud to be part of the relief effort," said Rotary Club of Ely President Todd Heiman

"The Rotary Foundation will utilize its Disaster Relief Fund in response to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Through the official channels of the Rotary Foundation, donors worldwide can donate with confidence and know that their contri-

butions will go directly to those who need it most," he said.

For those who would like to support this cause, visit the Ely Rotary website at <https://elyrotary.org/> and click the donate button on the homepage. Or, make a check out to Ely Rotary Club and write Ukraine Relief in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to: Rotary Club of Ely, P.O. Box 222, Ely, MN 55731.

EMPOWER marks Earth Day 2022

ELY - EMPOWER, a progressive women's group will meet on Monday, April 25 at 5 p.m. outside of the entrance to the Grand Ely Lodge, for their Trezona Trail Spring Cleanup and Earth Day Celebration. Garbage bags will be provided, but bring work gloves.

Participants must be an EMPOWER member to attend. To become a member, mail a \$25 check for annual dues, payable to EMPOWER PO Box 14, Ely, MN 55731. Only women may join.

Higher Education - 2022-2023 Scholarships awarded by VCC Foundation

ELY – A total of \$73,750 was awarded this spring by the Vermilion Community College Foundation to the following 2022-2023 scholarship recipients:

American Legion Drum and Bugle Corp Scholarship-\$250: Drayke Hanninen
Anne Rozman Scholarship-\$750: Sophia Kurnava
Barbara and Bill Rom Scholarship-\$1,000-: Brett Moschel
Bear Island Surveying Scholarship – \$1,500: Julie Fornengo
Bert Hoyer Memorial NRT Internship Scholarship-\$250: John Butala, Casey Meadows, Samuel Nelson
Blaine Diesslin and Lucille Barnes-Diesslin Scholarship- est. \$7,500: Hailey Buckentin
Bob and Lil Cary Memorial Scholarship-\$500: Kayla Plucinski
Charles D. Novak Scholarship-\$1,500: LilyAnne Thomas
Christy Skraba Memorial Scholarship-\$1,000: Michael Trucano
Compeer NRT Scholarship -\$1,250: Kaylea Eichberg, Bode Rasmussen
Darlene McDonald Memorial Scholarship-\$300: Brenna Grangroth
Edward and Ester Nelson Transfer Scholarship-\$1,000: Gracie Pointer, Gabriel Pointer
Ely Branch, American Association of University Women (AAUW) Scholarship-\$500: Courtney Schurhammer
Ely EMPOWER Scholarship -\$500: Asmaa Myran
Ely Pickleball Club Scholarship -\$500: Matt Janeksala
Ely Rotary Club William Mills Memorial

Scholarship-\$750: Laqwan Sims
Everett Laitala Memorial Scholarship-\$1,500: Nicholas Hagen
Erik Ness Memorial Scholarship-\$1,000: Christopher Mitchell
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Scholarship-\$1,000: Brett Moschel
George Covich Memorial Scholarship-\$300: Mike Feralio
Jason Henry Memorial Scholarship – \$650: Sam Coleman
Joseph and L. Patrick Markovich Memorial Scholarship-\$1,000: Courtney Schurhammer, Daniel Lauritsen
Joseph and Theresa Popesh Transfer Scholarship – \$3,000: Sidney Marshall
Herb Moline Memorial Scholarship – Biology-\$400: Xavier Pauly
Herb Moline Memorial Scholarship – Fine Arts- \$500: Matt Janeksala
Kiwans Club of Ely Scholarship-\$1,500: Kellen Thomas
Lake Country Power Les Beach Memorial-\$1,000: Edward Prijatel
Listening Point Foundation -\$1,500: Nicholas Hagen
Living the Dream Memorial – \$500: Xavier Pauly
Lobe Helping Hands Scholarship -\$2,500: Annikka Mattson
Merle Lunceford Memorial Scholarship-\$500: Naomi Bollman, Jacob Worley
Michael S. Smith and Janice Smith-\$1,500: Sam Coleman
Minnesota Workforce Development Vet Tech Scholarship – \$2500: Misty Bozich, Savannah Kilde, Kathryn Melby, LilyAnne

Thomas
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation Vet Tech Scholarship (To be awarded at a later date) LilyAnne Thomas, Cassidy Zimmer
Noel Tedrow Memorial Scholarship-\$2,700: Jack Hasty
Northshore Mining/Cliffs Natural Resources Scholarship-\$250: Drayke Hanninen
Reno and Barbara Garni Scholarship -\$1,000: Alex Draeger
Rudy Semeja Memorial Scholarship-\$300: Dylan Nelson
St. Louis County Minerals Royalties Scholarship – \$1,500: Josie Anderson, Drayke Hanninen, Matt Janeksala, Edward Prijatel, LilyAnne Thomas, Gavin Valento
Steger Environmental Science Award Scholarship-\$1,000: Kailey Buckentin
Supporters of the Vermilion Water Program Scholarship-\$250: Jack Hasty
Twin Cities Iron Rangers Association Scholarship-\$750: Travis Vervick
Twin Metals Scholarship -\$1,000: Keirstin Lisell, Ryan Paliewicz
VCC Advisory Board Scholarship -\$900: Eric Josephson
VCC Faculty Association Scholarship -\$400: Kayla Plucinski, Jennifer Shuster, Michael Trucano
VCC Foundation Scholarship-\$500: John Butala, Monica Gross
VCC New Student Achievement Scholarship-\$500: Josie Anderson, Holly Engel
Vermilion Range Trap Club Scholarship-\$250: Max Marcotte
Vermilion Veterans Scholarship \$500: Chloe Marie Sullivan

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

State tests help shape school's curriculum

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- It's testing time for North Woods School students, specifically the annual Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment tests of reading, mathematics, and science.

Students in fourth through sixth grades were taking the computerized assessment on Monday, and eighth graders were scheduled to take the math assessment later in the week.

Reading and math tests are typically administered to students in third through eighth grades, and high school students in tenth grade take the reading MCA and students in eleventh grade take the math MCA. The Science MCA is administered to students in fifth and eighth grades and in the high school grade when students take a life science or biology course.

In the digital age, the days of using a No. 2 pencil to carefully fill in ovals on a paper score sheet are gone. Virtually all of the students take the computer-based tests online, except for those who need special testing accommo-

datations. The online tests are designed to adapt their questions as students move through assessment. For example, a student's answer to one math question will help to determine what the next question presented to the student will be. The assessments are aligned with the Minnesota Academic Standards developed by the state Department of Education.

COVID disruptions

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the state in March 2020, education was severely disrupted by transitioning to a system of distance learning that had to be quickly cobbled together by school personnel who were mostly unfamiliar with wholesale online education. With family routines also thrown into disarray, the department canceled MCA testing that was scheduled for that year.

State schools operated under Safe Learning Plans for the 2020-21 academic year, employing a variety of in-person, hybrid, and distance learning models as dictated by community case and transmission levels for COVID-19. Even when in-person learning

was taking place, schools had to offer the option of distance learning for

indicating that on average, U.S. elementary and secondary students came to



families, in many cases creating additional strain on classroom teachers. Students and staff were masked and social distancing measures were implemented to lessen the likelihood of COVID transmission. Students exposed to a case of COVID-19 would be isolated and miss class time until cleared to return to school.

The MCAs were administered in late spring of 2021, and when the results were tabulated, it was clear that the pandemic had taken its toll on student learning. Statewide, the percentage of students reading at grade level dropped to 53 from 60 in 2019. Steeper drops were seen in math and science performance. Similar results were seen nationwide, with one comprehensive study in-

school in the fall of 2021 four months behind where they would have been without the pandemic.

This year

With challenges persisting from the past two years coupled with the large Delta COVID wave in the fall and the record-breaking Omicron wave in January and February, the 2021-22 has been anything but normal for the staff at North Woods, according to Principal John Vukmanich.

"The biggest challenge coming into this year was not knowing what it would look like while still having the hope it would be normal," Vukmanich said. "Getting our students back into the building on a regular schedule and in session every day was very important. Another challenge was getting our

kids re-engaged with academics."

But getting back to reading, math, science and more wasn't going to be as simple as stepping back into a classroom for many.

"With two years of pandemic isolation for many of our kids, and sort of a sense of the unknown, social-emotional learning has been a critical component to this school year," Vukmanich said. "The social emotional part of kids coming back into school, making sure that they're all feeling supported, and that our staff are also feeling supported, is just as important a component of success as the engagement with academics."

Many kids had to relearn some of the basic social norms important to group instruction, such as taking turns and paying attention. Additional stress and uncertainty from the pandemic left others with negative feelings that might play out in isolation for one child and acting out for another. All of the staff worked to create a learning environment that was supportive of children's needs and supportive of learning.

Formal academic assessments like the MCA

are often a source of increased stress in schools, but Vukmanich said the students were well prepared for them.

"Our teachers do a really great job of preparing kids for the tests," he said. "They teach to the standards and get kids emotionally ready by not overemphasizing the importance of the test. We want and encourage our kids to do their best, but we don't want them to feel like it's a point of stress for them."

While individual student results are given to parents, Vukmanich said the MCA is less about individual student performance, which is measured in multiple ways throughout the year, and more about providing another measurement for school improvement.

"We look at the MCA more from a standpoint of looking at our student scores to find places where we need to improve our instruction," he said. "It's another tool, another assessment we can use to inform instruction."

Vukmanich said he anticipates the school will be finished with all of its MCA assessments by early May.



Above: Some of the 18 dogs abandoned on April 5 along Ash River Trail near Kabetogama.

Left: This youngster is one of four pups recovered by rescuers.

Right: A rescued adult dog.

submitted photos



Rescuers working hard to retrieve 18 abandoned dogs

KABETOGAMA- Volunteers have been making some headway in an extraordinary effort to corral a group of at least 18 dogs that were abandoned around April 5 along Ash River Trail between Orr and Kabetogama, but they could still use some help.

Four puppies that were among those abandoned were rescued immediately and placed in a shelter or new homes. The remaining dogs scattered, and as of Wednesday, April 20 nine had been recovered.

The remaining dogs have been seen as far south as Cusson, west of Littlefork, and north to International Falls. One

was rescued in Ontario after crossing the Rainy River and is now back in the US with rescuers.

Volunteer groups from The Retrievers, Lost K9, and Safe Hands Rescue have provided people, traps, and other resources to help, and foster/rescue groups like Adopt A Husky Minnesota are providing temporary shelter for the animals.

A Facebook page, Ash River Abandoned Dogs Rescue Updates, has been set up to report on the progress of the search and rescue effort. A GoFundMe page has been set up at <https://www.gofundme.com/ahs-river-abandoned-dogs-rescue> for contri-

butions to defray the expenses incurred by those who have been actively involved in the wide-ranging effort.

If you believe you have spotted a wayward dog, organizers ask that you not post the sighting publicly to the rescue update page. Instead, a private message can be sent through the page or directly to volunteers Amanda Vogel or Sabrina Murray. As volunteers are trying to get spotted animals accustomed to an area as they try to trap them, people should not try to approach the dogs themselves but instead send information describing the dog and where and when it was seen.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Clay and writing classes are NWFA events in May

COOK- Classes and workshops will begin again in May at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts.

Two classes, one featuring ceramics and the other writing, will be featured at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook.

"Curious and Creative Clay and Glaze" will be taught by Lyn Reed in two Saturday sessions on May 21 and 28, both scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon.

Participants will use clay and slab building techniques to create a cylinder that can be shaped into a mug, a vase, or other container during the first session. The second week will be devoted to glazing the creations. Objects will then be taken off-site for firing and then returned to the gallery for pick up.

The course fee is \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. A \$25 materials fee will be paid to the instructor. Class size is limited to ten.

Also on Saturday, May 21, Ellie Larmouth will reprise her popular Writers Gathering from 2 to 4 p.m. at the gallery. The writing workshop is free and open to all. Registration for the clay class can be completed at the gallery during regular business hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., by emailing nwfamn.org@gmail.com, or by mail at NWFA, P.O. Box 44, Cook MN 55723.

VHHP to Hold Fiesta Night on May 5

COOK- Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Inc, invites the public to join them for dinner and a guest speaker on May 5 at the Fiesta Night fundraiser.

Fiesta Night will be at the Cook Community Center on Thursday, May 5, with social hour featuring festive mocktails beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will feature a taco bar. Raffle baskets will be available to bring in funds to support VHHP's mission.

Dinner tickets are available for \$25 per couple in advance from any board member or at the door for \$30 per couple. More information is available at www.vhhp.org.

National Day of Prayer to be observed on May 5

COOK- The National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5 will be observed in Cook at noon by the flag in park by City Hall.

Pastor Linda Freeman, along with other Christian leaders and area citizens who value the privilege of public prayer, will gather

to join in praying aloud for our country, its institutions, all of its people, and the help God offers to people everywhere throughout the world who acquaint themselves with the Creator and turn to Christ.

National days of prayer have been celebrated since 1775, and communities throughout the nation will be celebrating 70 years of the modern-day National Day of Prayer.

Come, lift your hearts and minds in prayer, and check with your home church to see if an evening prayer session can also take place for those who work day shifts.

For additional information, call Pastor Freeman at 218-410-1768.

Trinity church community meal to be April 28

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church will be serving its monthly community meal on Thursday, April 28 from 4 to 6 p.m. The menu will be scalloped potatoes and ham with sides. It's free, open to the public, and served as a drive-through. The church extends special thanks to Matt Zupancich at Cook Zup's.

