

**Inside:** COVID update... See /9 Finding solution to pollution... See /1B Wolf pups gets named... See /1B Drought may be returning....See /2B



#### **BORDER LAKES**

## **Rainy River Basin flooding slowly retreating**

Rate of decline varies by lake from three weeks up to eight

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - A major turning point in the record flooding across the Rainy River Basin occurred this past weekend when Rainy Lake officially crested, signaling the start of a painstakingly slow retreat that could last for up to two months.

"The lake appears to have crested and fallen slightly," said Monday's report from the National Weather Service Office in Duluth. "Rainy Lake level is 1,113.2 feet, 22 inches above the 2014 peak and 2.5 inches above the now previous record set in 1950. The level of Rainy Lake is expected to fall by 1.5 to three inches between June 13 and June 20."

The report noted that the lake remains vulnerable to rising again in the event of heavy rainfall across the region, but the NWS forecast through the end of the month is calling for near to below normal precipitation.

And while flows across the watershed remain

high for this time of year, inflows to the Namakan chain of lakes, including Kabetogama and Crane Lake, and to Rainy have been falling sharply.

"As decreases contin-

See...FLOOD pg. 11

### **BOIS FORTE** Geshick wins race for secy./ treasurer Drift re-elected, Moyer tapped

#### for District 2 rep by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

**NETTLAKE-Members** of the Bois Forte Band went to the ballot box on Tuesday for tribal council elections, re-electing one incumbent and placing two new faces on the council.

Unofficial results posted Tuesday night showed tight races for all three contested seats.

Tara Geshick won the secretary/treasurer seat by the narrowest of margins, defeating longtime incumbent David Morrison Sr. by just three votes, 258-255. Morrison was the favorite of voters in Nett Lake and absentee voters, but Geshick held the advantage in Minneapolis, Duluth, and Vermilion to claim the win in the unofficial results.



VERMILION **RESERVATION** - "It is kind of like a disease," said Dennis Oberloh, who traveled up to the Tower area from Redwood Falls for the InterMarque Car



## LIFE SUPPORT **Orr and Cook** look to bolster ambulance services

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Rural ambulances are an essential service operating under increasingly difficult staff shortages and financial conditions, but officials in both Orr and Cook are taking step to increase the stability of services in their communities.

At the Orr City Council meeting on Monday, councilors embraced a revision to

state law that will allow some staffing flexibility to improve coverage.

**For emergency** calls and interfacility transfers in a primary service area providing basic life support transport, statting requirements have been changed to allow units to use a driver who is not an EMT or EMR. A qualified driver must have attended an emergency vehicle driving course, must have completed an approved CPR

We want to assure you that our goal is to continue to provide this critical service on a local basis. City of Cook

statement

In the District 2 contest, Robert Moyer edged Hannah Chosa for the tribal council position, 103-99.

The race swung Moyer's way in the Vermilion sector where he had a solid 84-63 advantage. It will be Moyer's first time as a member of the tribal council.

District 1 council member Shane Drift was the lone incumbent to win re-election, defeating

See...BALLOT pg. 10

Top: Dennis and Theresa Oberloh, of Redwood Falls, sit in their 1958 MG convertible at the InterMarque Car Club's annual rendevous last weekend at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

More than 75 vintage foreign vehicles, including a 1961 Jaguar Mark 2, above right, were seen touring the North Country this past week. photos by J. Summit

course, and must have a valid driver's license.

Ambulance services must notify the state Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board of a specific time period during which the staffing change will be utilized, as the change is considered temporary under the new statute. However, service directors may also submit another notice extending the period for utilizing the change.

"A medical director can approve any driver that is not licensed as an EMR,"

See...AMBULANCE pg. 10

#### ISD 696/CITY OF ELY

## Get ready for traffic, parking changes this fall at Ely school

#### by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY-Schoolboard members here were set this week to discuss and possibly finalize a formal plan that would drastically change the school bus and vehicle traffic flow

and increase parking restrictions around the ISD 696 campus in time for the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

The board met this week on Wednesday, rather than Monday, and any decisions were made after the Timberjay's deadline.

Ahead of the school board's action, city of Ely officials and council members were briefed last week by Police Chief Chad Houde about new developments in the ongoing discussions with the school district, including new information that will make

the south side of Harvey Street between Fourth and Seventh avenues a no-parking zone during the school day.

Houde, Fire Chief David Marshall, and Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski have been in discussions with ISD 696 officials ahead of the rollout of the new parking and traffic plan.

Parents will no longer use the Ely Ice Arena parking lot area off Fourth Avenue for student dropoff to the elementary school. That

See...ELY pg. 10



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### Community notices

#### Mesabi Symphony Orchestra presents North of Broadway concerts

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, with local stars of the stage, presents its annual North of Broadway concerts in Virginia on Friday, June 17 at 7 p.m. at Mesabi Range College and the next night, Saturday, June 18 in Ely at 7 p.m. at Vermilion Community College. For more information and ticket sales visit www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org.

#### Rumble Strips dance performance at Tofte Lake Center in Ely, June 16, 17

ELY- Rumble Strips, a thought-provoking dance performance, will be presented by the April Sellers Dance Collective on Thursday and Friday, June 16-17 at 7 p.m. at the Tofte Lake Center, 2209 Fernberg Rd. The evening-length ensemble work incorporates movement, music, text, and humor and is performed outdoors for an immersive yet physically distanced experience. Wear walking shoes since the estimated walk time is five minutes. And, bring a blanket, towel, camp stool, or chair, bug spray, and beverages.

"Rumble Strips uses gender identity as an entry point to address our current fractured political landscape, where the willingness to work collectively is hindered by rigid allegiance to single perspectives,' a performance press release said. "In a shared world, we must carve out the dangerous space where we align ourselves with people who do not match our own identities, race, gender, or political agenda."

If questions, call 218-365-7769 or email info@toftelake.org. Reservations are strongly suggested by emailing info@toftelake.org. Rumble Strips is accessible to all audiences and is wheelchair accessible.

#### Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners to Host Hope for Hospice 5k walk/run

ORR - Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Inc. (VHHP) will host a 5k walk/run in Orr on Saturday, June 25 at 9 a.m. The starting point is the Orr Ice Skating Shack at 10696 Shady Grove Ln. VHHP is currently taking advance registrations. Registration forms can be found at the VHHP website at www. vhhp.org, by contacting the program director at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. Come and support a great cause.

#### Fresh Start Summer for Kids at the Arrowhead libraries

REGIONAL - To help kids and families engage in summer reading, a select number of public libraries in the Arrowhead Library System (ALS) region will be offering a Fresh Start Summer program for patrons ages 0-18 during the summer months. Fresh Start Summer is a way for kids and teens who have lost or damaged items to complete activities in the library or at home to have some or all of the fines removed. Some of the participating public libraries include Chisholm, Cook, Hoyt Lakes, Virginia, ALS Mail-A-Book, and ALS Bookmobile.

'We know that many kids and teens who have lost or damaged items do not have the ability to pay off the fees and this prevents the very kids who need the library the most from using it," said ALS Regional Librarian Mollie Stanford. "The goal of this program is to eliminate barriers and get kids and families back into the library. We are excited to encourage life-long learning this summer and want to ensure quality and accessible library services."

Please note that each Fresh Start Summer program is unique depending on the library and has different requirements. Connect with your local library to learn more about how kids of all ages can get a fresh start. If you need an ALS Public Library Card or a replacement card, and live in the ALS seven-county service area of Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis, feel free to apply online by visiting www.alslib.info/services/ how-do-i-get-a-library-card/.

### SISU HERITAGE **Embarrass heats up for Sauna Day**

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- The sun, and the bugs, did come out at Embarrass's annual Sauna Day celebration, but the families that attended didn't seem to mind. And in true community fashion, there was a bottle of sunscreen and bug spray left out on the Nelimark's porch if anyone needed to use some.

While the day-long celebration originally started to feature all things about the Finnish sauna, it has turned into a classic community event, with food, live music, games, and even baby goats to pet.

Three styles of portable saunas were on display, a classic barrel-shaped sauna available for rental, hand-crafted cabin-shaped saunas built for home use, and a pop-up tent-style sauna for use at home or on the road. And as always, the historic Nelimark Sauna, on the National Register of Historic Places, was open for viewing.

Owen Christenson builds about 60 saunas a year with business partner Jeremy High. The saunas feature a custom-built stove, and beautifully-crafted cedar interiors. Stone Grove Saunas from Grand Rapids can bring a barrel sauna to your event, along with a dunk tank and outdoor shower. The company has two units out of Grand Rapids, and another two in the Twin Cities. They started their business back in 2020 and have grown since the start of the pandemic. North Shore Sauna Rental boasts their portable tent saunas can even be brought into the Boundary Waters, and they offer several styles and sizes of portable saunas for rental.

Under the tent, there was live music with Tyler Burkum on guitar and Brett Bjornrud on drums. Barbecue pork sandwiches and other treats were available for purchase, and the famous Nelimark baked goods, including bread and other sweets, sold out quickly.

The Finnish boot throwing contest attracted a nice crowd, with children, women, and men competing for the most accurate rubber boot throws, getting their boot closest to the pin. The contest is based, according to contest coordinator Marlin Bjornrud, on an old Finnish tale that involved a couple who needed to cross a swampy area, but only the man had tall rubber boots.







Top left: Andy Bjornrud took second place in the kids boot throwing competition.

Above right: Savannah Johnson got some cuddle time in with the baby goats.

Left: Owen Christenson's family brought saunas to display.

Below: The interior of the portable sauna tent.

photos by J. Summit



So the man crossed the swamp, and then threw his boots back over the swamp to his girlfriend, who then was able to cross without getting wet. And apparently boot-throwing is a recognized sport in Finland

(check out videos on YouTube), and there is even an International Boot Throwing Association based in Helsinki, Finland.

### TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY **Explore Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion history**

SOUDAN- If you want to learn

more about the rich history of our History Talks on Main Street kicks off on Monday,



#### Presenters and Topics:

- Angela Lunde, Mindfulness and You
- Dr. Nicholas Cooley, Good Sleep, Why & How
  - Dr. Katie Evans, Your Aching Feet •

Naomi Sperry, Pharm D & John Schindele, Pharm D •

- EBCH Pharmacy and Hospital Services
  - Dr. Isaac Hunt, Your Aging Brain
- Heather Holthaus, RN, Essentia(I) Wellness

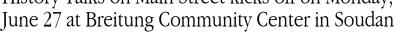
Presenters and topics are subject to change. Sponsored in part by: **LBCH** Ely Community Essentia Health Ely-Bloomenson Pharmacy Pharmacy

area, the places and the people who live here, the Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) is offering you many opportunities to do so. The TSHS brings history back to life through a popular series of History Talks on Main Street. Kicking off the 2022 History Talk series, Timberjay editor David Colburn will join TSHS curator Richard Hanson in presenting The Charles Nelson Story, the fascinating story about a young soldier from Soudan. This talk will be held on Monday, June 27 at 2 p.m. in Soudan at the Breitung Community Center, 22 First Ave.

Refreshments will be offered during the two-hour open house and presentation. There is no charge to attend. Free-will donations designated for the creation of a future permanent display about Private Charles Nelson will be accepted at the event.

#### The Charles Nelson Story

'While we'll have a little background on his family, we'll be fo-





cusing on what would ultimately be the final four months of the life of Charles G. Nelson, the first local soldier to die in battle in World War I," said Colburn, who will share his research and the resources he used to compile his information.

'With Charles as our focal point,

we'll trace his journey through several stages, beginning in the days before he boards the train in Ely for his journey west to Camp Lewis in Washington state, the largest such camp in the nation. We'll travel back east with him by train to New Jersey to board one of the grandest ocean liners of them all and bid farewell for the last time to America. We'll learn about his early days in France, his tedious travels under cover of night to the front, and his participation in the largest offensive in U.S. military history, the Meuse-Argonne."

Historical treasures 100 years old, including the 48-star American flag that once draped Private Nelson's coffin, will be on display, and we'll learn how the treasures were discovered, and then donated to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.

This is the first of three "History Talks on Main Street" scheduled for summer of 2022.



#### STATE SENATE RACE

## Grant Hauschild campaigns in the area

DFL candidate focusing on common themes: housing, worker shortage, tourism, broadband

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL—As he travels around the vast Senate district he hopes to represent following November's election, Grant Hauschild said he's hearing common themes, particularly in communities that rely on tourism. Hauschild, who currently

serves on the Hermantown City Council, was in Tower, Cook, and Grand Marais this week, all communities that are included in the Third Senate District long represented by Sen. Tom Bakk. Bakk announced his retirement at the end of his current term and Hauschild is hoping to succeed him.

While the district has long been a DFL stronghold, Hauschild knows that the region has undergone a sea change over the past several years and he's running fast and hard— like the underdog he just might be.



Grant Hauschild spoke with a group of Tower area residents on Sunday at Nordic Home North. submitted

"Overall, I'm hearing pretty similar themes," said Hauschild, who spoke to the *Timberjay* about his recent visit to the region. "People are certainly talking a lot about workforce issues," said Hauschild. From the North Shore to northern St. Louis County, Hauschild said there's concern about the lack of available workers and a recognition that the extreme scarcity of housing is contributing to the problem. He said potential workers interested in moving to area communities for a variety of job opportunities are finding it nearly impossible to obtain housing, particularly rental housing. Houses that do become available are often snapped up immediately, either by new owners or investors who hope to convert the homes to short-term rentals through online rentals.

Hauschild, who worked in rural economic development with the USDA under the Obama administration, said he's well aware of the issue and how the lack of capital in rural areas is contributing to the problem. "This is really an area where the government can partner with local organizations to provide low-cost housing options," he said.

At the same time, Hauschild said he recognizes that many rural and small-town residents often feel that funding approved for improvements or expansion of housing or broadband connectivity, doesn't make it to their town. "People say they don't trust that it will trickle down to their community," said Hauschild. He agreed and said that's why, if elected, he'll seek appointment to the Senate's Capital Investment Committee, where he can help steer direct spending to the region, rather than simply filling agency coffers only to see the overwhelming majority of funds remain in the Twin Cities metro area.

"I hear the concern. My number one focus will be bringing money directly to the Northland," he said. "And I'm the one candidate who has the well-rounded policy background to actually get that money to the Northland."

While a relatively new resident of the district, having moved to the Hermantown area from North Dakota in 2018, Hauschild

See HAUSCHILD...pg. 5

## **City looking to fill open council seat**

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER — Any adult resident here interested in public service can apply through July 1 for a possible appointment to the city council. The council agreed at their regular monthly meeting on Monday to post the council vacancy created by the recent death of council member Sheldon Majerle, who recently lost a short battle with cancer.

The council agreed to advertise the position for the next two weeks and will consider any applications ahead of their regular July meeting. Anyone appointed to the seat would serve until the fall general election and would have the opportunity to run for election at that time.

The council also considered changes in committee assignments to fill the positions previously held by Majerle. Tom Suihkonen will replace Majerle on the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board, but the council opted to wait to fill Majerle's position on the airport commission, the lodging tax board, and the Gunderson Trust board, until a replacement is

#### appointed.

The council vacancy was the most substantive item in a brief council agenda that took just 28 minutes to complete.

The council did set a special meeting, however, for next week to discuss and possibly approve new contracts with employees covered by labor agreements with the AFSCME union. That includes the deputy clerk and the two full-time city maintenance staff members. In addition, the union and the city have been in negotiations for months on the framework for a first-ever labor contract for the city's ambulance director, who filed for union protection last year.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz said the negotiators for all sides have reached tentative agreements, but that they will need to come before the council before final approval. "We could possibly have a closed session to discuss it," Schultz told the council. State law does allow for closed sessions of public bodies for labor negotiations.

The special meeting is set for Monday, June 20, at 5:30 p.m. at Tower City Hall.

In other business, Schultz informed

the council that bids for work on the new harbor area trailhead and Main Street road extension to the East Two River were set to be opened on Thursday, June 16, and will likely be discussed at a city projects meeting that same afternoon.

In other action, the council:

➤ Gave the final reading to modifications in the city's zoning ordinance related to garage construction. The change would allow property owners who own a residence to build a garage or storage building on an adjacent lot that they also own as long as they replat the two lots as a single lot.

> Decided against selling the city's former police vehicle given that city officials are making occasional use of the vehicle.

➤ Approved license renewals for city businesses engaged in the sale of liquor and/or cigarettes.

➤ Approved issuing a request for bids for improvements related to the proposed Renner RV park, located off Marina Dr. Renner is utilizing funding from the Department of Iron Range

See TOWER. pg. 5

### Charges filed in two Ely-area incidents

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY – A Grand Rapids resident and an Ely man face felony charges in connection with two separate incidents here last week including kidnapping and pulling a gun in a local tavern.

Austin James Swanson, 27, of Grand Rapids, is charged with kidnapping, third degree assault, and making threats of violence against a local man in connection with an incident earlier this month.

According to a criminal complaint released by the Ely Police Department, Swanson forced an adult female to get into a vehicle driven by his mother and allegedly took her to a residence in nearby Winton where he beat her, causing injuries. Swanson allegedly "punched the female in the face, choked her and repeatedly banged her head against the wall and the toilet, causing her to temporarily lose consciousness."

The criminal complaint said she told officers she feared for her life and allegedly stabbed Swanson in the stomach.

Police were called to an Ely residence on Monday, June 6 to investigate the reported assault from the prior evening. Officers were told that Swanson and the adult female,

See CRIME... pg. 5



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## *Editorial* Legislators we'll miss

## Bakk and Tomassoni focused on problem-solving, not partisasnship

One advantage of working in the news media, is that we regularly get the chance to talk at length with our various elected officials. Over the years, we've frequently talked with Sen. Tom Bakk, whose long career in state politics will soon come to an end.

While we haven't always agreed with Sen. Bakk, we've always been impressed with his approach to politics, which is focused on results. Sen. Bakk is the kind of politician that voters used to rate highly— effective, non-ideological, and focused on bringing home the bacon.

And we don't mean "bacon" in a pejorative sense. Throughout American history, voters have sent elected officials to their various capitals to fight for their interests, including as much of their piece of the pie as possible.

"Politics" has long been defined as the art and science of government, and it's an art and a science that Sen. Bakk was clearly able to master early in his 28 years in elected office. His retirement, along with that of Sen. David Tomassoni, another experienced, non-ideological senator from our region, represents a major loss for voters here.

We certainly weren't the only ones to recognize that Sen.Bakk and Sen.Tomassoni were cut from cloth much different from most politicians these days. Sen. Bakk spent the vast majority of his years in St. Paul in leadership, including as both minority and majority leader in the state Senate. That he was able to retain that leadership role during a sharply divided era in politics, speaks volumes about his pragmatism and his ability to find common ground, even among the sometimes fractious elements of his own caucus. When Bakk and Tomassoni left the DFL caucus in the wake of the 2020 elections, it was just another strategic decision that allowed the two senators to leverage a narrow GOP majority in the Senate to further advance the interests of their districts. Bakk landed the key chairmanship of the Senate Capital Investment Committee and Tomassoni was installed as Senate President. Even as he's heading out the door, Sen. Bakk is still trying to find a path forward for agreement on the uses for the state's record budget surplus. He's been on the phone with leaders in both parties making the case for an agreement that, if reached,

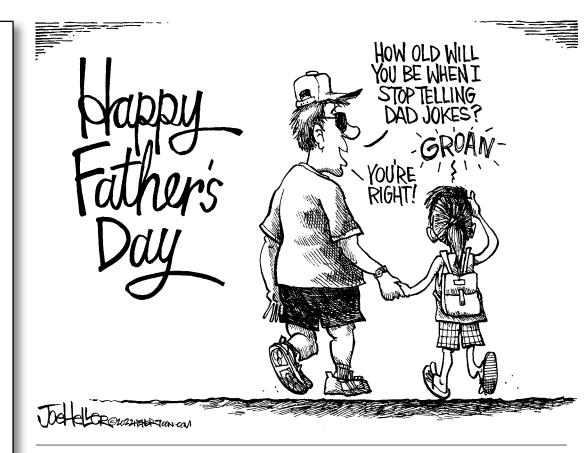
will provide real assistance to the region.