 <h2>Area St. Louis County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility site hours</h2>		
Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Summer Hours Wed: 1pm-4pm Sat: 2:30pm-5:30pm	Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Summer Hours Mon. & Wed: 9am-noon Sat: 10:30am-1:30pm	Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 8am-noon
Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am-1pm, Thu: 2pm-7pm Sat: 8am-noon, Sun: 10am-2pm	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Summer Hours Tue: 2pm-6pm; Thu: 10am-1pm, Sat: 1pm-5pm; Sun: 3pm-6pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Summer Hours Tue: 1-6pm, Thu: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: noon-6pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle 
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm		
3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm		
<i>Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th</i>		

CORONAVIRUS

North Country bucks COVID-19 trend for now

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Mayo Clinic projects growth of cases in greater Minnesota

REGIONAL- While St. Louis County continues to average about two dozen new COVID cases a day, according to the seven-day case average, for the time being North Country residents can point to their neighbors to the south as the source.

For the first time since mid-July 2021, last week's state report for the six zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay* showed only two new cases, both in Embarrass. The report also brought to an end the region's longest streak of consecutive weeks with new cases, also dating back to last July, as none were recorded for Ely in the April 14 report.

The numbers are con-

sistent with those on the county's COVID dashboard of regional cases per 100,000 people, which, due to reporting and verification practices, lags by a couple of weeks. Between March 20 and April 3, that rate in the Duluth area rose from 94 to 110.7. The northern part of the county went in the opposite direction, starting at 61 on March 20 and dropping to 31 by April 3.

Statewide case numbers reported by the Minnesota Department of Health show a moderate week to week increase, with the average of 724 new cases per day between April 13 and April 19 about 40 percent higher than the average of 513 cases per

day the prior week.

"We have seen an uptick in cases over the last couple of weeks, but I'm happy to say those increases have been fairly moderate," Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm told Minnesota Public Radio on Monday. "We're not seeing the kind of rapid, almost vertical increase in cases that we saw in December. We're watching it very closely, but so far we're feeling a little more comfortable with what's going on. As of last week, we had three southern border counties that were in the moderate community spread range, but the rest of the state was in low risk." As of Thursday, April 14, the COVID data tracker

map maintained by the Centers for Disease Control showed all Minnesota counties in green, indicating low community levels. North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa had pockets of medium COVID levels, with additional such areas stretching southward through the Midwest into Texas. The highest concentrations of COVID cases were in the New England states, with over half of Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire showing moderate levels and over half of New York experiencing moderate to high levels of community spread.

But with cases going up again in 34 states, driven largely by the highly contagious BA.2 Omicron

subvariant, Minnesota may soon see its case count increase more widely.

The Mayo Clinic's COVID status and forecasting map doesn't use the same terminology or data calculations as the CDC's COVID tracker, but across the next two weeks it predicts case rates per 100,000 people rising in both the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota.

St. Louis County is not one of the counties projected to see an increase by May 1, but the projections show movement in this direction with newly elevated levels in Cass and Kanabec counties. As St. Louis County has been among the last counties in the state to experience prior case surges,

cases may well tick upward here within a few weeks. "It's pretty clear now that COVID, or SARS-CoV-2, is not going to go away, we're going to be dealing with it as a recurring virus," Malcolm said. "With so much transmission still happening around the world and over a million cases a day globally, it's a lot of opportunity for the virus to spin off these variants. The way to keep it manageable, is to keep it from causing such huge disruption and damage to health, is to get vaccinated, staying up to date. And, also, making sure testing is robust so that people know their status and can take appropriate preventive actions."

EMPLOYMENT

State notches sixth straight month of job growth

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- "Help Wanted" signs are a common sight in storefronts these days as Minnesota and the nation continue to emerge from the COVID pandemic recession, but with record low unemployment and a labor pool still somewhat depressed from pre-pandemic levels, employers in most business and industry sectors are still having tough times filling those new jobs.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) touted the job growth numbers in a press release,

noting that March was the sixth consecutive month that the state has posted job gains.

The COVID recession was dramatically different from the previous two recessions in 2007 and 2001 in both the number of jobs lost and the speed at which they disappeared. During the first two months of the COVID recession, March and April 2020, the state's economy saw more than 410,000 jobs disappear. In a year and a half, about three-fourths of those jobs, 334,500, were recovered. However, with the pace of job creation slowing, DEED officials estimate job numbers won't return to pre-pandemic levels until

December 2023.

From March 2021 to March 2022, the leisure and hospitality sector, which saw the greatest job losses, had the greatest gains, picking up 36,198 jobs. Mining and logging bucked a national downward trend by adding 261 jobs during the same time period. The only sectors to see declines year-to-year were financial activities, down 1,562 jobs, and education and health services, down 326 jobs.

DEED's data also showed that the shape of job losses and increases during the pandemic varied among industry sectors. Mining offers a good example. It took the mining industry just 10 months to recover

all of the 1,200 jobs it lost, but no job growth followed. Employment contracted again in May 2021 and stayed below pre-pandemic levels for five months. On a percentage basis, however, mining posted the second-highest lost jobs recovery rate about all industries at 94.5 percent.

Minnesota's unemployment rate of 2.5 percent in March tied for the lowest level ever recorded in February 1999 and was 1.1 percent better than the national rate.

Part of the growth in employment was driven by people returning to the work force. The labor participation rate ticked up from 67.9 to 68.1 percent,

again higher than nationally.

"It's good news for Minnesota that more people are returning to the labor force as job growth continues to surge," DEED Commissioner Steve Grove said. "However, many Minnesotans who want to work are not connecting with stable employment."

A recent DEED report shows that potential employees who are black, over the age of 55, or have lower educational attainment levels are having less success in returning to stable employment, the same challenges these groups faced prior to the pandemic.

In the realm of com-

pensation, the news from DEED wasn't so positive. While low-wage, high-demand jobs have been seeing greater overall wage increases, compensation isn't keeping up with inflation. Over the past year, the average hourly wage increase for private sector workers was 4.9 percent, well shy of the corresponding inflation rate of 8.5 percent. The results were similar when factoring two years of date, with wages rising 6.3 percent and inflation going up by 11.4 percent. Wage increases in Minnesota lagged behind the national one-year rate of 5.8 percent and two-year rate of 9.6 percent.

2022 TIMBERJAY EASTER WINNERS

REGIONAL - Listed below are the 2022 Timberjay Newspapers Easter Box winners.

ORR

Lumber Orr Hardware:
Jack Pasternack
Pelican Bay Foods:
Timothy Clinton
Orr Muni: Vondalee Carr
Park State Bank Orr:
Kandis Garcia

COOK

Waschke Family
Chevrolet: Steve Fogelberg
Cook Building Center:
Darcy Gibson

North Star Credit Union:
Mike Triska
1st National Bank:
Jennifer Herdman
McDonald's Cook: Carol Herdman
Park State Bank Cook:
James Aker
Barb Hegg (Vermilion Land Office): Emma Bratley
Zup's Grocery Cook:
Terry Swanson

TOWER/SOUDAN

Tower-Soudan Agency:
Mel Bremer
Soudan Store: Greta Brown

Frandsen Bank Tower:
Laura Alarcon
Vermilion Fuel & Food:
David Ferrian
Good Ol' Days: Jim Runkle
EVCU Tower: Valeda
"Pauly" McDonald
Ubetcha Antiques & Uniques: Jessica Johnson
Vermilion Park Inn:
Margaret Maki
Lamppa Manufacturing:
Maria Larson
Sulu's Espresso Café: Len Stefanich
Zup's Grocery Tower:
Sarah Kinnunen

D'Erick's Tower Liquors:
Not Available

ELY

Dee's Bar: Becky Meador
Frandsen Bank Ely: Milton Beyer
Merhar's Ace Hardware:
Butch Pecha
Piragis: Shaun Vass
Ely Auto: Not Available
Potluck Kitchenware: Kate Willis
Grand Ely Lodge,
Evergreen: Shari Saw
Zup's Ely: Jordyn Stocks
Ely Flower & Seed: Alice Swiontek

Front Porch Coffee & Tea:
Zaiden Alexander
Range Cenex Ely: Kim Anderson
Gracie's Plantworks:
Joellen Murphy
Subway Ely: David Beans
Wintergreen: Sophia Duhn

BABBITT

Range Cenex Babbitt:
Kathy Laine
Zup's Grocery Babbitt:
Nina Honkola

EMBARRASS

EVCU Embarrass:
Roxanne Ferrian

ROADS...Continued from page 1

warm-up in late March is part of the problem. Several days of spring-like weather thawed road surfaces and prompted the posting of load limits for gravel roads across the county. That's prevented county road crews from either snowplowing or grading as the combination of freezing and thawing, along with at least half a dozen moderate snowfalls so far this month, have left gravel roads frequently snow-covered, with either frozen ruts or a muddy mess, depending on the day.

"When road restrictions hit, gravel roads are automatically a five-ton posting," said Boder.

County plow trucks run 45,000-50,000 pounds unloaded and tip the scales at 70,000 pounds with a load of salt and gravel. "For us to go out under the current conditions would do more damage than we could ever justify," he added.

The county plow trucks don't have the fine blade control of most smaller plows, designed for pickups, which means they require a hard, frozen surface to prevent road damage. Once the top layer of the gravel roads begins to thaw, plowing becomes difficult, notes Boder. "We'd be plowing a lot of gravel into the ditches," he said.

While the county does have underbody plows that it can deploy in the event of a major snowfall, he said it hasn't been worth the mess it would create given that most of recent snows have been in the three-to-five inch range, which is generally passable for most vehicles.

The abundance of potholes right now isn't unusual in the late winter or early spring, but the frequency of precipitation this month has made it almost impossible for the county to address the issue. "We can't grade under these conditions," said Boder. "We'd just make mud."

Bringing in more mate-

rial isn't an option either, notes Boder, because any fresh gravel would only add to the muddy conditions.

For now, said Boder, residents along gravel roads should keep their fingers crossed for a change in the weather pattern, in favor of warmer and drier conditions. "If we were to have a string of five days of dry weather, we might try to get out there and take care of some of the worst of the worst," he said.

Meanwhile, the weather forecast offers little in the way of relief.

On top of Monday's and Wednesday's snowfalls, the forecast is calling for rain on Saturday, with

colder weather and on and off chances of rain or snow next week.

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St. Louis County Solid Waste Facility Area site hours

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

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

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

Ely school renovation and building project progresses inside

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – With a September deadline looming and winter weather still swirling outside, the \$21.5 million school facility renovation and building project is progressing indoors, according to ISD 696 Interim Superintendent John Klarich.

School board members anticipate receiving a detailed progress report from construction officials on the \$21.5 million at their regular meeting on Monday.

A building that will link the Washington and Memorial structures is up and plans call for it to be open when the 2022-23 school year begins in September.

With plans calling for the students and staff to

occupy the new building linking the Washington and Memorial buildings on the first day of school on Sept. 6, inflation, supply chain woes and increasing costs are keeping school officials working on several options for additional funding.

“The project is moving along internally,” Klarich told the school board last week. “The new fire hydrant (at the back of the campus), and the water main work in the front will not take place until school is out and the students are gone.”

Despite additional grant funding, the added required infrastructure work will cost the district more than \$350,000 extra.

This week, interior work is continuing in the new building that houses an additional gymnasium, commons area, cafeteria

and kitchen, media center, industrial and music education class areas, office spaces for the district and both schools, and a new centralized secure entrance

Klarich discussed the growing pile of construction “change orders” for the project.

“I had a long discussion with Todd Erickson (from Kraus-Anderson), the principals, and facilities committee,” he said. “Everything they send us is a change order,” as he held up a stack of documents. “They have ‘change order’ written here, but they are not change orders.”

When school officials approved the boys and girls lockers rooms and the special education area (in Bid Package Four), quotes were required for each portion of work, he said.

“These are not a neg-

ative toward the project, but are within the original scope and budget of the project. I told Todd that we should have a different name. These are not change orders. It is fulfilling a bid.”

Klarich reported that he recently approved a \$3,190 change order to Red Cedar Steel Erectors to resolve an unforeseen discrepancy in anchoring the new building to the existing structure.

“We put a building in between two other buildings and it has to be anchored and secured. Well, we were seven inches off on one measurement on one of the buildings,” he said. “They had to extend two joists and they cut and welded steel plates to secure it all to keep the integrity of the building. We are trying to connect two 100-year-old build-

ings. Being a few inches off does happen.”

That expense will come out of the contingency fund, according to Klarich.

“It started out in the \$900,000 range and is now down to about \$400,000. We will have an update on the contingency fund balance at the end of the month,” he said.

Klarich said the walls in the new building are nearly up.

“The electrical work is getting ready. Things will start moving a little quicker now,” he said.

In terms of the project budget, Klarich added, “We are working diligently on that. Our lobbyists, the Costin Group, Gary Cerkvenik and Jeff Anderson, have two or three bills down in the state legislature. We are not in there

by ourselves. We are with a group of schools, including Chisholm, Hibbing and Rock Ridge to get some dollars. We are looking at sales tax help and help from the supply chain increases. We are trying to make up the difference that we lost due to COVID affecting prices in the supply chain, and delivery and everything.”

The state legislature’s regular session will end on May 23.

“We are hoping all parties can get a lock and craft bills that will be acceptable to all, especially in education. In the meantime, it is tough to plan a budget. We are constantly meeting with various groups and looking at funding options and resources for use to complete the project as it was originally intended. That’s my goal,” Klarich said.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Homeowner arrested after making incriminating statements in Britt house fire

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

BRITT- A 51-year-old Britt homeowner is being held without bail in St. Louis County Jail on suspicion of first-degree arson after a fire on Friday at a residence in Britt.

At approximately

12:14 p.m. on Friday, April 15, St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office deputies were dispatched to a house fire in the 8600 block of Donnywood Circle W. in Britt when a neighbor reported flames coming out of a window of the residence.

While responding

to the address, deputies encountered a male walking on a nearby roadway and discovered he was the homeowner of the residence that was on fire. The homeowner, Devin Hadersbeck, made statements to the deputies related to the house fire which lead to his arrest on

the arson charge.

Sandy-Pike-Britt, Cook, Embarrass, Mt. Iron and Evergreen fire departments responded and extinguished the fire, preventing it from spreading to a detached garage.

The home, described in county property records as a four-bedroom home

co-owned with Kristin L. Weigel with an estimated market value of \$140,600, appeared to sustain severe fire, smoke and water damage.

No people were injured during the fire, however three cats inside the residence perished as a result of the fire.

The incident remains under investigation by the St. Louis Co. Sheriff’s Office and MN State Fire Marshalls Office.

If convicted of felony first degree arson, Hadersbeck faces maximum penalties of 20 years in prison and/or a \$20,000 fine.

ELY...Continued from page 1

“There are lots of non-profits, but these agencies provide direct services and were directly affected by the pandemic,” he said. “And the four applications we received requested funds equaling about a third of our total

funds, with the rest being split between broadband and infrastructure.”

Mayor Roger Skraba added, “We had some robust discussion about how much each group should get and how we should do this. The groups’

contributions to the community helped me make my decision. You got the seniors, the food shelf, daycare, and youth. This is fair. We are helping those groups in the community that need it.”

Budget committee

member Al Forsman said the federal government “came out with a lengthy 44-page guide on what is eligible and what is not eligible” for the funds.

“We did have some latitude, but this is what we came up with,” he said.

Langowski added, “The expenses or the request for money was for funds lost during the pandemic. And there was additional pressure put on the Food Shelf and how they are trying to provide additional services to the community. We had a good discussion and the committee came to a consensus that these groups absolutely meet the requirements.”

Other Ely non-profits can still request ARPA funds.

“We did reach out as far as we could. Some groups did not submit anything. Other groups submitted letters supporting other groups requesting funds,” Langowski said. “We still have the ability. The money has to be spent by the end of 2024. We obviously wanted to get

that first allocation out there as we received it.”

Emergency Management

Council members approved a recommendation from the Projects Committee to request \$2.4 million in federal funding for a new emergency services building. According to Projects Committee minutes from their April 11 meeting, the Ambulance Joint Powers Board continues to look at funding for a new building with a current cost estimate of \$3.2 million. The city of Ely needs space to store emergency response equipment, at an estimated cost of \$800,000. A new emergency response facility could cost as much as \$4 million. State Sen. Tom Bakk is supporting a request for \$1.6 million in state funding if the community can fund the remainder.

On a recommendation from the Budget Committee, council members agreed to increase the pay for the Emergency

Management Coordinator position from \$300 to \$500 per quarter. That stipend will be paid to an existing police department member who agrees to take on the added responsibilities.

Council member Forsman reversed his previous concerns with the minor stipend increase. “As you know, I questioned this pay raise, but with the new job description, and the (added) accountability to the council, I feel I can now support this,” he said.

Other business

In other business, the council:

- Heard a request from a citizen’s group asking for a letter of support in asking for more Tourism Bureau marketing dollars to be spent on highlighting the “shoulder seasons” between the summer and winter months, especially for more ATV trail use in the area.

- Approved a request from the Chamber of Commerce to allow them to use the former Kitchen Building at Semer’s Park for storage.

- Approved rental and obstruction permits for the Blueberry Arts Festival and Harvest Moon Festival in 2022.

- Approved a new lease agreement for 2022-2024 with the Ely Golf Club Corp.

- Approved a temporary liquor license for the Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club on June 4 and Oct. 15 at the Miner’s Dry House.

- Approved a Residential Rehab Loan for Alayna Geisler, 121 E. Boundary St. for \$10,000 to replace brick work, chimney flashing and update plumbing.

- Reminded residents that city street winter parking restrictions will remain in place until May 31 unless rescinded earlier, which is unlikely this year as the street sweeper has yet to get outside, according to Langowski.

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Marissa Sauer recently introduced herself to the Ely art scene in the 2022 Ely Art Walk and has joined our Gallery family with her linocut prints. She has been a professional designer and illustrator for decades.

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GOP...Continued from page 1

that one of his heroes is Forrest Gump,” Jensen said. “Forrest Gump said, ‘Stupid is as stupid does,’ and President Biden really took that to heart,” Jensen said to giggles and applause from the partisan crowd.

Jensen, from Laketown Township, was born and raised in Sleepy Eye, graduated valedictorian of his 1973 high school class, obtained an undergraduate degree in physiology, magna cum laude, from the University of Minnesota, and then attended Luther Theological Seminary. He received a medical degree from the U of M in 1981.

A former state senator, Jensen dominated a gubernatorial straw poll held at Republican precinct caucuses earlier this year and joins at least eight other GOP candidates to compete in the Aug. 9 primary to win a spot on the November general election ballot.

“I will take my cue when it comes to leadership, whether you like it or not, from a man who did an incredible amount, and his name started with Donald and ended with Trump,” Jensen said. “You know what, the guy was a leader. He may have done a better job with his Twitter account, but when it came to Supreme Court justices he’s got three rock solids. When it came to policy, when it came to reducing regulations, when it came to the economy, when it came to the income tax in 2017, he drove the dial up. He told America that you are going to engage whether you want to or not.”

Jensen went on to praise the twice-impeached chief executive in his handling of NATO and NAFTA.

“We are going to speak truth to power, regardless of how much pain or trouble I get into, and let me tell you, I find ways to get into trouble. Just ask my mother-in-law,” he added.

Jensen spoke to several issues, including racism.

“We are going to rebel against stupidity,” he said. “Stupidity is Critical Race Theory. Stupidity is saying whatever your children do is because of the color of their skin. Whatever you accomplish is because of



Chad Walsh, above, is running for Sheriff in St. Louis County. Kim Crockett, left, is running for Minnesota Secretary of State. Both candidates were stumping for votes in Ely on Monday.
photos by K. Vandervort

the color of your skin. There is a far greater demand for racism than there is supply. We are not racist. Certainly, we can be better. Don’t call us a racist country. We are doing everything we can to be a land that provides opportunity but we are not going to provide equal outcome. That’s up to you.”

Jensen said that as governor he will speak for all Minnesotans, including the unborn and those “fragile folks at the end of their lives who were forced to die alone because of bizarre and foolish COVID policies.”

He said that because he refused to indicate death by COVID-19 for his patient who died of stage four colon cancer, he went “from being the most celebrated family doctor in Minnesota in 2016 to being the most investigated physician in the state. That was not an honor I aspired to, but I will wear it as a badge of courage, because I did nothing wrong.”

Public safety is also on the list of Jensen’s priorities.

“Without question, there is a poison of lawlessness that is spreading across the land, and it isn’t just in Minneapolis,” he said. “There is a disrespect for police. Police aren’t the bad guys. We have to put more cops on the street, but we have to do more than that. We have to go

after the liberal judges and liberal prosecuting attorneys. We know that catch and release might have some value for walleyes, but it doesn’t do very well for felons.”

In terms of education, Jensen said kids should be funded rather than broken institutions.

“Let’s not make the mistake of bundling teachers with teachers’ unions, because that’s not fair to the teachers. Teachers don’t go into teaching because they want to make a six-figure salary. They go into teaching because they want to touch kids’ lives,” he said.

In his prepared speech, Jensen did not address the sulfide mining issue that continues to divide the Ely community, nor did he reveal what he would do with a nearly \$10 billion state surplus. Near the end of his speech, Jensen laid out a plan for what issues he would tackle in the first 100 days in the Governor’s office:

- Rewrite emergency powers legislation;
- Pass three gun laws, including “stand your

ground,” “constitutional carry at the age of 18,” and “castle doctrine;”

➤ Student choice for education;

➤ Photo ID requirement to vote.

“When I was asked to come to Ely on a Monday night, I said I would be there,” Jensen said. “We have got to energize one another. We have got to electrify Minnesota. We have mama bears and warrior dads and grandparents and activists across Minnesota who say they have had enough. That’s why I’m here.”

Other candidates stump for votes

Kim Crockett spoke to the Ely crowd about election integrity.

“We can’t achieve change unless we win elections,” she said. “It used to be in America that liberals and conservatives could have a conversation and exchange information and ideas without condemning the other person,” she said.

She is looking to unseat Steve Simon, the current Minnesota Secretary of State.

“We are in our 16th

year of a very partisan operation in the office of the Secretary of State,” she said. “This is an office which should be non-partisan in its approach. My goal, should I win, is that Democrats, Independents, Republicans, pot party people, whatever, will say, ‘Crockett runs a clean shop.’”

She is a consultant for a non-profit organization called American Majority, “teaching people about election integrity, here and elsewhere,” and said the last 30 years as a corporate attorney led her to run for the office of Secretary of State.

She asked Ely voters to help her.

“We all want to defeat Walz. We all want to defeat (State Attorney General Keith) Ellison. Everybody knows who they are, but how many of you didn’t know the name of the secretary of state until just recently?” she asked.

“The Democrats are really smart. They focus on elections. We focus on the ‘rah-rah’ of campaigns, and that’s why we’ve been losing over and over again,” she said as she asserted that she “is not a politician but an outsider.”

Crockett implored the audience to sign up to be election judges.

“Vote in person. Let’s starve this chaotic, expensive absentee ballot system,” she said.

Chad Walsh, running to be next sheriff of St. Louis County, was born and raised in Hermantown. He joined the U.S. Army after high school. He served as a law enforcement officer in South Dakota.

He returned to northern Minnesota and started an indoor shooting range business.

“If you want to know where I stand on the Constitution, that’s a clear factor right there,” he said. He also owns a

septic company.

Walsh recently served with the Moose Lake Police Department.

“I realized how much I missed (law enforcement),” he said.

“The sheriff is elected by the people and answers directly to the people,” he said. “Therefore, the sheriff doesn’t answer to a mayor. The sheriff doesn’t answer to the governor, or the president, but directly to the citizens. That’s why the sheriff is the most important person in your county. The sheriff has the power to stand up against all those other folks.”

He spoke to the recent mandated COVID-19 public health protocols put in place by the state and the federal government.

“If the government decides tomorrow that you folks can’t go to church, or that you can’t peacefully assemble, is somebody going to stand up for us, the people?” he asked. “Where was our sheriff when the governor said you folks have no right to go to church, and you have no right to peacefully assemble? We the people need to know that whoever is in that position will stand up for us and our Constitutional rights. That is very important.”

Walsh wouldn’t say whether he is Republican or Democrat in his political position.

“I’m an American citizen, my friend. It doesn’t matter what side of the aisle you’re on. We all live in America. We all want to feel safe,” he said.

He said he was asked if he would make a good sheriff.

“Well, I watched all 290 episodes of the Andy Griffith Show, and I can tell you that 90 of them were in color. I can’t make a great sheriff by myself. The people behind you make a great sheriff, and the communities that you protect.”

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EGGS...Continued from page 1

Easter, which is observed in Ukraine.

The pysanky tradition dates back to the times before Christ. The brightly colored eggs helped herald in the beginning of spring, and then became associated with the Easter holiday. Traditional patterns and designs were passed down through generations in each family, along with the recipes for the natural dyes that were used.

There are many other stories related to the eggs and the power and good luck they conferred.

The eggs, like the country they represent, are both fragile and strong. If stored out of the sun, the colorful dyes last for generations.

John and Denise first learned the art of Ukrainian egg decorating when they took a class in 1985 from a renowned pysanky artist named Lucy Karcok, whose eggs are displayed at the Smithsonian. They continued creating eggs, learning as they went. They taught their four children the craft, and it is something the family likes to do in late winter each year.

"The peasants believed there was great power embodied in the egg, so they decorated them in the spring to celebrate the renewal of nature and life," Denise said. "Geometrically decorated eggs with stylized animals were given to symbolize protection, health, fertility, love, bountiful harvest, prosperity, etc. Once Christianity arrived, symbols of the church and love of God were incorporated."



The Ukrainian art of dying Easter eggs produces multi-colored, geometric designs. photo by J. Summit

The Lindquists have taken the tradition and made it their own. Some of Denise's favorite creations are a series of eggs decorated with turtles, which were their children's favorite animal.

"I like that it is good prayers and wishes if you gift one of these eggs to someone you care about," she said. "It is also fun to share how to create them with others."

The skill is an ancient one, she said. "And it is good to keep this type of thing going."

Traditionally, the dyes used were derived from nature, she said, and a wax resist process was

used. Melted beeswax was applied to the egg between dipping in different colored dyes, starting with lighter colors and then adding a new color in each step. Nowadays, commercially purchased dyes are used, though Denise said learning to make natural dyes was on her "bucket list."

A candle was, and still is, used to melt the wax off the eggs between each trip into the dye bath. The kistka, a copper cone for scooping beeswax which is attached to a dowel and heated by a candle flame, is still traditionally used, but Denise mostly uses an electric version, which allows more detailed placement of

the wax on the egg. She still practices with the old-style kistka, and that was the task given to the participants in the class.

"Everyone enjoyed themselves," she said, "but some had trouble with the kistka. It does take some practice."

Getting the precise geometric and floral patterns placed on a real egg also takes patience and practice.

"This is very challenging," said participant Teresa McCue Thompson, who herself is an expert and teacher of rosemaling, a style of Norwegian folk art painting.