Among the major pieces of legislation still in limbo is the omnibus tax bill, which would, among many other things, provide a solution for the Ely School District's \$4 million shortfall in its ongoing school renovation. That project has been hampered by the rising cost of building materials during the COVID pandemic and without a legislative fix, the district is likely to face some very difficult choices. Sen. Bakk had engineered several provisions designed to help Ely as well as the Rock Ridge School District, which is experiencing similar problems with its own building project.

This is what legislators are supposed to do. Sen. Bakk spent his time in St. Paul working on solutions to problems facing his district. These aren't DFL or Republican problems. They're just problems and 95 percent of the time, the solutions are practical, not political or ideological.

It's probably difficult to remember that for many years, up until 1973, legislators in Minnesota were considered non-partisan and didn't run with party labels, a recognition that they were supposed to be problem solvers rather than partisans.

The various disagreements that are currently holding up most of the Legislature's work this year are examples of putting politics over problem solving. DFLers, who are certainly at risk of operating in the minority in both the House and Senate next year, should be doing whatever they can to cut a deal with the GOP, but they face pushback from some in their caucus who are more interested in partisan politics It's probably worse on the GOP side, where Sen. Bakk notes many Republicans fear they'll face primaries from extremist groups in their party if they show any willingness to compromise with DFLers. It's no wonder that the Legislature can rarely complete its work on time, and that the state regularly runs the risk of partial shutdowns over political brinksmanship. Legislators like Sen. Bakk and Sen. Tomassoni, who regularly put aside partisan considerations to pursue "the art and science of governance," are an increasingly rare breed in St. Paul. Their absence, beginning next year, will certainly be felt.



### Letters from Readers

## ATV trail a poor fit for Eagles Nest area

OPINION

I would like to highlight several issues regarding the proposed Prospector connector ATV trail that would run through the Eagles Nest Lakes area. First of all, this new portion would serve as a major connecting trail between a proposed ATV campground and the existing trails. It is meant to bring in as many out of town guests as possible to generate tourism dollars. It is not just for local residents to use. It is part of an 8-10 million dollar project to bring people in. There will be many, many ATV's using these trails. Secondly, our Eagles Nest community will not get any economic benefit from this project. Just the noise and disruption.

The ATV trail is not a good fit for the Eagles Nest area. People come to this area for the beauty, solitude, and peaceful lakes. We paid a lot of money for the property, pay a lot in taxes, and contribute to the community. The trail will be a major disruptive and negative influence. Sound travels a long way over water, well over a 100 cabin and home owners will be affected. There are legitimate safety concerns. The roads are narrow, curving, and at times do not have good sightlines. There is traffic from Bear Head State Park that will not be expecting ATV traffic. Currently there is a working group, from both the Prospector ATV Club and Eagles Nest residents, researching other options. Both sides, along with local government agencies, need to work together to find the best route. The shortest or most direct route is not always the best. There are other options. I enjoy snowmobiling and the trails. There are several signs on the trails reminding us that the trails are a privilege, not a right. I respect that. We need to keep working to find the best solution. Stephen Casey Cabin owner on Eagles Nest Lake 3 Eagan

## Mesabi fails with its opinion writer

I was pleased to read the recent letters in the *Timberjay* that told the truth about multi-defective Donald Trump. It was a pleasure not to be found in the *Mesabi Tribune*, where Jesse White frequently criticizes Pres. Biden, most recently for proposing to help students - and the economy - with \$600 checks.

In response, Mr. White, who has ignored "the Donald's" endless immorality, ignorance, arrogance and disregard for law, criticized Nancy Pelosi for not wearing a mask while getting her hair done, devised a biased column titled "Money for Nothing and Your Votes for Free."

Instead of appreciating an administration that is trying to help students directly, perhaps Mr. White would prefer the Republican way, the Bush/ Reagan/Stockman way, by selling "trickle-down economics" in which the rich got tax cuts and the rest got next to nothing. Decades later, Stockman even admitted that trickle-down economics was intended to enrich their already wealthy friends.

Like Smilin' Pete Stauber, White has steadfastly supported the sociopathic Trump clan. Instead, he routinely criticizes Pres. Biden who inherited four years of chaos, illegalities, mismanagement and plummeting international respect - plus a Trump-inspired mob that soiled the halls of Congress All in all, the Tribune is a decent paper, but it made a mistake when it allowed a Trump-lover to leave his job as a sportswriter and enter the field of politics.

Area Wilderness on the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota. Also in the news, researchers recently unearthed 23,000 year-old fossilized footprints of Indigenous Americans in present-day New Mexico, though this "discovery" comes as no surprise to the Indigenous peoples of the continent. What is the common thread in these two stories? The fact that Native Americans have been a part of Turtle Island, now known as the North American continent, since time immemorial.

Native Americans have been on the North American continent for at least 30,000 years. Prior to European colonization, the land we now call the United States was indigenized, meaning that it was influenced and actively managed by its original inhabitants. Native Americans are the first land stewards, farmers, and fire managers. Only with the arrival of European colonists did a rapid destabilization occur-the collapse of previously thriving bison, fish, plant, earthen and other economies and, likewise, the supporting ecosystems. Surviving Native Americans were summarily corralled and forced onto managed reservations with land boundaries. In the process, the indigenized systems in place, developed over tens of thousands of years, were discarded. Consequently, federal land management agencies and environmental organizations claimed the void. Wherever we stand on this continent, we stand on Native land - previously indigenized land that has since been covered with layer upon layer of broken treaties and federal, state, private and political boundary lines. Native peoples have indelible ties to the forests, grasslands, and waterways of this continent. As a federal agency that manages over 193 million acres of land, the U.S. Forest Service maintains unique and important relationships to Tribes. For the Forest Service to maintain authenticity in its commitment to land management and its service to people,

#### George Erickson Eveleth

## What does it mean to indigenize the USFS?

Earlier this year, news articles across the Great Lakes region were abuzz with a new archeological find: pottery fragments from 1,750 years ago were uncovered in the Boundary Waters Canoe

#### See LETTERS...pg. 5

## **Read any good book lately?**

A rather startling and I have to say, appalling statistic, came to my attention this last week: in a typical year, 57 percent of Americans do not read a single book. The average American spent seventeen minutes a day reading books and 5.4 hours on their phone (as of 2017.) I gleaned these bits of



reading a fascinating and informative book, Stolen Focus, with the subtitle Why You Can't Pay Attention--and How to Think Deeply Again. Author Johann Hari has written for The New York Times, Le Monde, The Guardian, and other newspapers, authored two other

information not on the internet but books, and given TED Talks

that have been viewed over 80 million times.

Stolen Focus is worthy of reading and rereading, packed with well-documented information and analysis. Our change in reading habits is just one small, but important part of this portrait of factors connected with the attrition of focus and sustained attention. Hari looks behind the scenes of social media platforms and other businesses that have strategized to intentionally catch and fragment our attention for their profit. You might think, "Well, that's how it is these days. I hate it, but nothing can be done about it," but Hari disagrees with that thinking.

First, he explodes the myth of multi-tasking, a term coined when computer technology utilized multiple processors in one machine to handle two or more things simultaneously. MIT neuroscientist Earl Miller explained that given the fundamental structure of the human brain, it can handle only one or two thoughts at once, despite what employers would like to expect of their employees. What's really happening is we are juggling mental tasks, switching our attention from one to the next and back again, and this reduces our ability to focus in several ways. Imagine you're paying bills and get a text, so you stop to read it, then return to your bills. It takes time to refocus, which causes a drop in your performance, as much as 20 to 30 percent less. If you are distracted by texts, emails, and phone calls throughout your

#### See READING...pg. 5

### **LETTERS...**Continued from page 4

we must acknowledge our history through continued recognition of Indigenous American peoples as the original land managers of this country. But we must also move beyond acknowledgement to indigenize the Forest Service by reincorporating Indigenous values and knowledge into our land management systems.

What does it mean to indigenize the Forest Service in our day-to-day responsibilities? It means that we work to reshape federal-tribal relationships, to embed Indigenous wisdom into current land management and to fully pursue co-stewardship as authorizations allow, while upholding trust and treaty responsibilities.

To press forward with these efforts, the Forest Service is hiring several tribal relations specialists in the coming months. These positions are designed to encourage and support respectful government-to-government relationships; to clarify the Forest Service's responsibilities regarding Tribal trust and treaty reserved rights; to develop and support education and training for Forest Service

employees, helping them to work with tribal governments and partners more effectively; and to explore innovative ways to collaborate with Tribal nations, Tribal organizations, and Tribal members.

As the Forest Service finalizes its Tribal Relations Action Plan on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nationto-Nation Relationships which outlines steps for, the Agency to meet the federal trust responsibility, honor treaty obligations, and support tribal self-determination, tribal relations specialists will play an especially pivotal role in leading positive efforts to strengthen Forest Service relationships with Tribal nations. This is an exciting time to work in Tribal Relations. Join our team.

To explore opportunities with the Forest Service, including several Tribal Relations Specialist positions now available, please visit, https://www. usajobs.gov/GetJob/ ViewDetails/657948500.

> **Reed Robinson USDA Forest Service** Director Office of **Tribal Relations**

### Stauber in the age of pronouns

It is indeed a curious time for pronouns. Rep. Stauber uses the collective "our," "our way of life," at least in the generic sense, but after reviewing his online profile it appears he has a private definition. Stauber has always drawn his income from the tax base. That is what his website reports in terms of his employment past. Even noted is his wife's military service the source of her income is known, the government. In Stauber's case

it appears the "our" is about personal family incomes.

It is also curious to note he runs within the party where "term limits' is often invoked. Yet, here he is running again. Hardly the "our" of the GOP since he runs contrary to the base desire.

Stauber needs to be queried on this "our" usage, especially in this time of pronoun definitions.

> Jeff Wilfahrt Ely

### HAUSCHILD...Continued from page 3

brings with him more than a decade of political experience, beginning in his college days at the University of North Dakota, where he served as student body vice president while earning a political science degree. He went on to work first as an aide, and later as political director, to North DakotaU.S.Sen.HeidiHeitkamp. While living in Washington, D.C., he earned a master's degree in public policy from George Washington University in addition to his work at the Department of Agriculture. Since moving to Hermantown, he has served as executive director of the Essentia Health Foundation,

which provides a wide range of funding to Essentia facilities all across the region.

During his visit to Tower on Sunday, Hauschild met with a couple dozen area residents. While housing and workforce shortages were discussed, he said others raised concerns about the lack of mental health services and the struggles that many young people have faced during the COVID pandemic. "It seems like young people are really struggling with mental health right now," said Hauschild. "We're seeing issues with lack of services, and there's concern about the growing gaps in EMS funding as well. There are lot of issues with folks living in rural areas, who are unsure if they'll get the help they need when they need it."

While Hauschild also visited Cook on Sunday to take part in the Timber Days parade, he said it didn't provide the opportunity for the kind of in-depth discussions that he's been able to have elsewhere. But he said he plans to be back in the area soon to talk more with voters.

While Hauschild acknowledges the Third District is far from a shoo-in for a DFLer these days, he has substantial experience in politics and said his campaign is well-organized, well-funded, and enthusiastic."I have no doubt that I have visited more communities, talked to more people than the other two candidates combined," he said

While Hauschild isn't facing opposition for the DFL nomination for the job, the Republican nominee will be decided in the Aug. 9 primary. Current Babbitt Mayor Andrea Zupancich and former Iron Mining Association president Kelsey Johnson are facing off in that contest.

Hauschild said his North Dakota roots have left him in the moderate wing of the DFL, focused primarily on the farmer

and labor side of the party. "As a moderate, I would have the ability to make deals with Republicans, not shout at them," he said. His time on the Hermantown City Council has also left him with the recognition that the best decisions are often made at the local level, where elected officials generally focus on problem-solving, rather than partisan game-playing. And that's what Hauschild said he hopes to provide to the region, if elected. "I sure think that if we're looking for someone who can take a no-nonsense approach and really deliver for the area."

### TOWER...Continued from page 3

Resources and Rehabilitation and those funds will come through the city, which leaves it in charge of the bid process and project oversight.

➤ Was informed by Schultz that the city's emergency frontline workers have been notified of the availability of frontline worker bonus pay through the state.

► Reviewed a report from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency showing that the city's water supply is narrowly back within limits for trihalomethanes, with an annual average of 73.2 micrograms per liter, below the safe limit of 80.4 micrograms/l.

**CRIME**...Continued from page 3

who were in a "significant romantic relationship," got into verbal argument.

Following the attack, the adult female was allegedly taken by Swanson's mother to Swanson's brother's house. Police observed and photographed numerous injuries on the female. Police also observed text messages sent after the alleged assault by Swanson to the female: "Should really call me. Trust me, ignoring my call is gonna completely ruin

your life."

Swanson faces maximum penalties of 20 years on the kidnapping charge, five years on the third-degree assault charge, five years on the threats of violence charge, and one year on a gross misdemeanor domestic assault charge.

Swanson has prior convictions for second degree assault and felony witness tampering from 2016.

#### Gun incident

Kenneth Shaquille

eates many causes includ-

**READING...**Continued from page 4

how they make money.

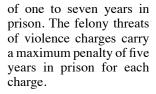
others at the bar.

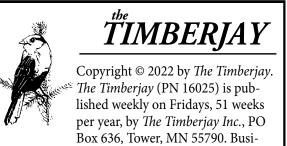
Louis County Sheriff's deputy arrived at the bar, Armant had fled the premises. According to the complaint, police saw Armant nearby on the street, but he ran away.

police made contact with Armant came to the Ely Police Department to talk with officers. The complaint said Armant admitted carrying a "BB gun" the

night before and that he was "scared for his life." He declined to give police any other information and was arrested.

The felony seconddegree assault charge carries a maximum penalty





ness/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to sub scribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

felony charges after he allegedly pulled out a gun at Dee's Bar in Ely after

becoming upset with a person he was playing pool with on Tuesday, June 7. According to the criminal complaint released by the Ely Police Department, witnesses said Armant became upset with a person he was playing pool with and reached into his pocket.

He pulled out a pistol and

waved it at the pool oppo-

nent and in the direction of

Armant, 28, faces three

When police and a St.

The next day, after the suspect by telephone,

more time than just the reading time. Research has shown that technological distraction causes a drop in IQ of ten points, double the effect caused by smoking cannabis.

day, you are losing much

The second cost is the increase in errors due to the switching, and the time lost for deeper thinking because you are backtracking and correcting errors. The third cost is called the "creativity drain." Creative ideas come from recognizing relationships between previously unconnected ideas and linking them together in a new way. For this to happen, your mind needs free, undistracted time. A fourth cost is the "diminished memory effect" documented by a UCLA team. Given two tasks to accomplish, participants remembered less about what they had done compared to people who focused on one task, perhaps because it takes mental space and energy to create memories.

We are also challenged to filter out other distractions in our environment such as noise in workplaces, classrooms, and urban environments, demanding our attention, affecting our flow of thoughts and perhaps our sleep. They all take a toll.

Professor Miller said that we have created in our culture "a perfect storm of cognitive degradation as a result of distraction." We have become ADHD-ish as a society. Hari also delin-

ing an increase in physical and mental exhaustion, sleep deprivation, disruption of mind wandering, crippling of flow states, deterioration of sustained reading, the surge in stress, our deteriorating diets, rising pollution, the rise of technology that can track and manipulate us, and confinement of our children, both physically and psychologically. That's not an easy paragraph to read, but it speaks to the realities of what is happening. Hari devotes a chapter to twelve causes, so I can barely skim the surface here.

Hari does believe system change is possible and cites examples of major changes in our society in the last 60 years, including civil rights for women, minorities and gays, including gay marriage, Those changes happened because committed people demanded change and worked to make it happen. He thinks the tech industry is more than disingenuous when it publicly denies culpability, saying individuals can just turn off notifications or not use their phones, when the goals of social media and businesses are to keep you hooked, isolated, and online for as much time as possible because that's

Sophisticated algorithms and features like continuous scrolling and videos keep you engaged. Individuals can certainly make changes in their habits, but Hari says it's not enough, and he offers a vision of how social media and internet businesses could have goals of improving our lives instead of just increasing their bottom line. Some examples: slowing down the process by having to click for the next page; setting time limits that you want to spend on a site, then asking if you want to continue. He recognizes such changes would not be enthusiastically embraced, so his larger vision includes government banning surveillance capitalism (online tracking and selling private data) with social media platforms funding through subscriptions. Then they would be motivated to work for their subscribers instead of advertisers. Classifying the internet as a public utility to be governed by the public is another option. Back to reading, which

is one of the most common forms of flow that people experience, spending hours on one task. Reading novels lets the reader immerse themselves in other worlds, imagining what it's like to

be in someone else's head while experiencing the complexity of their lives, goals, and motivations. This simulates social situations and develops understanding of others, reducing the "us versus them" mentality. Researchers likened fiction to being an empathy gym, boosting the reader's ability through practice to empathize, using the same cognitive processes used to understand their peers. Watching extended TV series about people's lives has the same effect. Shorter segments and clips do not create that kind of connection, nor does nonfiction. Psychology professor and researcher Raymond Mar explained his focus on the effects of reading fiction on human consciousness: "We're all on the same ball of mud and water that is heading toward a catastrophic end potentially. If we are going to solve these problems, we can't do it alone. That's why I think empathy is so valuable." We certainly have often

seen the lack of empathy with some politicians and their followers, so maybe we should be distributing novels to them instead of spending money on TV ads and brochures.

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

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

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
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Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
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#### **Official Newspaper:**

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

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

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

READ the Timberjay

### Week of June 20

#### 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 June 21.

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.

Breitung Town Board-12 noon on June 23.

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

#### Fourth of July Donations

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

Donations are still needed and can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.

Thank you to: Jerry & Susie Chiabotti Harlan & Adeline Broten Roger & Susan Harju Lee Branwall Frank & Linda Brula Ron Morcom Paula & Jay Barnes Nick & Faye Tekautz

#### Tower Farmers Market season on Fridays, 4-6 p.m.

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market will open for the season on Friday, June 17 at The Depot. The hours designated for selling are 4-6 p.m., as agreed upon with the city of Tower. The market board is asking vendors and customers to please respect those hours for

### LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER National expert visits St. Mary's antique organ TOWER- St. Mary's Church

TOWER- St. Mary's Church, now part of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, is old, dating back to the 1880s. And it is likely that the pump-powered reed organ at the church is even older.

The organ got some expert playing last weekend by Michael Barone, a nationally recognized expert on pipe organ music and host and producer of the public radio's nationally-syndicated weekly program "Pipedreams," broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio's classical station. Barone was in Tower as part of the international InterMarque Car Club Rendezvous held at Fortune Bay. Michael and his wife Lise Schmidt drove their 1971 Citroen DS21, a beautifully-restored French-built sporty sedan up from St. Paul.