Students rose to the

challenge and produced a nice selection of very colorful eggs. The decorating is done on raw eggs, so stable hands are required as the eggs are painted with wax, dyed, cleaned of wax, and painted again and again. Once completed, the eggs are sprayed with varnish, and once dry, will have two small holes poked in them so the egg white and yolk can be carefully blown out.

Creating a symmetrical design on the egg is a challenge for some, but Denise said it came easily to her.

"It just seems obvious to me," she said. She started out studying art in college but graduated with a dual

major in music and biology. She still teaches piano, but lately those lessons have been over Facetime. Artistic talent runs in her family, she said, noting she has some very talented sisters.

John, a retired St. Louis County health inspector, is a long-time volunteer with the Boy Scouts, leading a troop for 16 years when their children were younger. Denise said they have done the class with kids this age, but often will pencil in the patterns on the eggs to get them started.

The couple retired to a rural area outside of Soudan and live off-the-grid. They garden, harvest and forage for wild foods, make wine and beer, and put up a lot of their own foods. Denise sells their jams and jellies, maple syrup, breads, and treats at the Tower Farmers Market. Right now, they are busy harvesting maple sap from a large grove of trees out on Birch Point that will be sold at the farmers market this summer.

"Our cabin is a work in process," she said. "But it was always a dream to live out here in the woods."

The couple has many other hobbies.

"We like to dabble in interesting things," she said.

The couple was also happy to be able to help out the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. Once the interior of the building is completed, it will become a home for many types of artistic classes, educational talks, and concerts.

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Above and lower right: Ely teachers Amy Kingsley and Tracy Anderson organize the Ely High School Promwear Pop-up store in Room 13 at Memorial School. Outfits will be available all next week. Prom is set for Saturday, April 30.

photos by K. Vandervort

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

Prom Pop-Up a hit

Idea offers a solution for those with nothing to wear to their high school's top gala

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Memorial High School students here planning to go to Prom this year, but have nothing to wear, can take advantage of a free Promwear Popup event at school next week. Hurry, as Prom 2022 is scheduled for Saturday, April 30.

English teacher Amy Kingsley said the idea of having a pop-up clothing boutique for prom literally “popped into my head,” earlier this month and she floated the idea to a couple

“We have dozens and dozens of great dresses. And we have many men’s suits, too.”

Tracy Anderson
Ely teacher

of teachers and school administrators.

“There is really a need and a desire, so here we are,” she said.

ISD 696 Indian Education Liaison Tracy Anderson is helping Kingsley with the fundraising event.

First, they needed prom wear donations, so they put a bulletin in the school, went to social media,

and spread the word as best they could in the short amount of time they had.

“So many dresses and suits came in quickly, it was amazing,” Kingsley said. “Some of the donated formal wear still have the tags on them. I heard from many kids who bought outfits but didn’t get to wear them when COVID shut everything down.”

Ely Memorial’s prom was canceled in 2020, and an outdoor event was held last year at the Longbranch. This year, a more traditional celebration is being planned at Ely’s Historic State Theater and Insula Restaurant.

Part of a high school classroom has racks full of clothing.

“We have dozens and dozens of great dresses,” Anderson said, as she organized the clothing by size. “We even have three identical dresses. We have many men’s

suits. This is all great stuff. And we have received lots of pairs of shoes, beaded purses, other accessories, and even make-up.”

“An online survey for students revealed a surprising need and lots of support for this effort,” Kingsley said. “One guy was looking for a powder blue suit.”

Minor sewing repairs and cleaning of outfits is also done if needed.

“We have a sewing machine here to do easy fixes or an alteration or two,” Anderson said.

Anderson and Kingsley talked about some of the unique prom outfits seen in recent years. “These days, prom-goers can get away with just about anything. And it’s fun to dress up and make a statement.”

And don’t forget that the Middle School Spring Fling is scheduled for Saturday, May 7.

Kingsley said she is focused on giving everyone a chance to participate in prom if they want to.

“Everyone deserves to feel special. These days everyone looks to recycle and reuse everything. We want to get away from that second-hand stigma,” she said. “Let’s keep the cycle going. Everybody wins.”

Students can shop for prom wear in the mornings from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., after school, and “by appointment” in Room 13 near the girls’ locker room.

“We are trying this as free this year,” Kingsley said. “We ask for a suggested donation of \$5, but everything is free. We hope to grow this into a nice fundraising event in the future.”

HEALTH CARE CHALLENGES

Pandemic worsens rural health care staffing woes

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Rural hospitals and health systems have long faced challenges in recruiting qualified staff relative to their urban counterparts, and the stress and burnout from the COVID-19 pandemic could end up making that task even more difficult in the years to come.

That’s one of the take-aways from “Minnesota’s Health Care Workforce: Pandemic-provoked Workforce Exits, Burnout, and Shortages,” a survey-based report released last week by the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care at the Minnesota Department of Health.

The report focuses on the responses of licensed healthcare professionals such as physicians, registered nurses, physical therapists, alcohol and drug counselors, and others, to surveys they are required to complete when they renew their licenses.

The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration currently classifies the Cook/Orr area as a medically underserved area and Ely as medically underserved for low-income populations, and the MDH report clearly illus-

trates the current disparity of providers between urban and rural areas of the state.

For all but licensed practical nurses, rural area healthcare professionals have far more potential patients than their urban counterparts. The least discrepancy is found among registered nurses, where there is one RN for every 52 people in urban areas and one for every 90 people in rural areas. For physicians, there is one doctor per 894 rural residents, more than three times the 245 per urban practitioner. Of particular relevance to the COVID pandemic is a shortage of respiratory therapists, or RTs. Urban areas have 2,700 people per RT, but that number more than doubles to 5,710 people per RT in rural areas.

Prior to the pandemic, these disparities in rural areas resulted in longer wait times to see providers, longer travel distances to access care, greater potential for hospital bed shortages, and hospitals and clinics shutting down some type of care altogether, the report noted.

Particularly disturbing for the future of rural healthcare is the reported increase of all licensed health professionals reporting their intentions to

leave their respective fields within the next five years compared to pre-pandemic levels— as well as the reason why.

In past surveys, retirement was the most common reason cited for leaving, and with the average age of rural physicians being 58, as opposed to 48 in urban areas, it’s still a significant factor. But after two years of the COVID pandemic, burnout and job dissatisfaction garnered a larger piece of the pie across all disciplines. In particular, physician assistants and respiratory therapists are the two occupations most likely to cite those reasons for leaving their professions. Among nurses leaving the profession during the pandemic, the number of nurses under age 35 was greater than that of older nurses.

So, an already challenging situation has been made worse in both the short and long terms by the COVID pandemic. How will rural health care providers respond?

Recruit and retain

Cook Hospital Human Resources Director Stephanie Maki is well versed in the ins and outs of finding new staff and readily admits that recruitment is a difficult puzzle to solve.

As most rural health

care providers have learned, some sort of local connection for prospective employees is an extra incentive to take a rural-based position, so Maki initiates searches with a couple of time-tested techniques, word-of-mouth and advertising openings in area newspapers, and also posts them to social media.

“We use Facebook here, and LinkedIn, those seem to be the go-to ones at this point,” Maki said. “And then it really depends on the position.”

Those techniques can work well for lower-level positions such as certified nurse aides, but Maki typically casts a wider net when looking for licensed professionals.

College health care degree programs are often good resources to tap for recruitment, and Maki uses an online career portal geared toward college graduates, known as Handshake, to zero in on possibilities.

“They have all the universities and colleges listed on their website, so I can go through and look to see which colleges graduate, for example, radiology staff. I’ll pick those colleges and send them flyers,” Maki said.

There are numerous profession-specific sites where Maki can go to place ads, although those typical-

ly come at a higher cost than ads on generic job posting sites, she said. Some have additional options, for additional cost, such as sending a broadcast email of a position announcement.

A newer wrinkle for tapping into potential employees is to make direct contact with people who are already certified or licensed. The pandemic led to a shortage in long-term care facilities of certified nurse assistants, a result in part from many CNAs leaving their jobs to care for children or other family members and those who needed a break from the added stress. Needing to find CNAs herself, Maki purchased a mailing list with the names and addresses of all of the CNAs living within a 50-mile radius of Cook and sent postcards to 775 current CNAs listed within that area.

For higher-level positions, Maki has sometimes needed to get help from a professional search firm, a more expensive option but one that can produce results.

“Some of them aren’t costly upfront, but once you hire somebody they will require payments on a percentage of that individual’s salary. We have done it in the past for the director of nursing position, and for dietary manager, because

that was a really tough one.”

Many health care employers have resorted to offering signing bonuses for new employees, ranging for a few hundred to several thousand dollars depending on the position and urgency of need. Maki said Cook Hospital has used such bonuses sparingly, as they only work for a limited range of positions unless the hospital’s labor union approves them for others.

Of course, the best way to avoid the maze of the hiring process is to keep the staff you already have. Cook Hospital has as one of its benefits an employee assistance program that provides free counseling for personal and financial issues, things that have been sources of increased stress during the pandemic. Maki said the hospital has also offered in-house support by providing information to employees about different stress reduction techniques.

But for the foreseeable future, finding employees to bolster the rural health care workforce will remain a big challenge.

“I wish I knew a solution,” Maki said. “Our senior leadership is really focusing on recruiting and retaining staff. It’s very important to us to make this a facility that people love to work for.”

PUBLIC NOTICE

RFP for A/E Services for Eveleth C-Store Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772
www.boisforte.com
Request for Proposals (RFP) for Architectural and Engineering Services

ISSUE DATE: Wednesday, April 20, 2022
 DUE DATE: Friday, May 6, 2022
 SUBMIT TO: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Attn: David Morrison Sr., Secretary/Treasurer, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772
 Email: david.morrison@boisforte-nsn.gov

1. Eveleth C-Store Project
 The objective of the Request for Proposal is to solicit bids from licensed Architectural & Engineering Firms ("The Firm") to submit proposals to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa (the "Band") to provide Architectural & Engineering ("A&E") services for the development of a new convenience store in Eveleth, MN. **2. Background Information on the Bois Forte Band**

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is a federally recognized tribe situated in northern Minnesota. The Band's governing body is comprised of a five-member Council. The Band delivers government services to over 3,600 enrolled members who are located on-reservation, across the United States, and abroad. The Band provides government services through a variety of departments, including Bois Forte Health Clinic, Human Services, Police Department, DNR, Tribal Court System, Realty, Housing, Enrollment, Public Works, IT services, Accounting, Education and Human Resources. As the owner and operator of the Boys and Girls Club, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, the Y-Store, and the Nett Lake C-Store, the Band is one of the largest employers within its region. You can learn more about the Band by visiting our website at: <http://www.boisforte.com/>.

3. RFP Overview
 The Band is soliciting responses for a two-phase project in accordance with procurement Procurement Policy, which is consistent with federal procurement regulations set forth in the Uniform Guidance.

The Band seeks to partner with an architectural/engineering Firm to serve to in prepare all preconstruction design work necessary to support the project, as well as any accompanying supporting documents and exhibits to support the Band's application for grants to fund the project (Phase 1). The Band also seeks to partner with the same Firm for final construction designs, bidding assistance, and certain construction management services (Phase 2).

The Band will utilize qualifications-based selection procedures for selecting the Firm. This means that Firms' qualifications will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in this RFP, and the most qualified Firm will be selected subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation.

4. Proposed Project

The Band plans to develop a convenience store on an approximately 10-acre parcel of land within the City of Eveleth that will serve as a one-stop location for travel and refueling needs for cars, motorcycles, RVs, snowmobiles, light trucks, and large trucks/semis. The convenience store will include the following design components:

1. A main convenience store building (approximately 3,500-4,000 square feet) that includes:
 - a. Space for groceries, snacks, and automotive products
 - b. Freezer and refrigerator spaces, and deli and coffee bar
 - c. Cashier/checkout areas
 - d. Retail space for Band or Band-member produced products
 - e. Bait and tackle section
 - f. Public restrooms
 - g. Storage and office space
 2. A fueling area that includes:
 - a. 4 MPDs with 8 fueling lanes for gasoline
 - b. 2 MPDs for diesel with master and satellite
 - c. Separate fueling space for ATVs, snowmobiles, and UTVs
 - d. Canopy for fueling lanes
 3. An electric charging stations area for charging electric car batteries.
 4. A park/leisure area for travelers.
 5. An area for a car wash.

5. Project Phases Scope of Work

Phase 1: Preconstruction Design
 The Preconstruction Design phase includes the following:
 • Preliminary Engineering Report. The Firm will prepare a preliminary engineering report (PER). The Firm should model its PER consistent with the EDA PER requirements, attached hereto as Exhibit A.
 Phase 2: Construction Award Deliverables
 Design/Bidding Phase. The Design/Bidding Phase Scope of Work is as follows:
 o Kick-Off meeting with key Band

staff to discuss the overall project objectives and goals, refine the scope of services if necessary, and get the project firmly started.
 o Data Collection of all relevant existing studies, reports, record drawings and data from Band staff.
 o Prepare designs and submit formal design review submittals to the Band at 60% and 90% completion of the project.
 o Prepare bid ready technical and construction plans and specifications for this project. Assist the Band throughout the bidding process and make a recommendation of award after reviewing the received bids.

o Coordinate with Band staff to incorporate applicable requirements under the Band's TERO Ordinance into the bid documents, including the required TERO Fee.
 o The consultant shall provide the following support services to the Band in obtaining bids from contractors.
 o Prepare all necessary environmental and/or construction permits from appropriate State and local governmental agencies.
 o Assist with procurement of the contract work and/or equipment to be purchased directly by the Band.
 o Coordinate the notification process for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) as required by the funding agency.
 o Prepare the Advertisements for Bid for publication in the local newspapers and notify appropriate industry publications.
 o Prepare necessary copies of drawings, contract/bid documents and technical specifications, and distribute them to interested parties.
 o Conduct one Pre-Bid Meeting with interested contractors, representatives of regulatory and funding agency, and the Band.
 o Respond to bidder general and technical questions.
 o Attend the Bid Opening, administer the receipt of bids, compare bids, check for compliance with the contract requirements, call references, confirm math and tabulate the results. Based upon this review, make a written recommendation for award of the contract.
 o Modify Contract Documents to incorporate information included in bid addenda.
 o All engineering services must be in compliance with 2 CFR Appendix II to Part 200 – Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

• Construction/Project Inspection Phase: The Construction/Project Inspection Phase Scope of Work is as follows:
 o Construction Administration:
 § Prepare for and attend the pre-construction meeting.
 § Provide consultation and advice to the Band during construction and be available to meet with the Band staff, the Contractor, and other parties throughout the construction phase of the project to discuss/resolve construction issues, construction progress, and to coordinate the work as needed.
 § Check detailed construction, shop and erection drawings submitted by the Contractor for compliance with the design concept and design intent.
 § Conduct all applicable Davis Bacon Wage Confirmation interviews and provide reports to the Band.
 § Prepare supplementary sketches required to clarify/resolve any field construction problems that may arise due to actual field conditions encountered.
 § Attend final review of the completed construction with representatives from the Band staff, the Contractor, and other concerned parties as needed, and prepare a letter to address any deficiencies, corrective actions required, etc.
 § Prepare record (i.e. "as-built") drawings based on construction information.
 § Print and distribute construction record drawings as required for distribution to the Band staff as required. Record drawings shall be furnished both in "hard" copy drawings and electronic.
 o Construction Observation: Provide periodic construction observation of the construction work in progress based on the Contractor's construction schedule. The engineer shall perform the following functions:
 § Monitor materials used in the construction for compliance with project specifications.
 § Monitor quality of construction and verify compliance with project specifications.
 § Prepare site visit observation reports covering observations made of the work in progress, delays to construction, unusual events, etc.
 § Review and approve monthly Payment Requisitions from the Contractor to confirm quantities of work completed and certify payment requisitions for payment by the Band.
 § Interpret the contract plans and specifications and check the construction activities for compliance with the intent of the design.
 § Attend meetings as required for coordination among officials from the Band staff and the Contractor or any federal and local agencies (as required).
 § Confirm Substantial Completion of

the project and prepare Certificate of Substantial Completion. Prepare a Punch List of outstanding items of work to be completed after Substantial Completion in order to achieve final completion of the construction work.
 § Maintain project record (as-built) information for the development of final record drawings and final project report.
 o Other Requirements During Construction.
 § Review and certify contractor payment applications
 § If required by any funding source, perform payroll compliance assistance and "Buy American" compliance assistance including:
 • Collect and check weekly certified payroll reports from the Contractor and all subcontractors on the project.
 • Collect weekly signed Statement of Compliance (wages) from Contractor and Subcontractors.
 • Verify hours worked and rates paid for the Contractor and all subcontractors on the project.
 • Maintain a file of weekly certified payroll reports.
 • Submit a copy of the weekly certified payroll reports to the Band.
 • Conduct at least two (2) (minimum) wage rate interviews to confirm/verify wage rates.
 • Document "Buy American" provisions.

• Maintain documentation and records for all equipment and products purchased in accordance with the "Buy American" provisions. Required documentation includes: (1) U.S.-made components; (2) National waivers; (3) project-specific waivers; and (4) "De Minimis" components.
 § Prepare monthly report of project completion status.

6. Proposal Requirements

Interested Firms shall submit a technical proposal that includes the following components:
 • Technical Proposal. The technical proposal prepared in response to this RFP shall contain at a minimum the following information:

- o The Name, address, phone and email addresses contact information of the firm submitting the RFP and identification of a parent company, if any;
- o The Name, office location, qualifications (brief bio), and experience of the individual who would be designated as overall project manager as well as any other team members, partners or sub-contractors contributing to the project. Brief statement of qualifications together with appropriate supplemental information demonstrating qualifications of the Architect, Engineer and other key personnel identified to undertake the proposed project. Please indicate the number of years the firm and the key personnel have been involved in business or projects requiring a similar set of skills and expertise.
- o Proposals must address why the Firm is uniquely qualified to complete the services, and must specifically address:
 § The total number of years the Firm has worked with Tribal Governments;
 § A summary of projects completed for Tribal Governments;
 § A summary of similar work performed by the Firm in the last 10 years, including any convenience store projects.
 o A chart or table illustrating the firm's assessment of key milestones in the project and an anticipated timeline for reaching those milestones.
 o A list of at least two relevant references.
 o A specific description of the support that must be provided by the Band in order for the Firm to successfully and expeditiously carry out the work plan described above.
 o Name of any professional memberships such as the American Consulting Engineers Council (ACEC), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), and/or the American Institute of Architects (AIA).
 o The Firm must demonstrate the ability to work with green design principals, "Net- Zero" ready buildings, and cutting-edge technologies.
 • In addition to providing the Technical Proposal and Cost Proposal, the Firm shall certify in its response to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals/employees:
 o Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by and Federal, State, Local or Tribal department or agency.
 o Have not within a five-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, Local or Tribal) transaction or contract under Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.
 o Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, Local or Tribal).
 o Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, Local or Tribal) terminated for cause or default.

7. Native Preference (if applicable)

This RFP is not restricted to companies owned by Native persons. However, preference will be given to Native and Alaska Native

consultant/ contractors ("Native Consultant/Contractor") that submit responses that are substantially equal to responses submitted by a non-Native consultant/contractor. Native Consultant/ Contractor or "Indian-Owned Economic Enterprise" means any Indian-owned commercial, industrial, or business concern established or organized for the purpose of profit, provided that such Indian ownership shall constitute not less than 51 percent of the enterprise, and that ownership shall encompass active operation and control of the enterprise on a continuing basis for the duration of the project. A consultant/contractor claiming Native Preference may be required to submit evidence demonstrating qualification for that preference.

8. Selection Criteria

The initial evaluations will be based on the content of the Proposals. The proposals will be ranked based on the following factors (weighting of each factor listed in parentheses):
 • Expressed understanding of the project, and proposed key milestones, objectives, timeline and associated risks (30%);
 • Assessment of the experience working with Tribal Governments (20 %);
 • Assessment of experience providing similar services for similar convenience store projects (15%)
 • Assessment of the proposed project team and/or firm for qualifications, experience with resources allocated to the project, references (20%);
 • Native preference (15%).

9. Submission Details

Proposals may be submitted by mail, by facsimile, or by email. The Band may deem a proposal that fails to address content that is applicable to the company as non-responsive and ineligible for consideration.
 • Due date: Friday, May 6, 2022, by 4:30 p.m., Central Time.
 • Submit to: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
 Attn: David Morrison Sr. Secretary/Treasurer
 5344 Lake Shore Drive
 Nett Lake, MN 55710
 Email: david.morrison@boisforte-nsn.gov
 Fax: 218-757-3312

10. Inquiries

Questions about this RFP may be directed via email to Mayan Beltran, General Manager, Fortune Bay Resort Casino and CEO, Bois Forte Development Corporation, at mayanbeltran@fortunebay.com. In the subject line for the inquiry, please insert "RFP – Eveleth C-Store A/E".

11. General Terms, Limitations, Reservation of Rights

The following terms, limitations, and reservation of rights apply to this RFP:
 • The selected Firm will be required to comply with all applicable requirements set forth in the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa TERO Ordinance, including the required TERO Fee (4% of the total contract amount). A copy of the Band's TERO Ordinance is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
 • Interviews with top ranked Firms may be held to clarify and review proposal and qualifications only.
 • The Band reserves the right to award the contract to the Responder whose offer provides the overall greatest value to the Band. The award may not be determined by price alone.
 • The band reserves the right to review any proposal in full or in part and to accept or reject any or all proposals.
 • If necessary, contract negotiations related to the timeline may proceed following selection of the successful proposal. The A/E awarded contract will not be eligible for large modifications to the scope of work or negotiations of cost.
 • The Band reserves the right to approve or reject any sub-contractors proposed for work under this proposal or waive any minor irregularities.
 • The Band reserves the right to select the successful firm on the basis of proposals received, without seeking further information for clarification from The Firm.
 • Any award granted pursuant to this RFP shall be subject to the terms and conditions of a written contract between the Band and the contractor/consultant selected.
 • The Band reserves the right to:
 - Modify or otherwise alter any or all requirements herein. If the Band modifies, consultant/contractor's will be given an equal opportunity to modify their proposals as identified in writing by the Band.
 - Reject any proposals received for whatever reason.
 - Terminate this RFP at any time, without cause or reason.
 • The Band shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the applicant to prepare or deliver a response to this RFP, or to attend a virtual pre-award conference with the Band.
 • The Band's determination on whether to make this award will be based solely on the Band's best interests as understood by the Band.
 • Prior to any award and upon the Band's request, the apparent successful proposer must provide the information required of any consultant/contractor who does business with the Band, including the consultant/contractor's legal name, address, federal tax identification number, and evidence of insurance policies that meet minimum insurance specifications for the award.
 • The consultant/contractor must disclose to the Band the use and identity of all subcontractors it uses in carrying out the requirements

herein. The Band reserves the right to approve all subcontractors chosen (in its sole discretion). The consultant/contractor shall be solely responsible for the satisfactory performance of and compensation to all subcontractors.
 • The laws and procedures of the Band shall govern all rights and duties under any contract that may result from the RFP.
 • In the event of bankruptcy or receivership of any consultant/contractor, the applicable contract is null and void, and is terminated without further notice.
 • This RFP shall not be construed as a waiver of the Band's sovereign immunity.

2020 EDA Preliminary Engineering Report Requirements-Hints

EDA is required to complete an engineering review for all construction and design projects before making an award. EDA's Application Form (Form ED-900, Application for EDA Assistance) and related forms require Applicants to provide key information about the proposed construction and design projects to enable EDA to complete its requisite reviews. All applications for construction and design assistance must complete the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). The following outline provides more detailed information on these requirements in order to assist Applicants in preparing their application.

Items listed in "Blue Bold" font are intended to provide additional guidance. All items must be consistent in this report, SF-424 application, ED-900, Environmental Report, exhibits and any other document.

C. Preliminary Engineering Report To be considered for assistance, all construction and design applications must include a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) that at a minimum provides the following information:
 C.1. Description of project components. Provide a general description of all project components involved in the project. Indicate whether the project involves the construction of new infrastructure or facilities or the renovation or replacement of existing ones. Describe each of the project components in terms of dimensions, quantities, capacities, square footage, etc.
Provide a detailed description of the Project Components.
 C.2. A statement verifying that the project components described in the engineering report are consistent with the EDA investment project description that is provided in Section B.2 of Form ED-900. Engineering reports that describe project components that are inconsistent with the EDA investment project description in Section B.2 of Form ED-900 will not be considered valid.
Provide such a statement.
 C.3. Drawings showing the general layout and location of the existing site conditions and of the project components as well as location of any project beneficiary identified in Section B.5 of Form ED-900 that provide economic justification for the project, if any. Rough dimensions and quantities for major project components should be shown and labeled on the drawings. Drawings should clearly identify the project components that are being proposed. Applicants are encouraged to clarify such drawings, for example, through color coding, labeling, and other appropriate methods.
All of the project components must be identified in the plans. Provide one set of 11"x17" drawings if possible. A site plan is required. If the site has a building, a detailed floor plan is required with all of the programing complete. Provide a typical pavement section cut if the project has a roadway.
 C.4. A feasibility analysis for the constructability of the project. Include a review of the existing conditions and note particular features, alignments, and circumstances affecting construction of project components.
Provide a feasibility analysis.
 C.5. The proposed method of construction. Indicate whether construction procurement will be done through competitive bid or other method. Indicate if any portion of the project is to be done by design/build, construction management at risk, the applicant's own forces, or a third-party construction manager. If an alternate construction procurement method (other than traditional design/bid/build with sealed competitive bid process) is proposed, a construction services procurement plan must be provided to EDA for approval in accordance with EDA's regulation at 13 C.F.R. § 305.6(a).
Traditional methods of design/bid/build with sealed competitive bids are preferred. Indicate the entity that will be responsible for all of the construction contracts and provide a detail of the entity's required tasks in Item 1 of the Budget Requirements found below in this Report.
 C.6. The number of construction contracts anticipated. If multiple contracts are proposed, describe the project components included in each contract. If separate contracts are anticipated for demolition or site work, the budget information cost classification should reflect the estimated costs for these components. If project phasing is proposed, a project phasing request must be provided to EDA for approval per EDA's regulation at 13 C.F.R. § 305.9(a).
Provide the number of construction contracts anticipated.
 C.7. A current detailed construction cost estimate for each of the project components. Show quantities, unit prices, and total costs and provide a basis for the determination of construction contingencies. The total of this estimate should match the construction line item of the SF-424C.
Provide a current detailed Architect or Engineer's opinion of costs.