He and his wife stayed at the Vermilion Park Inn, along with some other Citroen enthusiasts, and owner Mary Batinich pumped him for information about the organ at St. Mary's Church, so he graciously agreed to stop by and have a look.

"These little organs were ubiquitous in small country churches," he said. "They were common as dirt."

Though called pump organs because the organist needed to steadily pump the pedals to keep air flowing through the reeds, they were actually a style of organ called reed organs, because the sound was produced by forcing air over brass reeds, which ranged in size from 3/4 of an inch to over five inches.

"They rarely go out of tune,"

**Come sing the National Athem** 

TOWER- People attending the Fourth

of July parade in Tower are invited to

come sing the National Anthem and oth-

er patriotic songs prior to the start of the

parade. Singers should meet at Tower

City Hall (by the flagpole) at 10:40 a.m.

for a quick warmup. All ages are wel-

come. Bring your family and friends.

**Old Settlers planning under-**

way; time to renew your mem-

BREITUNG TWP- The annual Old

Settlers Reunion and Picnic will be held

on Saturday, July 16, with booyah dished

up at 12 noon sharp. Memberships are \$10

paid in advance. Please make checks pay-

able to Vermilion Range Old Settlers, and

prior to the Tower Fourth of

**July Parade** 

bership



Minnesota Public Radio host Michael Barone took some time to visit the antique reed organ at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center last weekend. Barone is the host of the nationally-syndicated organ music program "Pipedreams." photo by J. Summit

he said.

The organ at St. Mary's is more ornate than most, he said.

"They have such a sweet character to them," he said. "They are strangely expressive, and each seems to have its own personality."

"These represent a time before the phonograph," he said, because they could produce much richer and more varied tones than a regular piano.



### COMMUNITY NOTICES

to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range. The money raised through memberships pays the expenses of putting on the annual picnic. If you have never tasted Old Settlers booyah (meat and vegetable soup prepared from the same recipe year after year), you are in for a treat. The meal is cooked overnight over wood fire in 100-year old iron kettles, and it always tastes amazing. Take-outs are also available if you are unable to stay for the picnic, live music, and raffles.

This year's president is Steve Tekautz. Music will be provided by Steve Solkela and his one-man band.

#### Lunch Bunch to meet at Vermilion Club

GREENWOOD TWP- The Lunch Bunch (formerly Red Hat Belles) will meet for lunch at the Vermilion Club, Thursday June 23 at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Judy Politano at 218-410-0395 or Judy Ketola

at 218-753-3982 by June 20. We welcome

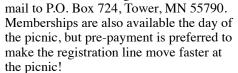
everyone new and old members, as well as



On May 22, St Martin's Catholic Church

doing business.

The cost for a space is \$35 for the season or \$5 per day. Just show up with your table; no preregistration required. Returning and new vendors with any questions can contact Janna at 218-749-2186.



Membership in Old Settlers is open

### College News

guests.



Brought to you by Tower-Soudan Historical Society

### A Nostalgic Look at our Community's Past

#### Charles Nelson – World War I Soldier David Colburn and Richard Hanson, Presenters Monday, June 27 • 2 PM Breitung Community Center (33 First Avenue, Soudan)

#### Marttila Drug Store

Nickel Coffee, Penny Candy and Ice Cream to Die For! Dave Anderson, Presenter Saturday, July 16 • 4 PM (Herbert R. Lamppa Civic Center, Tower) Hosted by Victoria and Charlie Carlson-UBetcha/UffDa

#### The Inside Story Olson's Grocery and Hardware

Growing Up on Tower's Main Street Lynn Olson and Debbie Olson Shields, Presenters **Tuesday, August 16 • 1 PM** (515 Main St., Tower) Hosted by Dianna and Terry Sunsdahl

#### FREE • Light refreshments served

#### Willa Koivisto named to Minnesota State Moorhead dean's list

MOORHEAD- Willa Koivisto, of Soudan, has been named to the Minnesota State University-Moorhead Dean's List for Spring 2022. Students must maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average and carry 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor. Willa is majoring in Social Work. MSUM is a member of the Minnesota State system.

#### Owen Koivisto named to Itasca Community College Dean's List

GRAND RAPIDS-Owen Koivisto, of Babbitt, has been named to the



## The Tower Cemetery Board asks for your support.

Thank you all for your past donations.

Tower Cemetery Association PO Box 874 Tower, MN 55790

Published in the Timberjay 5,20, 27, 6/10, 17, 24

recognized their high school graduate - Finn Olson, at the weekly coffee an'. The highlight of the coffee an' was the presentation of a scholarship by Father Beau Braun. Finn is the son of Karen and Eric Olson. submitted

Itasca Community College High Honors Dean's List for Spring 2022, with a GPA of 3.5-3.99.

#### Austin Landgren named to CLC spring honors lists

BRAINERD- Austin Landgren, of Tower, has been named to the Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, 2022 spring semester President's List for students who earned a grade-point average of 3.75 to 4.0 while enrolled for at least 12 credits.

Central Lakes College is a comprehensive community and technical college in the Minnesota State system. The college serves about 5,500 students annually in liberal arts and career education programs.

#### Molly Vagle named to U of M CFANS Spring 2022 Dean's List

MINNEAPOLIS-Molly Vagle of Tower, has been named to the Univeristy of Minnesota, Minneaplis, 2022 spring semester Dean's List. for students who earned a grade-point average of 3.666 or above. She is majoring in Enviromental Sciences, Policy and Management.



#### **OUR COMMUNITY**

## **Events in Ely celebrate 50 years of Title IX**

ELY – Next week, the United States marks 50 years since Title IX was enacted. To celebrate this milestone, in the Elv area. two women with notable achievements in athletics, made possible by the opportunities provided by this law, will speak at a Tuesday Group gathering, at noon on June 21 at the Grand Ely Lodge.

American The Association of University Women (AAUW), Ely branch is sponsoring this event and the public is invited.

► Deb Sunderman is a former wheelchair basketball player, Paralympian, and physical education teacher. After graduating from college during which she sustained a hip injury, Deb joined the Minnesota Rolling Gophers/Timberwolves of Team. She was selectthe National Wheelchair Basketball Association and was named MVP four times.

She represented the United States at the 1988 Paralympics where her team won the nation's first gold medal. In 1996, Sunderman became the first woman head coach for the USA Women's Paralympic Games, coaching the team to a silver medal.

≻Cynthia Haugejorde was a freshman in high school the year Title IX was passed. After earning twelve letters in high school for golf, basketball, track and volleyball, she went on to play basketball at the University of Iowa. She played on the U.S. Junior Pan American Gold Medal Team, and was a member of the U.S. Olympics Trials

ed in the first round of the Women's Basketball League draft as the sixth pick overall and served as an assistant basketball coach for the University of Minnesota and for Penn State.

Another Ely-area event marking this milestone anniversary is "Title IX Through the Ages," which will take place on Monday, June 27, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Hidden Valley chalet.

Twelve Ely girls and women, ages 6 to 81 will share their personal stories of their experiences before Title IX or how they have benefited since the passing of the law and how this has impacted their lives.

This event is sponsored jointly by Ely EMPOWER and AAUW, Ely branch and is open to the public.

#### What is Title IX? Title IX prohibits fed-

erally funded educational institutions from discriminating against students or staff based on gender. The legislation does not require identical sports, but rather equal opportunity to participate in sports and to receive comparable scholarships. It requires equal treatment when it comes to training facilities and times, equipment, coaching and any other opportunities in sports programs.

In 1972, the number of girl athletes totaled 295,000 nationwide. Now, there are more than 3.4 million girls participating in sports.

The legislation, though often thought about as relating to sports, covers the gamut of educational opportunities for both staff and students. Female teachers are no longer forced to leave employment when they marry or become pregnant. Equal access to educational opportunities is mandated so that careers such as medicine, the law, and science-related fields no longer have gender restrictions and quotas.

Since becoming law, the percentage of women between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-four with at least a bachelor's degree has tripled.

The law also requires federally funded educational institutions to have a Title IX coordinator and requires the institution to take swift action when there are accusations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual discrimination, and violations of Title IX."

### In Brief

#### **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.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤June 21: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Title IX with Deb Sunderman and Cynthia Haugejorde.

► June 28: Meet JenniferSchultz,Candidate for U.S. Representative for MN CD-8.

► July 5: YMCA of the North Taking S.T.E.P.S. (Supporting the Transformation of Equity and Power in outdoor Spaces).

**Breathing Out** 

#### HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Ely Public Library Friends of the Library board members celebrated the library's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this week with a birthday cake at their annual meeting. Seated from left, Arlene Today, vice president, Cheryl Martinetto, president, Kathy Dahlin, co-treasurer. Standing from left, Mary Mathiesen, membership chair, Reed Petersen, board member, Pat Bieber, secretary, and Barb Litchfield, co-treasurer. The libratry will be hosting a street dance on Friday, Aug. 19 to celebrate the centennial. An open house will be held at the library on Friday, Oct. 7. photo by K. Vandervort



### 35th Annual DQ Grill and Chill Ely Legion Classic

Friday June 17, Saturday June 18, Sunday June 19, 2022 at Veterans Memorial Field, Elv



### **Urbas honored at BSU** BEMIDJI - Anna Urbas,

of Ely, earned Dean's List Support groups

semester of the 2021-2022

received an Honors desig-

nation. Honor recognition

is accorded to those with

grade point averages from

Peter Anderson, of Ely,

academic year.

3.50 to 3.74.