C.8. Real property acquisition. If the budget includes costs for acquisition of real property, include a current fair market value appraisal completed by a certified appraiser for the property to be purchased.
One appraisal is required from a MAI certified appraisal firm.
 C.9. A list of all permits required for the proposed project and their current status. Identify all permits required; include the timeline to obtain the permits and discuss how the permitting relates to the overall project schedule. If the project crosses a railroad right-of-way or is within a railroad right-of-way, explain any permitting or approvals that may be required from the railroad or other authority and the timeframe for obtaining these permits or approvals.
Provide a list of all anticipated permits required.
 C.10. An overall estimated project schedule. This schedule should agree with the project schedule outlined in the ED-900. Include the number of months for each of the following:
 i. design period;
 ii. period of time to obtain required permits;
 iii. period of time to obtain any required easements or rights-of-way;
 iv. solicitation of bids and awarding of contracts, and
 v. construction period.
Provide an estimated project schedule.
 C.11. Overall project budget breakdown. For each "cost classifications" line item that the applicant indicates will be included in the project budget on Form SF-424C, the applicant must provide a breakdown of the proposed project costs and tasks that is consistent with the detailed construction cost estimate for the project provided in the PER.
Provide a detailed breakdown of the tasks to be performed as listed below:

- a) Line 1 – Administrative and legal expenses. Examples include: EDA components: record keeping, financial management, monitoring equal opportunity requirements, (EO), monitoring compliance with federal labor standards, EDA requirements monitoring, project closeout documentation, legal opinions, legal title search, etc.
- b) Line 2 – Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc. This item is only to be used in the event an existing building is to be used as local match. Consult your EDA representative.
- c) Line 3 – Relocation expenses and payments. This item applies only to relocation expenses and payments and/or land acquisition. Consult your EDA representative.
- d) Line 4 – Architectural and engineering fees. Examples include preparing plans and specs, required consultants (structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, etc.), bid administration, attend meetings, process change orders, review contractors' requests for payments and reimbursable costs, etc.
- e) Line 5 – Other architectural and engineering fees. Examples include: Survey, soils borings/report and material testing.
- f) Line 6 – Project inspection fees. Examples include: One time staking of project, construction inspection/observation for the project, notify Owner at 11 months after substantial completion and follow up, and a 12 month warranty inspection of all EDA project components.
- g) Line 7 – Site work. Add cost to the Construction line item for "pad ready" tasks.
- h) Line 8 – Demolition and removal. Add cost to the Construction line item for "pad ready" tasks.
- i) Line 9 – Construction. Provide a detailed Architects/Engineers Opinion of Costs consistent with that provided in Question C.7 above.
- j) Line 10 – Equipment. Add a list of equipment and estimated costs of equipment.
- k) Line 11 – Miscellaneous. N/A or contact an EDA representative.
- l) Line 13 – Contingencies. No more than a 5% contingency is allowed. No other line item may contain contingency costs.

Notes:

- 1) All amounts should be rounded to the nearest hundred dollars.
- 2) If this detailed project budget is different than the cost identified in applicants SF- 424C from please update and submit a new SF-424C.
- 3) If the costs for an Architect/ Engineer (all treated as a "contractor" refer to 2 CFR Part 200.23) is included the application and/or the Preliminary Engineering Report, ensure that they were properly procured for the complete project (including preparing the plans, specifications, ext.). Refer to 2 CFR Part 200.319 Competition. If they only are procured for the application and/or the Preliminary Engineering Report, then they will be ineligible to be procured for the complete project.
CFR Part 200.319 Competition (partial not the complete text)
 a) All procurement transactions must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards of this section. In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements.

TERO APPLIES TO THIS PROJECT.

Published in the Timberjay, April 22, 2022

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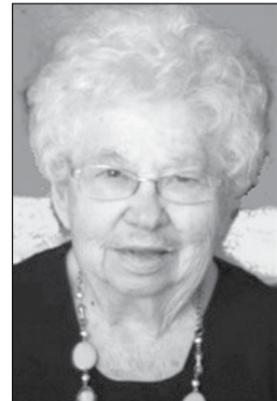
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Obituaries and Death Notices



Syvilla M. Shermer
 Syvilla Marguerite Shermer, loving mother, grandmother and friend, went to be with our Lord and Savior on Monday, April 11, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 6 at the First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be one hour prior to the start of the service. Immediately following the service, a time for sharing, music and dinner will be held at the Cook Community Center located at Doug Johnson Rec Park. In lieu of flowers and monetary gifts, please donate to the North Woods School Library or the First Baptist Church Benevolent Fund. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Syvilla was born to Hilda and Ralph Hall on Feb. 12, 1924, in Bloomfield, Neb. After graduating high school, Syvilla went on to be a nanny and a school teacher. She married Clinton "Nick" Shermer on May 25, 1946. Early in their marriage they left the Sand Hills of Nebraska for a better life. For a short period of time they lived in Santa Rosa, Calif., and Haines, Ore. In 1959, they moved to Greaney and in the early 1960s moved to the farm in Gheen where together they operated the family farm and raised nine children.

Syvilla loved education and was instrumental in creating the St. Louis County Schools. She spent many years serving on the board. She would often tell her family, "Learn all that you can because they cannot take knowledge away from you." She was small in stature but mighty in her tenacious personal-

ity and wasn't afraid of life's challenges.

She walked by faith and was a strong believer in Jesus Christ. As in all aspects of her life, she would study the Bible and was ready to share her knowledge. She most loved her children, grandchildren and family. She celebrated all of their accomplishments and was there for any unexpected life events.

Syvilla is survived by her nine children, Dennis (Sharen) Shermer, Irene Semon, Clifford (Mary) Shermer, Mark (Karen) Shermer, Martha Nosie, Ruth (John) Huismann, James (Rebecca) Shermer, Joe (Amy Nelson) Shermer and Kay (Timothy) Cornelius; 26 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and three siblings, John (Mary Ann) Hall, Mavis Hubble and Elaine Forbes.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clinton "Nick"; grandson, Anthony "Tony" Cornelius; son-in-law, William "Bill" Nosie; sisters, Roberta, Mary Ann and Arlene; and brother, Harlan.

Douglas P. Flack

Douglas "Doug" Paul Flack, 70, of Cook, passed away on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 7 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. A luncheon will be held immediately following the service at the Cook VFW. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Doug was born on March 4, 1952, in Cook, to Warren "Pat" and Dolores "Dottie" (Helstrom) Flack. He attended school in Cook, graduating from Cook High School in 1970. He was united in marriage to Linda Joyce Egger on Jan. 20, 1973, in Virginia. Doug was employed as a heavy equipment operator for St. Louis County for 21 years before his retirement.

Doug was a happy-go-lucky guy; he was always friendly to everyone. He loved to watch old mov-

ies and play a good card game. Above everything else, Doug cherished and loved his grandchildren.

Doug is survived by his wife, Linda of Cook; children, daughter Nikole Peterson of Eveleth and son Travis Flack (Teresa)



of Maple Grove; grandchildren, Rebecca Flack, Blake Peterson and Kadie Peterson; brothers, Sonny Flack of Hibbing, Don "Donny" (Brenda) Flack of Angora and Leslie (Diane) Flack of Texas; sisters, Patty (Jack) Petruska of South Grove and JoNell (Dez) Davis of Texas; and lifelong special friends, Jack Schelde and Denver Jorgenson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Larry Flack, Ron Flack and Richard Flack.

Linda J. Frame

Linda Joann Snell Frame, 59, of Sturgeon Township-Angora, passed away on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, with her husband by her side. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 22 at Mlaker Funeral

Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

She is survived by her loving husband, Dana Frame; sister, Irene (Rich) Auel; sisters-in-law, Ingrid (John) Snell, Leslie Lynch (Allen Schug) and Natalie Frame; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Barbara J. Conder

Barbara Jean Bergan Conder, 69, longtime Ely resident, died on Sunday, April 10, 2022, at Edgewood Senior Living in Virginia. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, April 20 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Father Brandon Moravitz was the celebrant. Interment followed in the Ely Cemetery. Memorials are preferred and because of Barbara's great love for the missions, may be directed to Kree and Emmanuel Peña at Family Missions Company, <https://www.familymissionscompany.com/project/ekpena>. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Dan Conder; son, Jared Conder of Las Vegas; siblings, Michael (Nancy) Bergan of Torrance, Calif., Mary (Mike) Blaney of Green Bay, Wis., and Patti (Steve) Schuchart of Oconto, Wis.; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and a host of friends.

Tower-Soudan Coach-Pitch/T-Ball registration underway

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://forms.gle/KMBw2ky3DZCFcoW8>

TOWER-SOUDAN- Registration is now open for this summer's T-Ball and Coach-Pitch teams. The teams are open to all area youth ages 5-9. The first practice will be Saturday, May 7 at 10 a.m. at the Legion Field in Soudan. Volunteers coaches are also needed!

To register, scan the code above with your camera phone, or visit the website above.

Registration fee is \$20 per player and will be collected on the first day of practice. Scholarships are available. For more information, email bestgoldenknights@gmail.com, or contact the school office if you are unable to register online. Information is also posted on the Tower-Soudan Little League facebook page.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this day of April 22, 2022 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2015), that all persons in St. Louis County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2015), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work hired is done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated as noxious weeds and the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or County-Designated Employee. You can also obtain this information from your Local Weed Inspectors. Local Weed Inspectors include the township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants. More information regarding the statewide listed noxious weeds, the MN Noxious Weed law and a list of County Agricultural Inspectors and County Designated Employees can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Website by visiting: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-and-invasive-weed-program>

Kristin Fogard, County Agricultural Inspector
 Land and Minerals Department, 320 West 2nd St, Ste 302
 218.726.2606 • fogardk@stlouiscountymn.gov

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Read us online at www.timberjay.com

Ely Young Life

17th Annual Sweet Spring Auction

Recognition

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and bidders for making our 2022 auction successful. We are continually astounded by the support from our community, from both businesses and individuals, and Ely Young Life would truly not exist without you. Thank you from the bottom of hearts for supporting the youth of our community with your endless generosity.

Anderson, Dawn	Gunflint Lodge	Subway
Arrowhead Outdoors	Hearthside Corner	Sundog Sport/Portage North
Bader's Pheasant Run	Hunter, Anne	Swanson Excavating
Bina, Cindy	Insula	Tara Kay Photography
Bloomers	International Wolf Center	Today, Dave
Boat Club Restaurant	Joe's Marine	VanDusen, Bud
Boathouse Brewpub	Kahle, Sarah	Vermilion Vet Clinic
Boes, Lori	Kawishiwi Lodge & Outfitters	Vosburgh's Custom Cabin Rentals
Boundary Waters Septic	Keller, Mike	Voyageur Brewing Company
Brainstorm Bakery/Crapola	Kidd, Kris	Wetzel, Tom & Mischke, Larry
Breuhl, Tim & Judy	Kottke, Carrie	White Iron Beach Resort
Britton's	L & M - Virginia	Wick, Chuck
Cache Lake Foods	Laine, Susan	Wintergreen Northern Wear
Campbell, Deb	LaTourell's	Zup's Ely
Canoe Country Outfitters	Legacy Toys	Zup's Babbitt
Chernak, Sue	Lepisto, Andrea	
Cole, Autumn	Levar, Sarah	Gourmet desserts created by:
D & D Accounting	Log Cabin Coffee	Joe Bianco
Dairy Queen	Low Impact Excavating	Brianna Crawford
Dirty Dog Manufacturing	Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop	Janet Dunnom
Docks on Wheels	Merhar's Ace Hardware	Marie Hren
Domino's Pizza	MN Twins	Susan Laine
Dorothy Molter Museum	North American Bear Center	Erin Moravitz
Dunnom, Janet	North Shore Railroad	JoEllen Murphy
Ely Bike and Kicksled	Northern Expressions	Justin Olson
Ely Chiropactic	Northern Grounds	JoAnn Rhoades
Ely Fire Department	Olson, Brenda	Jan Rue
Ely Flower and Seed	Orcutt Guide Service	Carol Stouffer
Ely Golf Club	Passananti, Stan & Joyce	Sharon Svatos
Ely Memorial Senior High	The Pebble Spa Co.	Anna Thompson
Ely Vet Clinic	Piragis Northwoods Company	Peggy York-Jesme
Ely Vision	Potluck Kitchenware	
Ely's Historic State Theater	POWER IN THE SON™	Financial and other support from:
Erzar, Debbie	Range Cenex	Ely Credit Union
Evergreen Spa & Wellness	Razor Edge	Ely Echo
Faltsek, Evan	Rock Country Masonry	Frandsen Bank
Fisher Maps	Root River Photography	Ely Shopper
Fish Concrete	Roots Salon	The Timberjay
Fortune Bay Resort	Semenick, Gary	
Front Porch	Sir G's Italian Restaurant	
Gator's Emporium	Soderberg, Barb & Kurt	
Gene Hicks Gourmet Coffee	Solum, Linda	
Gracie's Plant Works	St. Paul Saints	
Grand Ely Lodge	Stahl, Carol	
Great Lakes Aquarium	Stony Ridge Resort & Cafe	



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED?

New strain of bird flu raises feeder concerns

Some biologists urge cessation of wild bird feeding, but others say that's unwarranted

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Should residents of the North Country quit feeding wild birds temporarily? That's the hot debate on the Ely Field Naturalists email listserv and elsewhere among bird watching enthusiasts.

The source of the debate is the sudden appearance of a Eurasian strain of the avian flu that is apparently spreading

throughout North America. The spread of the strain is prompting major concerns among poultry producers, who have already suffered losses (either through death or culling to prevent spread) of over 20 million birds.

The avian flu has also spread to wild birds, although the extent of that infection remains unknown. Deaths have been reported among waterfowl and some raptors and the situation recently prompted

the Minnesota Raptor Center to issue a statement urging the public to refrain from feeding wild birds, since feeders could be a means of spreading the disease.

While officials with the Raptor Center aren't the only wildlife professionals who've made that plea, there is no unanimity on the question. In response to the public debate,

See BIRD FLU...pg. 5B



Redpolls have been appearing at area feeders in enormous numbers in recent weeks as their natural foods appear to be in short supply right now. photo by M. HelMBERGER



LAKE VERMILION

Walleye numbers remain strong

Latest DNR test-netting points to another strong season, with an abundance of "eaters"

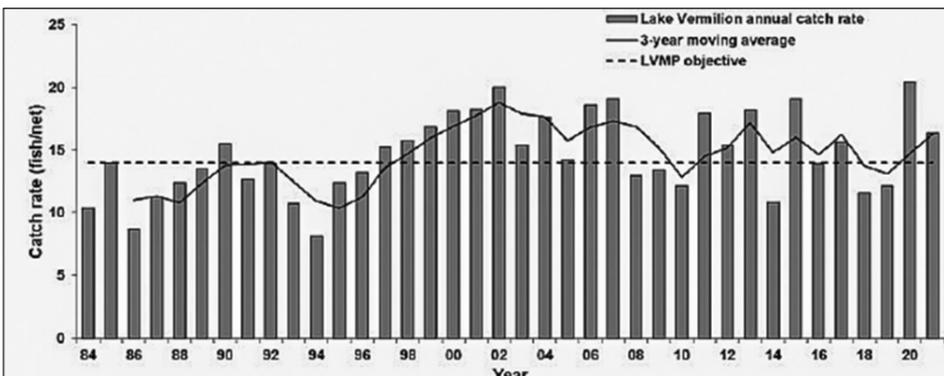
by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION— The 2022 fishing opener is right around the corner, and on Lake Vermilion, the walleyes are waiting. Lots of them.

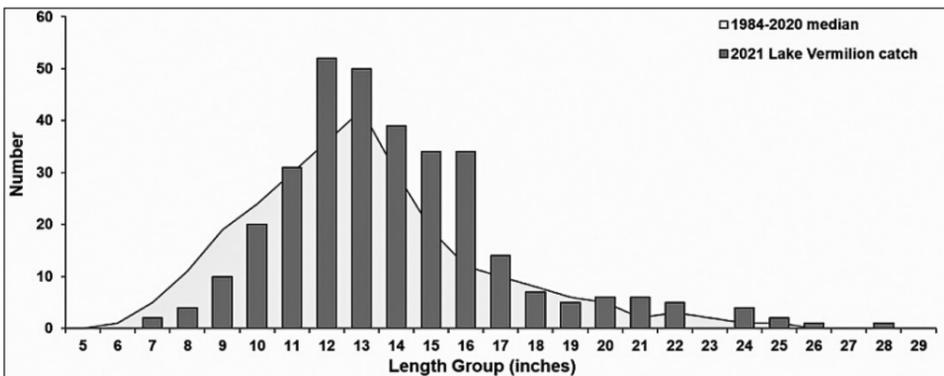
That's the upshot of the latest assessment of the Vermilion fishery, just released by the Department of Natural Resources. Test netting conducted on walleye, perch, and northern last fall by DNR fisheries staff found that walleye numbers on the sprawling lake remain well above the long-term average due to strong recruitment from several recent year-classes.

The top-line average number, of 16.4 walleye per net, is significantly above the lake's long-term management objective of 14 walleye per net. Yet the size distribution of all those walleyes is perhaps the best news of all for anglers this summer, according to DNR large lake specialist Matt Hennen, who produces the report. He notes that fish between 11-17 inches predominated in the walleye catch. "Also, the catch rate of fish from the range anglers prefer to keep, from 13 to 20 inches, was notably high," Hennen said. Those fish are all below the current protected slot of 20-26 inches and are within the range most preferred by anglers for the frying pan.

"These fish should provide ample catch and harvest opportunities in 2022," wrote Hennen in his report. "Also, an abundance of walleyes over 20 inches will continue to provide memorable catch opportunities



Gill-net catch rate (fish/net) of walleye in Lake Vermilion from 1984-2021. The horizontal dashed line represents the management plan goal. The solid line represents the 3-year moving average.



Length frequency distribution of gill-net captured walleye (dark bars) in Lake Vermilion in 2021 in relation to the historic median length frequency distribution from 1984 to 2020 (light gray).

“The catch rate of fish from the range anglers prefer to keep, from 13 to 20 inches, was notably high.”

Matt Hennen
DNR Large Lake Specialist

throughout the lake while also ensuring plenty of spawners for future generations.”

The good news for walleye anglers extends across the lake, as the latest results reflect strong improvement in walleye numbers on the lake's western basin, where a limited number of eating-sized walleye in some recent years had frustrated fishing guides, resort owners, and anglers.

The walleye numbers were slightly higher in the eastern basin, with an average of 16.8 walleye per net. Yet the catch rate on the western basin wasn't far behind, at an average of 15.8 walleye per net. That was the third highest catch rate on record on the western basin

Top: Expect more photo-worthy walleye from Lake Vermilion this year, based on the latest DNR test netting data.

file photo

and it comes on the heels of last year's catch rate of 16.0 walleye per net, which further confirms the strong walleye numbers on the lake's west end. "The consecutive years of high catches in West Vermilion is the result of an exceptionally strong 2018 year-class driving recruitment especially in that basin," wrote Hennen in his

See VERMILION...pg. 5B

LIMITS



Four walleye limit appears dead for another year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— It appears anglers will be able to continue to keep up to six walleyes on most Minnesota lakes, at least for another year. A bill that would have reduced the statewide limit to four walleye appears to have hit a roadblock in the Minnesota Senate, which had been advancing a provision authored by Rep. Carrie Ruud, R-Breezy Point.

The effort to reduce the walleye limit has been in play at the Capitol for the past few years, without ever reaching the goal line. This time around, it appears that intra-party politics may have played a role in its defeat. Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, said the measure appears to have been a factor in the recent decision by Seventh District Republicans to endorse Sen. Justin Eichorn, of Grand Rapids, over Ruud. Both senators ended up in the same district in the wake of redistricting. Eichorn, who had been an early co-author of Ruud's walleye limit revision, abruptly withdrew his support shortly after the new district maps were released, an apparent play for support from those who opposed the change.

The proposed change, which has the quiet backing of the Department of Natural Resources, has faced some opposition from both anglers and resort owners on lakes where the six-walleye limit is still in effect. Virtually all of the state's ten most popular walleye lakes, including Lake Vermilion, have a four-walleye special regulation already in effect.

The proposed reduction to a limit of four statewide may be dead for this year, but Ecklund said he expects it will reintroduced next year. "I think the time has come," he said. Ecklund has introduced the measure in the House in previous years and said he plans to do so again if he's re-elected in November. "We'll have to develop a strategy to get it done," he said.

The House never took up the measure this year, said Ecklund, because he and other supporters had assumed that the Senate would approve the change, which could have then been rolled into the joint natural resources omnibus bill at the end of session.

While Ecklund said he's heard

See LIMITS...pg. 5B

WHERE'S SPRING?



The view across Shagawa Lake, in Ely, after the latest snowfall left the trees blanketed in a fresh coat of white. May is just over a week away, but winter continues to hang on stubbornly across the North Country, thanks to a series of snow events in recent weeks.

photo by K. Vandervort

VERMILION...Continued from page 4B

report. That year class should continue to yield big returns for Vermilion anglers and preliminary estimates suggest the 2019-year class is above average as well, so the good fishing is likely to continue.

What's more, last fall's electrofishing assessment, which looks at young-of-the-year success, found that numbers are above average and that the young walleyes were considerably larger than average, which typically improves their winter survival.

"Based on the catch rates and size of fish captured, the 2021 year-class is likely to be moderate to strong," concludes Hennen.

Yellow perch

Last fall's test netting averaged 31.5 perch per net, or somewhat above the long-term average. At the same time, fisheries staff continued to find significant differences between the eastern and western basin.

"The 2021 East Vermilion catch rate of 15.3 fish/net was nearly identical to 2020 (15.6 fish/net) and fell well below average for that basin," wrote Hennen in his report. "This marks the sixth time in the last seven years and the 12th time in the last 15 years that the catch rate has been below historical averages. Overall, East Vermilion yellow perch gill net catch rates have displayed a

decreasing trend since the early 1990s which is likely due to a combination of several factors."

By contrast, the perch count on the lake's west end was a phenomenal 55.8 fish per net, the highest ever observed there, a continuance of a trend of very high perch numbers on the west end in recent years. While perch are primarily a forage species for larger game fish, anglers regularly harvest larger perch, which are excellent eating, similar to walleye.

At the same time, the number of perch nine inches or larger, which is the size most anglers prefer, has been trending downward in recent years and was below the historical average on the lake during last fall's assessment. Hennen reported that the data suggest a shift in the size structure of perch on the lake.

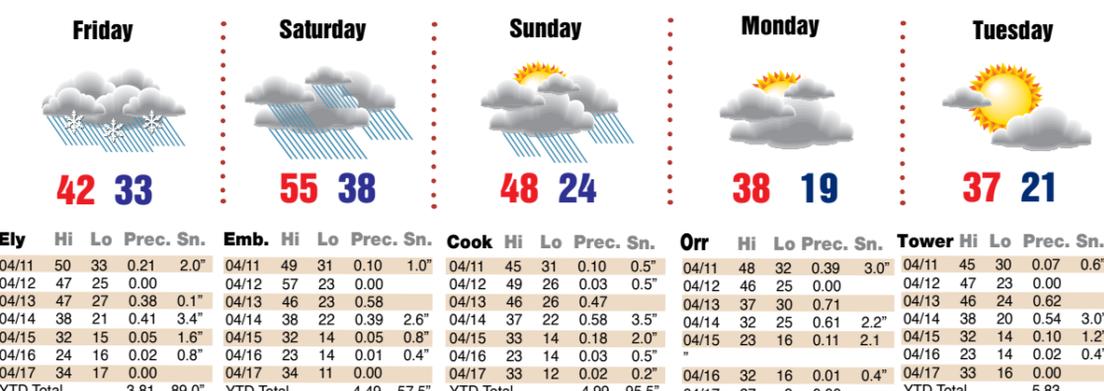
Northern pike

The DNR reported a total of ten northern pike caught in gill nets during the fall assessment, a low number that continues a declining lakewide trend over the past three decades. The size structure, however, has shifted toward larger fish, which may be partially attributable to the protected slot limit that's been in place on Vermilion since 2003.

The 2022 fishing opener is set for Saturday, May 14.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



BIRD FLU...Continued from page 4B

the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently issued a statement clarifying that the DNR is not urging the public to discontinue bird feeding. "We have not received any confirmed reports of songbirds affected by this strain of avian influenza," reads the DNR statement. At the same time, the DNR reminds members of the public who do feed birds to take regular steps to clean their feeders to protect birds against other infections, like salmonella.

To date, the new avian flu strain is not known to have infected any significant number of the species of birds that frequent feeders, but is primarily limited to migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and birds of prey that consume infected birds. That's according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The conservation group Birds Canada recently advised its members that "the use of backyard feeders is still safe." The main exception would be for people who also care for poultry, in which case the group recommends that growers bring their domestic fowl inside to protect them from interaction with wild birds, which could be carrying the virus that causes the illness.

The discussion of the issue among members of the Ely Field Naturalists has been spirited, with arguments on both sides. Advocates of discontinuing feeding argue that it's a purely recreational activity and there's no need to put wild birds at risk unnecessarily.

But others point out that birds, particularly migrants, often rely on feeders for at least a portion of their

diet, especially in years like this one, when winter lingers well into April, keeping many of their food sources under deep snow.

Once spring-like conditions arrive in the North Country, birds should find more ready access to food sources, at which time many area residents discontinue bird feeding for the summer. As with human flu viruses, the onset of warmer weather also tends to reduce the incidence of the disease, which should lower the risk for wild birds.

There is little sign that the flu virus will be able to spread from birds to people, but officials note that people should wear proper protection if handling birds that may be affected.

LIMITS...Continued from page 4B

from some constituents opposed to the change, he said he heard the same fears expressed by Rainy Lake resort owners when the limit was trimmed to four there several years

ago. "We were told the world was going to end, but it didn't happen," said Ecklund.

With modern electronics, Ecklund said anglers have too big

of an advantage and that limiting the harvest is the only way to maintain healthy fisheries.

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PHONE: 218-481-7603
WEBSITE: living-well-therapy.com

FALL PREVENTION

Cook Area Ambulance Service

Administrative Emergency Medical Technician (non-Volunteer). The Cook Ambulance Service is seeking a qualified individual for this regular, part-time position with some administrative duties.

Cook Ambulance is a basic life support service, covering a large district. The service maintains updated equipment and recently purchased a brand-new ambulance rig.

Minimum qualifications include: High School Diploma or GED, Class D driver's license, current EMT-B certification, first aid certification, and CPR/AED certification. Ability to attend and satisfactorily complete other courses based on city and department needs. Must pass all employer required background checks and pre-employment screening/assessments and be able to be covered/bonded under city's selected insurer and insurance coverages.

Hourly wage will be dependent upon qualifications.
TO APPLY: visit www.cookmn.us; or, call Cook City Hall at 218-666-2200.
Position will remain open until filled.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION & ESTATE SALE
April 22 & 23 in Soudan

3 BR, 2 BATH, 3 CAR GARAGE. Homeowner passed away and family has decided to liquidate personal property and sell the house to the highest bidder on Saturday, April 23rd at 3 p.m. on sight. Bidders must have proof of qualifying from lender to be eligible to bid. Seller has right to reject highest bid if it doesn't meet minimum expectations. There is a 10% buyer's premium added to the final bid. For more info, contact auctioneer 218-391-7098. Local realtor handling paper work.