\_ibraries

#### 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**

10 am-6 pm
10 am-6 pm
7-3345

Ely Kenyon	Minnetonka Breckenridge	Sacred Heart Rock Ridge	Hermantown Crosby-Ironton	honors from Bemidji State University in Bemidji, at the conclusion of the Fall 2021 semester. To be eligible for the	AA - Alcoholics Anonymous OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and
Friday	at Ely			Dean's List, Bemidji State	Saturdays, in-person,
12 noon	Hermantown vs. Crosby-	Ironton		University students must	First Lutheran Church,
2:30 pm	Minnetonka vs. Kenyon			be enrolled for at least 12	915 E. Camp St., Ely.
5:00 pm	Breckenridge vs. Rock R	idge		credits and earn a minimum	SUNDAY NIGHT AA -
7:30 pm	Ely vs. Sacred Heart	-		of a 3.5 GPA during the	at St. Anthony's Catholic
	-			semester. A total of 673	Church is canceled.
Saturday	at Ely			students earned Fall 2021 Dean's List honors from the	ELY WOMEN'S OPEN
8:30 a.m.	Breckenridge vs. Kenyon	1		university.	AA - Every Monday
10:45 a.m.	Rock Ridge vs. Sacred H	leart		-	at noon at Ledgerock
1:00 p.m.	Kenyon vs. Rock Ridge			Prigge graduates	Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.
3:15 p.m.	Ely vs. Minnetonka			from BSU	BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	Hermantown vs. Sacred	Heart		BEMIDJI - A student	Tuesdays, Woodland
7:45 p.m.	Ely vs. Crosby-Ironton			from Ely recently graduated	Presbyterian Church.
				from the nursing program at	AL-ANON - Sundays
Saturday	at Soudan			Bemidji State University.	8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's
11:00 a.m.	Hermantown vs. Minnet			Ryne Prigge was for-	Catholic Church in Ely.
<u>1:30 p.m.</u>	Breckenridge vs. Crosby	/-Ironton		mally admitted into the	For persons who
_ Cundou	at Els			profession during the univer- sity's annual nurse pinning	encounter alcoholism
<u>Sunday</u> 9:30 a.m.	at Ely Breckenridge vs. Minnete	onko		ceremony, held on May	in a relative or friend.
11:45 a.m.	Kenyon vs. Hermantown			5. Upon graduation from	BABBITT AL-ANON -
2:00 p.m	Sacred Heart vs. Crosby-			the BSU nursing program,	Thursdays, 7 p.m., at
4:15 p.m.	Ely vs. Rock Ridge			students are eligible to apply	Woodland Presbyterian.
4.10 p.m.	Liy vs. Hock Hidge			for licensure as a registered	CO-DEPENDENTS'
*** Elv will be the	home team and occupy th	he third base dugo	it for all of its games.	nurse.	12-step support group,
2	mine home team in all othe	<u> </u>	a lo ul or no guilloor	Ely student honored	noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholia
		Junioon		-	St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
*** Tourney cham	pion and order of finish to	be determined by	record. In case of	at UW-Stevens Point	ADULT BASIC
				STEVENS POINT,	ADULI DASIC

a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used:

1. Head-to-head; 2. Least runs allowed; 3. Most runs scored; 4. Coin flip

In an effort to keep games on schedule, we will adopt the following special tournament rules:

8-run rule after five innings;

Tie game will be called after nine innings;

3. NO INFIELD/OUTFIELD on Saturday, and we reserve right to limit or cancel infield/ outfield on Friday and Saturday if games get backed up.

4. American Legion Rules with exceptions for HS re-entry, courtesy runner and DH rules. 5. Pitch count/honor system. Umpires are NOT responsible for keeping track and/or enforcement.

Wis. - The University of EDUCATION GED Wisconsin-Stevens Point Study materials and prehonored more than 2,130 test available. Call 218undergraduate students for 365-3359, or attaining high grade point 1-800-662-5711. averages during the spring 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.



#### COOK'S ANNUAL TIMBER DAYS AWARDS

#### **CAR SHOW**

•Peoples Choice: Wade Anthony, \$100 •Drivers Choice: George Klemmer, \$100

•Drivers Door Prizes: Bill Torkkola, David Leff, Betsy Clark, Sandra Wilson

#### LAWNMOWER RACES

•Stock, 1st place: Dakota Teppe, \$100 •Stock, 2nd place: Howard Davis, \$50 •Modified 1st place: Mike Strom, \$100 •Modified 2nd place: Cassidy Thornberg, \$50

•Peoples Choice: Mike Strom, trophy

#### **PARADE FLOATS:**

1st place: The Old Muni, \$200
2nd place: Friends of the Parks, \$100
3rd place: North Woods Cheerleaders, \$50

#### **RAFFLE TICKETS:**

•1st prize, \$1,000 donated by Marty's Heating and Air Conditioning: Eldy

#### Strom, Cook

•2nd prize, \$1,100 value: 3 night cabin rental at Melgeorge's Lodge and Resort: Marie Seopa, Cook

•3rd prize, \$500 gift certificate from Cook Building Center: Jim Hoeffling, Barnum

•4th prize, \$459.99: log bench w/wood burnings from Ryan's Rustic Railings: Betty Mlaker, Cook

•5th prize, \$450 value: Spring Bay 4-hour Guided Fishing: Jordan Goodsky, Nett Lake

•6th prize, \$300 value: Timbuktu Marina pontoon rental: Joe Kruchowski, Cook

•7th prize, \$300 gift card from Zup's: Tracy LaPatka, Cook

•8th prize: \$275 value: premium room at Fortune Bay Resort Casino and a \$75 gift certificate to Sunset Steakhouse: Mark Toivola, Cook

•9th prize, \$100 gift card from Tim Johnson Agency: Erin Nurmi, Cook

•10th prize, \$100 gift card from North

Star Credit Union: Judy Edwards, Britt •11th prize, \$178 gift card from the Wilderness at Fortune Bay: Christie Kainwo, Cook

#### **4-H PET SHOW**

•Nelmi the dog, accompanied by Lou, Best Lake Outfit

•Queen Calico and Beatrice the chickens, accompanied by Aubrey, Finest Feathers

•Frankie the French Bulldog, accompanied by Kalle, Best Trick

•Bobo the cat, accompanied by Oliver, Cuddliest Kitty

•Stuart Prince of Orr the Westie, accompanied by Sara, Best Traveler

•Lincoln the coonhound, accompanied by Mia, Lazy Dog Award

•Frankie the Pug, accompanied by Natalia and Brooklyn, Super Friendly Award

•Riley the Aussiedoodle, accompanied by Kris, Most Compassionate

•Leo the painted turtle, accompanied

by Ryker, Home on Wheels AwardDarla the corn snake, accompanied by

Silas, Longest Tail •Blue the salamander, accompanied by Maverick, Smallest Pet

•Kirby the Mini English Bull Terrier, accompanied by Liza and Ripley, Nicest Nose

•Luca the Italian Greyhound, accompanied by Julie, Speediest Pup Award •Freya the Shih Tzu, accompanied by Karissa, Best Bikini Body

•Finka the Alaskan Husky, accompanied by Analee, Best Dressed

•Monica the Corgi, accompanied by Lila, Shortest Tail

•Ross the Golden, accompanied by Chloe, Cutest Puppy

•Chandler the Shepherd Chesapeake mix, accompanied by Steve, Biggest Dog

•Amadeus the blue and yellow Macaw, accompanied by Lisha, Most Exotic

## Failed tests cost Orr city employee his job

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Orr city airport manager and prospective water/wastewater assistant Rocky Hoffman was terminated from his city job on Monday after the and one wastewater exam. By Jan. 10, Hoffman had passed the water examination, but not the one for wastewater. Given that the timeframes for retesting were problematic relative to the established March 13 deadline, the he sent an email to inquire about signing up for the test but hadn't yet heard back.

"When we went through this in July 2019, Paul (Koch) was out on injury in the fall and I could not take my test because I was the only one here, Hoffman said. "Then 2020 hit and that was COVID and we couldn't take any tests, even if I wanted to. I just do my job and I try really hard. I recently gave up a position in Cook - I had confidence in myself that I was going to pass this test. But I failed it by seven points, and it's all on systems that we do not use. But I'm going to get that training material, if you guys give me one more chance, and I would appreciate it. But I know I signed the contract. Local 49 Representative Dan Manick also spoke on Hoffman's behalf. "We were probably overly optimistic with realizing how few chances he was going to have to do both," Manick said. "We're at your mercy today. We signed this MOU. You've got a guy that's been here five years who's got a lot of on-the-job training. I hope you can see through this that I personally would like to see a way if you are kind enough to extend his somehow. I told him, 'Rocky, they gave you years to do this.' I'm here now holding his feet to the fire. I think you have a valuable employee and I hope you'll see the light that we can help him get through this.' After Kennebeck and Wright both spoke in support of giving Hoffman

another extension, Black highlighted an additional concern. "Rocky's been with

us for five years, and in the five years, we waited until this year to start testing," he said. "This is the Class D, so when he goes

Astleford re-did the polling, but the outcome was the same. Per the terms agreed to, Hoffman was out of a job.

#### Implications

City Clerk Cheri Carter clarified the importance of having a second licensed operator on staff. Paul Koch is the only city employee with licensures for water and wastewater treatment. be no one who was licensed to operate the wastewater plant," she explained.

Licenses are granted to individuals, not cities, so if Koch left city employment his license would go with him, Carter said. And if something is not done properly, it's his license at stake.

clock ran out on a 90-day extension that was intended to help him save it.

The council vote was split, with Mayor Joel Astleford and council members Bruce Black and Lloyd Scott voting to stand firm with terms of the extension agreement and terminate, and council members Tom Kennebeck and Melissa Wright voting against. Both Kennebeck and Wright spoke in favor of giving Hoffman another extension before the vote was taken.

#### Background

In 2019, the Orr City Council directed Hoffman, who was hired in 2017, to take the steps necessary to obtain water and wastewater licenses in order to operate and assist in maintenance of the city's water and wastewater treatment plants.