ESTATE SALE starts Friday at 10 a.m., 15 Soudan St Soudan. Estate sale includes 2004 Yamaha motorcycle as is {clutch}, riding mower, push mower, tools, golf clubs, several guitars including some acoustic and Fender, computers new in box, couches, beds, household, patio furn, lots of misc very cheap.

In a separate online auction for this same estate we are offering for bids a 1980 Camaro 79,000 miles, a 2002 Harley and several Fender guitars. Online bidding only and ending on Saturday, April 23 at 6 p.m. TwinportsBid.com. This sale will be up with pictures and descriptions at least 10 days before closing. These special items can be scene on site prior to sale days. TBA.

EMPLOYMENT

Maintenance Technician/ Public Works Assistant

The City of Cook (pop. 534) is seeking a qualified individual for this key position. Cook, located in St. Louis County and considered the western gateway to Lake Vermilion, is a community with many opportunities and amenities. Minimum qualifications include: Class B Commercial Driver's License, High School Diploma or GED, ability to obtain required Water and Wastewater Licensing, and three years of relevant experience per the job description. Key areas of responsibility include: daily/seasonal operations, streets and parks, water and wastewater systems, operation and maintenance of public works equipment/machinery, and maintenance and repair of the city's buildings and grounds. Hiring Range: \$16.84 to \$19.73 (DOQ) and full-time employee benefit package. In addition to the base wage, the position is currently eligible for two types of premium pay.

TO APPLY: visit www.cookmn.us or call Cook City Hall at 218-666-2200. Position will remain open until filled. 4/29

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

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

Rate of Pay: \$13.99/hour

Published in the Timberjay, April 22, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICES

FIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Field Township will meet on **May 3, 2022 from 11 AM- 12 Noon** at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Hwy 25

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, contact the County Assessor at 218-749-7147 – Often issues can be resolved at this level.

Or appeal by letter or email prior to the meeting - Pat Chapman, Field Township Clerk, 9998 E. Lind Rd., Angora, MN 55703, or clerk@fieldtownship.com.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 22, 2022

MORCOM TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property
 This may affect your 2023 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Morcom shall meet on **May 4, from 5:00-6:00 pm, at the Bear River School 12512 Hwy 22, Cook, MN 55723.**

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk, Morcom Township, 12059 HWY 22, Cook, MN 55723
morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com
 218-969-5812

Published in the Timberjay, April 22, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE
 City of Tower
 Publishing of Ordinance 89
 An Ordinance Establishing
 Park Regulations

1st Reading March 14, 2022
 2nd Reading April 11, 2022
 Given length of Ordinance,
 please view at:
<https://cityoftower.com/city-ordinances>

Published in the Timberjay,
 April 22, 2022

CITY OF TOWER
 Jetter For Bid

1996 Magikist Line Thawer
 (Jetter)
 Minimum Bid \$1,400
 Contact 218-753-4070
 Bid closing date 5/6/22

Published in the Timberjay,
 April 22 & 29, 2022

CITY OF TOWER
 Grader For Bid
 1973 Caterpillar No. 12F
 Motor Grader
 Minimum Bid \$4,000
 Contact 218-753-4070
 Bid closing date 5/6/22

Published in the Timberjay,
 April 22 & 29, 2022

Get Results!

Advertise in the Timberjay!



International Wolf Center

Now Hiring - Join Our Pack!

The International Wolf Center has openings for seasonal part-time retail and admissions positions. 20-40 hours per week, May - September. Starting wage is \$13/hr. Must be able to work weekends, evenings and have excellent customer service skills. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to careers@wolf.org or stop by the International Wolf Center to pick up an application. For additional information, call Jackie at 218-365-4695 Ext. 1260. 4/22

SEASONAL STAFF POSITION

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has a great opportunity for an individual seeking seasonal work (30-36 hours per week) with the potential to extend to a full-time, year-round position. This position pays \$13.50/hour and requires computer & interpersonal communication skills, and a flexible work schedule that will include weekends. The selected individual will provide support to area businesses, visitors, and co-workers in a team environment. The position does require lifting up to 35 pounds. For more details and a job application, please contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce office at 218-365-6123 or at director@ely.org. Office located at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely. 4/29

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF VACANCY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will make four appointments: One (1) Northern Townships representative, One (1) Hibbing representative, and Two (2) At Large representatives to the St. Louis County CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee with terms expiring December 31, 2026. The CDBG program provides funds for community facilities, public infrastructure, economic development, housing activities, and public service activities.

The CDBG Advisory Committee holds one public hearing and three public meetings to review applications and provide funding recommendations. Meetings are typically held in January between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee members are paid \$50 per diem and mileage at the current county rate.

Persons interested in being considered for this appointment should submit an application no later than **June 30, 2022** to: Phil Chapman, Clerk of County Board, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214, Courthouse, Duluth, MN, 55802, fax: 218-725-5060, or e-mail chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov.

To apply online, go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk, click on the "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee". Applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and in the Government Services Building in Virginia or by emailing chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov. You may also request an application by calling 218-726-2385.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR
 BY: Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board

Published in the Timberjay, April 15 & 22, 2022

FIELD TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The May meeting of the Field Town Board will begin on May 10, 2022, at 5:30 pm at the Field Township Cemetery for inspection followed by road review. The meeting will reconvene at the Field Town Hall.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 22, 2022

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property
 This may affect your 2023 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Breitung shall meet on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 1:00 pm, at the Breitung Community Center, 33 First Ave, Soudan, MN 55782. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Dianna Sundahl, Clerk, Breitung Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 22 & 29, 2022



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

- Hospital/ER**
Casual Unit Clerk/Nursing Assistant (Current NA Cert. or EMT required)
- Nursing**
FT RN House Supervisor
- Dietary**
PT Dietary Aide/Cook
- Laboratory**
FT Medical Lab Tech
- Radiology**
FT Radiologic Technologist (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)
- Activities**
PT & Casual Activities Assistant

- Care Center**
FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)
FT & PT RN/LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)
- Environmental Services**
Casual Laundry Aide
FT, PT & Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

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

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 A Member of Minnesota State

General Repair Worker

Unlimited, Full-Time - Two (2) Positions Available
 Vermilion Campus – Ely, MN

Vermilion Community College, soon to be Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus, is seeking two (2) permanent, full-time General Repair Worker positions. These positions exist to perform general repair duties, preventative maintenance and mechanical repairs to college building components, physical plant, energy management systems, auxiliary generator, college equipment, plumbing and utilities. These positions will also assist in minor construction projects, remodeling and related duties for campus.

For position details, qualifications and application procedures, please view the posting at:
<https://www.nhed.edu/human-resources/employment/vcc>
 Deadline to apply: May 6, 2022

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is an Equal Opportunity employer/educator committed to the principles of diversity. We actively seek and encourage applications from women, minorities, persons with disabilities and veterans. All applicants must be able to lawfully accept employment in the United States at the time of employment.
 AA/EOE Veteran Friendly 4/29

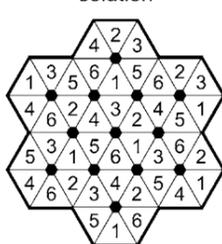
Super Crossword

Answers

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

SNOWFLAKES

solution



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



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

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

WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

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

PART-TIME SEASONAL Cabin Cleaners and Guest Service Representative needed. Saturdays and some weekdays. Fun work environment at Everett Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion in Tower. Call 218-753-5115. 4/22

WEEKEND CABIN CLEANERS (other days needed also)- Pike Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion. Call Jay at 218-753-2430 or email info@pikebaylodge.com. 5/13

GARAGE SALES

Ely Citywide Rummage and Crazy Day Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10.00 registration fee. Receive signage, map location, and advertising. Stop in at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E Sheridan St, or visit Ely.org/citywide for a registration form and details.

FOR RENT

1 BR CABIN- Furnished, dishes/kitchenware. Includes electricity/wifi/streaming TV, A/C and Heat. Tower area. \$650/mo. 218-753-3547. tfn

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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.

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Super Crossword

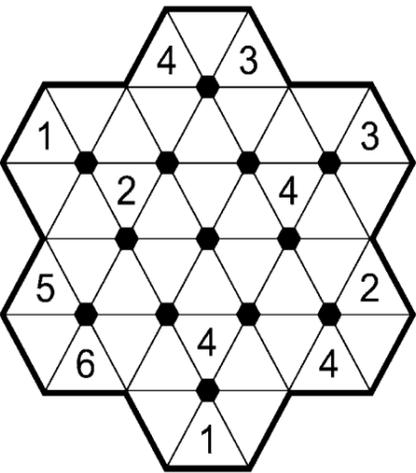
MUDDLED FEELINGS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Outlook
 - 7 Opponents
 - 13 Rolling Stones frontman's family
 - 20 Despise
 - 21 Funny in a twisted way
 - 22 Shrinking salt lake in Asia
 - 23 "Does this medication act as a sedative at all?"
 - 25 French painter Henri
 - 26 Pops
 - 27 Dark warrior Kylo of sci-fi
 - 28 Magical elixir that turns people into mouse-like rodents?
 - 30 Sun or moon
 - 32 People using paste
 - 35 — Moines
 - 36 26th letters, to Brits
 - 37 The singer of "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'" was nosy?
 - 41 Caustic liquid
 - 44 Mogul
 - 45 Football field
 - 47 Loss of the sense of smell
 - 52 Out of kilter
 - 53 Upkeep of a kitchen stove?
 - 57 Peter of Herman's Hermits
 - 59 Freeman of "Angel Face"
 - 60 "... roughly"
 - 61 Landscaping tool used by a large company?
 - 68 Culinary mushroom
 - 69 Not ingested
 - 70 Coll. in Lower Manhattan
 - 71 First letter
 - 73 Follies show
 - 74 Question to someone who rudely interrupts a chat?
 - 78 Ruckuses
 - 79 Teeny power source
 - 81 Nation in "The Hunger Games"
 - 82 Captured during a revolt?
 - 87 Frosting tools
 - 92 Bit of conjunctivitis medicine
 - 93 Ballesteros of golf
 - 94 Pages transmitted by PCs
 - 95 Gave the heave-ho to
 - 97 Cost to buy an airline ticket?
 - 101 FBI workers: Abbr.
 - 105 Cooke of soul
 - 107 Actor Chuck
 - 108 Small child
 - 109 Arsons?
 - 113 Some refinery input
 - 114 Bummed
 - 116 Emilio of Hollywood
 - 117 Apt things to feel when solving this puzzle?
 - 123 Really dumb
 - 124 6-Down plus one
 - 125 State tree of New Jersey
 - 126 — Pilate (biblical official)
 - 127 Most tender
 - 128 Wisenheimer
- DOWN**
- 1 — Baba
 - 2 "Mayday!"
 - 3 Avenged
 - 4 Kett of comics
 - 5 Neighbor of Sudan
 - 6 What X may mean
 - 7 Creep higher, as shorts
 - 8 Wrinkle remover
 - 9 "I do," e.g.
 - 10 Sothem of "Kid Millions"
 - 11 Actor Schreiber
 - 12 Young cod
 - 13 "Misery" star
 - 14 Give — (care)
 - 15 Cat, to Juan
 - 16 Ostentatious showiness
 - 17 "Charlotte's Web" actress Davis
 - 18 Turf anew
 - 19 Camille Saint —
 - 24 Annual: Abbr.
 - 29 Meadow
 - 30 Eight: Prefix
 - 31 "Wide Sargasso Sea" novelist Jean
 - 32 With 118-Down, child of a boomer
 - 33 Emma Peel player Diana
 - 34 Withered
 - 38 Jane in court
 - 39 Something hit by a basso
 - 40 Lightly lit
 - 42 Swenson of "Benson"
 - 43 John in court
 - 46 Title for 33-Down
 - 48 Not rough
 - 49 — Melodies (old toons)
 - 50 Pant-leg line
 - 51 Coral rings
 - 53 Bicolor horse
 - 54 Busy insect
 - 55 Once named
 - 56 Fish-fowl link
 - 58 Some refinery input
 - 61 Run, as an art exhibition
 - 62 In the future
 - 63 Rescind
 - 64 Waited a bit
 - 65 Ltr. holder
 - 66 Henna or anil
 - 67 Chap
 - 68 Orange Bowl loc.
 - 71 Motels
 - 72 San Francisco's — Valley
 - 74 Astros, on scoreboards
 - 75 Rock blasters
 - 76 Unseal, in poetry
 - 77 Old Egypt-Syr. alliance
 - 79 "Life is like — of chocolates"
 - 80 They're large in large-print materials
 - 83 Pro-gun org.
 - 84 Sports arbiter
 - 85 Tennis' Lendl
 - 86 Blood fluid: Prefix
 - 88 Coral islet
 - 89 Way out of a building
 - 90 Nevada city on I-80
 - 91 USAF NCO
 - 94 Bad grades
 - 96 Flow barrier
 - 98 Wears away
 - 99 Set straight
 - 100 Movie
 - 101 Tons
 - 102 Painter's undercoat
 - 103 Tarte — (apple treat)
 - 104 Artery insert
 - 106 Some viral trends
 - 110 Roman 107
 - 111 Brand of lens solution
 - 112 Farm tower
 - 114 Banana part
 - 115 Verdi opera
 - 118 See 32-Down
 - 119 Eden evictee
 - 120 Hosp. areas
 - 121 Cable TV's — Geo Wild
 - 122 Cloud's place

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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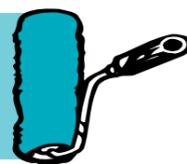
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For more information, call Jodi at 218-753-2950 (office), 218-750-3513 (cell), or email editor@timberjay.com.

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