Two years later, Hoffman "had not made arrangements to take the Class D licensing requirements," per a memorandum of understanding approved at the Sept. 2021 meeting. The council made passing both tests a condition of his continued employment. If he obtained the licenses, he would receive a three-percent cost-of-living raise. If he failed, he would be terminated effective March 13. The city would pay travel expenses for Hoffman for one water exam

council agree to grant Hoffman a 90-day extension so that he would have additional opportunities to test.

That 90-day extension came to an end on Monday, with Hoffman unable to obtain a passing score on the Class D wastewater exam after multiple attempts.

### Asking for lenience

Hoffman's plight was left for the end of the council meeting, and in a controlled manner tinged at times with emotion, he asked the council for one more chance to take the test. Hoffman explained that he unknowingly had been studying an older version of the wastewater manual, and while he acknowledged that there hadn't been a lot of changes, upon discovering this he called the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to try to locate current manuals. The MPCA representative didn't know what he was talking about, he said, so he turned to Joe Janson with the Minnesota Rural Water Association. The two connected on Monday, and Janson indicated he could get the material Hoffman needed. He also told Hoffman that there was another testing date coming up toward the end of July, and Hoffman said to the Class C are we going to do the same thing."

After a bit more discussion, Black made the motion to keep with the terms described in the MOU, with Scott seconding. Kennebeck appeared confused after the vote, so

"If something happened to Paul there would

COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Community meal is Thursday at Trinity

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook will be serving up chicken salad croissants for its monthly free community meal on Thursday, June 23 from 4-6 p,m. Potato salad, cantaloupe and dessert will accompany the meal, to be served in drivethrough style. The event is open to the public.

#### DDB to play Cook park concert gig

COOK- The Dionysian Dithyramb Band will be the featued act for Music in the Park on Wednesday, June 22 from 6-8 p.m. at the gazebo in Cook City Park.

The band consists of Dan Boyer on lead guitar, Jimmy Laine on drums, Patrick Hawkinson on lead guitar, and Eric Pederson on bass. The quartet plays a mix of popular classic album rock, b-side favorites and jam band classics.

Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy food and refreshments provided

by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church.

In case of a rainy Wednesday evening the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW.

## Clay for kids will be July 7 at NWFA

COOK- It will be the kids' turn to try their literal creative hands at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook on Thursday, July 7 when popular NWFA instructor Lyn Reed will lead a Curious and Creative series class on making hand-shaped clay bowls.

Reed will work with students to create bowls with air-dried clay based on tracings of their own

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hands. The class is for children seven years old and up.

This free morning class will be from 10 a.m. to noon at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. Sign up now by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153.

Check out NWFA on Facebook and Instagram for more information about upcoming classes and events for young and old alike.

**Read It** 

HERE

#### **GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP**

## **Greenwood appoints JoAnn Bassing as interim clerk**

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

G R E E N W O O D TWP- With a written resignation from elected clerk Debby Spicer in hand, the Greenwood Town Board, on Tuesday, appointed JoAnn Bassing as the interim clerk on a 3-1 vote. Supervisor Mike Ralston voted against and Supervisor Paul Skubic absent from the evening meeting.

State law requires that such vacancies be filled by appointment, and the board passed a motion to have the supervisors act as the nominating committee. Bassing's was the only name put forward by supervisors for the position. She had previously run against Spicer in 2021, losing by two votes, and then mounted a late writein campaign in March's election, losing by a 145-94 margin.

"I don't think people who sue the township should hold office," said Ralston. Bassing, along with her husband John, have filed several open meeting law violation complaints against the township, as well as an election-related complaint regarding campaigning by the fire department. The couple did sue the township over the release of information from the comprehensive plan survey, and that did force the township to release information that was public by law.

Bassing was sworn in at the meeting. She then appointed her husband



JoAnn Bassing was sworn in Tuesday as the interim clerk for Greenwood Township. photo by J. Summit

John as her deputy. John had previously served as deputy clerk.

The township now has an interim treasurer, Jeff Maus, as well as the interim clerk. Both positions will be on the ballot in next year's March election, along with the seats currently held by Ralston and Skubic.

At Tuesday's meeting, the board again needed to table approval of the treasurer's report, since Maus is still working on getting the township financial records in order. The board did hear that the township's Board of Audit information has been finalized, and that all the 2021 accounts were in order.

The board was also able to approve all the past outstanding minutes, dating back to January 2022. Drobac thanked John Bassing for his help in typing out the missing minutes.

#### **Recreation board**

The board approved a

request by the Greenwood Recreation Board to become a formal township committee, and to allow Jarri Ankrum to act as the liaison for rentals of both the pavilion and town hall. "We want to see people utilizing it," she said. "It's a beautiful place, and everyone loves using it." The township rents

out the pavilion, which includes the use of the recreational equipment owned by the township, for family and business events.

Ankrum noted that individuals were having trouble hearing back from the township office about rentals. From now on, the township will forward requests to Ankrum, who can help review the rules, deposit, and fees, if required. They will also post a schedule at the pavilion's bulletin board so people can see when the pavilion is being reserved.

Supervisor Barb Lofquist said the water supply at the pavilion is not connected to the water treatment system and will be posted as non-potable. Drinking water can be accessed at the outdoor faucet on the other side of the town hall. This treated water is only available for personal use, and not for commercial use or for washing vehicles.

#### Fire department

The board approved paying for fire department member's time spent helping with a sandbagging effort on Whiskey Point. The department was asked to help by officials at Bois Forte and from the governmental agency that oversees the area watershed.

The department asked for some board guidance on accepting these uncommon non-911 calls. In the past, the board has asked the department not to respond to non-emergency calls, such as towing in a boat stranded on the lake if a commercial operator could be called instead. Fire Department safety officer Rick Worringer said they had responded to such a non-911 call of a stranded boat when the weather conditions were dangerous, with high winds and waves.

The board approved the purchase of a new motor for the township's boatlift at Birch Point Marine which houses the department's smaller fire/ rescue boat at a cost of \$2,130.

Worringer also spoke to the board about the new policy requiring a different type of annual physical for department members which would be held in person at the Fairview Clinic in Hibbing.

"OSHA does not require physicals for the rank and file," he said, "just for interior firefighters, and not all our members are interior firefighters."

The board agreed to get quotes on the cost of getting this type of work-related physical exam from Essentia in Virginia, and to compare it to the service offered in Hibbing, and the on-site physicals provided in the past. The board also requested the records of the last two years of

fire department physicals and FIT tests from Chief Dave Fazio, which would be reviewed in a closed meeting. They requested to receive the records within the next 10 days.

"We need to get a baseline for each individual," said Drobac. "This is a health and safety issue."

The board heard a lengthy response from fire department member Jet Galonski, who speaking only for himself, had questions and complaints about the town board's oversight of the fire department. He read from a five-page letter, titled "Fire Department Harassment."

"I don't mean to be disrespectful, impolite, or rude in this commentary, just honest," he said. He questioned the board's recent decisions to make changes to fire department policies without input from the department members, as had been done in the past. He questioned the board's decision to make the fire department business meetings open to the public, asking if it would violate HIPAA (patient privacy) laws. He also questioned the township's decision to have department members complete their Firefighter I and II training within two years, noting that it is often hard to complete the training classes, and wondered why department members should be required to have that training, since it would discourage department membership. Galonski also had complaints with the decision to require a different type of physical,

placing security cameras in the fire hall, and the board's denial of another increase in the pension amount.

#### Other business

In other business, the board:

> Approved having Biss Lock create new keys for the town hall and township offices. The keypad entries will remain in place.

➤ Noted the annual meeting will reconvene on Thursday, June 23 at 6 p.m.

► Asked for more information from the former deputy treasurer Tammy Mortaloni about payroll submitted for work that had been done for the township. Ralston said the 18.75 hours was for time spent updating the township's governmental grant portal information (sam. gov), which was needed to apply for the pandemic-related ARPA grant. Ralston said there were three separate outdated entries that needed to be corrected. Drobac asked if the work had been approved by the board.Ralston said the cost for her time could be paid by the grant.

> Approved paying Drobac for time spent training in the interim treasurer last month. The vote was 2-1, with Ralston voting against and Drobac abstaining. Drobac said the board passed a policy saying that no prior authorization was required for training. Ralston said the board had not specified anything about paying for such training. "We should be applying the rules fairly," he said.

#### CORONAVIRUS

## New child and adult vaccine options face uptake challenges

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- June is turning into a watershed month for COVID vaccine producers as two already approved producers are on the verge of approval for use on the youngest Americans and another

#### Hero award applications

Over 370,000 Minnesotans flooded the web last week to apply for Minnesota's Frontline Worker Pay Program, which will reward workers in higher risk occupations that came into close proximity of people during the pandemic with up to \$1,500.

The actual amount of the award has yet to be determined, as it will depend on the total number of applications received by Friday, July 22, with the allotted \$500 million split evenly among the applicants. This is not a first-come, first-served application process. Someone can apply at any time throughout the 45-day open application window. children will receive smaller doses.

A more significant development was likely to occur on Wednesday when the advisory committee was scheduled to consider use of both Pfizer and Moderna for children as young as six months old. The panel gave its thumbs up and a subsequent CDC review on Friday and Saturday did likewise, shots for these youngsters could begin as soon as Tuesday, June 21. However, the companies could find parental skepticism a tough nut to crack. An April survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the latest of more than a year of such monthly surveys, showed that less than one in five parents would get their children vaccinated right away. By contrast, almost a third of all parents remain steadfastly opposed to getting their children vaccinated, and two-thirds say they don't have enough information to decide. Somewhat mirroring that, four out of ten parents said they would take a "wait and see" approach before making a decision.

a thousand fewer than the week prior.

BA.4 and BA.5 appear to be the most highly contagious variants to date, with the ability to more effectively elude immunity induced by vaccination or prior COVID illness. However, it is becoming more evident that the symptoms caused by the pair are no more severe than those of BA.2.12.1, a fact reflected in the state's relatively low hospitalization and death rates. But with the science surrounding these and other variants new and evolving, noted University of Minnesota epidemiology expert Michael Osterholm said in a podcast last week the future is hard to predict. "It is very difficult to predict things about the future when your crystal ball that you use every day has five inches of caked mud on it," he said. "As I told someone in an interview this past week, I'm starting to feel like a COVID meteorologist. I can give you an idea about the forecast for the next two or three days. Beyond that, I really can't tell you what's going to happen, and I feel very much the same way with this situation here."

would be a huge mistake. It's deja vu all over again for me. Remember a year ago right now, some of you on this podcast know I got hammered pretty hard when I said in mid-June that I thought that some of the darkest days of the pandemic could still be ahead of us because of the unknown impact of the variants." And indeed, after most of the country celebrated the demise of the pandemic by lifting COVID restrictions last summer, what followed in the winter and fall were two of the largest waves of the entire pandemic.

seeks approval for a fourth vaccine choice for adults.

But all three share a common concern: How much demand is there for what they have to sell in a country that wants to put the pandemic largely in the rear-view mirror?

Novavax, the latest entrant into the adult-approved vaccine world, has been available internationally since lastNovember and is currently approved for use in 41 countries including the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, and India. The U.S. could be the 42nd after a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel recommended its approval on June 7.

Pfizer, Unlike Moderna, and Johnson & Johnsons vaccines, however, the FDA hasn't immediately acted on the recommendation for the Centers for Disease Control to issue the necessary approval and guidance to begin using Novavax. The FDA has said it is considering additional information from Novavax provided after the June 7 meeting had already been scheduled.

But vaccine industry consultant Manon Cox suggested in a widely cited quote from Kaiser Health News that perhaps there's no reason to rush. To apply, go to https://frontlinepay.mn.gov/ submit. The "Apply Now" button is not visible when you initially reach the site but is available by scrolling down the page.

"They are applying for an emergency authorization," Cox said. "What's the emergency?"

Indeed, in Minnesota and elsewhere, demand for COVID vaccinations has dropped significantly. Weekly vaccinations in Minnesota had tapered off to under 18,000 in mid-March from an Omicron -wave high of 133,000 weekly doses in January.

Some unvaccinated people in Minnesota have been changing their minds - 33,000 first doses of COVID vaccines were administered in the past three months.

Specifically, for Novavax, about 13 million doses of the vaccine were distributed in European Union countries by mid-April, but less than 200,000 of those doses were actually administered. The problem with vaccine availability in 2022 has been one of inequitable distribution, with poorer countries suffering disproportionately as a result. Still, even in those countries, the push for vaccinations has been losing steam as the severity of the pandemic has declined.

Novavax, which has demonstrated its vaccine is 90-percent effective in clinical trials, is banking on picking up a large swath of unvaccinated Americans who have previously avoided vaccination because they were skeptical of the mRNA process used to develop them. Novavax uses a more traditional protein-based approach in which a non-disease-causing portion of the coronavirus spike protein is injected to stimulate the production of antibodies.

#### Children's vaccines

On Tuesday, the FDA advisory committee recommended emergency use authorization of the Moderna vaccine for children ages six to 17. The action comes about eight months after the Pfizer vaccine was approved for children five and older. Children 12 to 17 will receive adult-sized shots of Moderna, while younger

#### **New variants**

Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5 are no longer an anomaly in Minnesota, they're a significantly increasing share of the caseload in Minnesota, accounting for a about one-fourth of all new cases when combined. BA.2.12.1 still accounts for the majority of cases, which continued their overall downward trend this past week. Monday's reported statewide total of about 1,500 new cases was about

However, he's certain that the pandemic will be with us for the foreseeable future.

"I'm convinced, particularly with what we've seen in Europe, that we will see BA.4 and BA.5 becoming the dominant sub-variants within the next several weeks," he said."I can tell you that this pandemic is not over and trying to declare it as such

#### Test-to-treat

The three major state-operated testing centers, including the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, changed over this past week to what are being called "test-to-treat sites."

Those who go to the DECC and test positive for COVID now have the option to be evaluated on site and given a prescription for the antiviral medication Paxlovid if it is deemed appropriate. Clinical trials found that a five-day course of Paxlovid cut a patient's risk of hospitalization and death by 89 percent. However, the antiviral has generally been underutilized.

Only patients deemed "high risk" will receive a Paxlovid prescription, which can be filled at a pharmacy of the patient's choice. Both the test and medication, if necessary, are administered at no cost to the patient.

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### **ELY**...Continued from page 1 \_

area will be utilized for staff parking.

"There is going to be drastically more congestion in the morning with students arriving for school and after school," Houde said.

Houde said a second one-way traffic circle that enters the campus from Harvey Street will be added. The school bus drop-off circle in front of Washington Elementary School will remain largely as it exists now, he said. A second one-way circle drive, dubbed the "parent loop," will be created to the east of the school bus loop and the existing parking lot at the corner of Harvey and Seventh Avenue. That area will have several temporary parking spaces for use during the school day.

"We recommended removing parking on the south side of Harvey Street just during school hours," Houde said. "With the additional traffic circle, there will be several parking spaces along Harvey Street removed anyway. In addition, we won't have kids darting out between parked cars to get to the north side of Harvey Street. We want to keep that line of sight area open."

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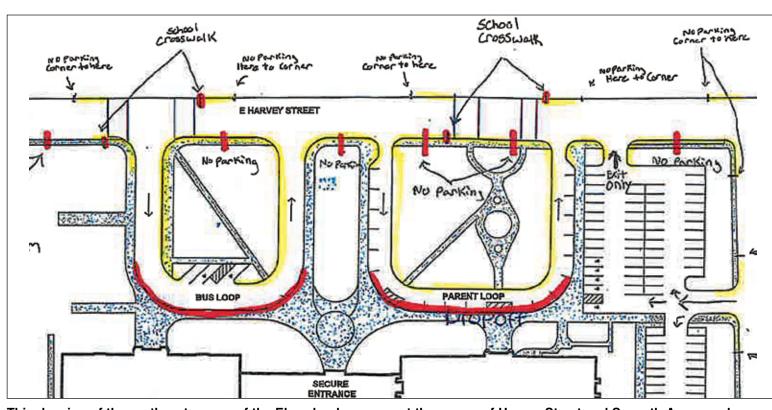
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This drawing of the northeast corner of the Ely school campus, at the corner of Harvey Street and Seventh Avenue, shows a proposed parking and traffic plan for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. submitted graphic

Council members approved the purchase of about \$3,400 in additional crosswalk and no-parking signs for city streets around the school campus. He estimated that the school district will be spending more than \$2,500 in new signage for the school campus.

J<sup>4\$k</sup>

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.....\$41,490

\$17.990

"During the school day, I patrol around school

in the mornings and afternoons and I can see what works and what doesn't." Houde said. "Signage is the only thing that will protect our kids to safely cross Harvey Street and the other streets."

Houde continued, "With these changes, it will take a while, especially for those who don't have children but use this area as a main route. It will be busier and we want to restrict traffic during school hours.'

Mayor Roger Skraba struggled to understand all the one-way traffic patterns into and out of the campus parking areas.

'If this is the flow they want, we are going to have to accommodate them."

he said.

Community parking for school events after the school day will continue to be restricted. No parking will be allowed in the school bus loop as previously tolerated, as that is an access area designated by fire code. Parking will only be allowed on the streets and in designated parking lots on the campus. Entry into the school will only be allowed through the new secured entry between the Memorial and Washington buildings.

Council member and elementary teacher Heidi Omerza stressed that school officials are aware of the upcoming disruption to the community concerning the school changes.

"The school is very

### BALLOT .... Continued from page 1

Simona Benner 168-142. Among election day voters, Benner had a 117-99 edge, but absentee voters preferred Drift by 44 votes, 69-25

### AMBULANCE...Continued from page 1 -

Orr Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer said.

Hoffer also said that she had contacted an EMSRB

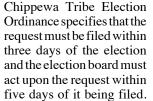
representative who clari-

on the council. The General Reservation Election Board is responsible for certifying the results.

If a candidate requests All three winners were a recount, the Minnesota

> fied that the medical direca run involving a driver serving under the relaxed

tor, not the board, has the authority to approve the change. However, if a complaint was filed about



concerned about communi-

cating the plan to parents,"

campus will be a construc-

tion zone this summer

as infrastructure work is

completed outside and on

city streets in the immediate

area as the \$21.5 million

construction project, sched-

uled for completion by

work on both the north

side and south side of the

campus will disrupt traffic.

Access to the Veteran's

Memorial Baseball Field

and the numerous sched-

uled tournaments, the foot-

ball field and parking areas

will also be severely limited

for the entire summer.

Water main and sewer

The entire school

she said.

Labor Day.

#### A recount may be ordered if the election board determines that the closeness of a vote makes it desirable, or if a material question exists regarding the accuracy of the initial count.

New principal

A special meeting

of the Ely school board

was also held Wednesday

evening to consider the

6-12 principal position

following the resigna-

tion of Principal Megan

Anderson at the end of the

ered to conduct inter-

views for four candidates,

Jodiann Fanth, Mandy

Huusko, Jeffrey Carey and

Crystal Poppler, followed

by discussion and possible

action to fill the vacant

have more information in

The Timberjay will

principal position.

the June 24 issue.

Board members gath-

school year

#### **Cook service**

Meanwhile, city officials in Cook released a statement this past week detailing steps they are taking to shore up the ambulance service in their

restriction, it would likely

be handled by the EMSRB.

unanimously approved the

change, which now awaits

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approval by the medical community. director.

Council members

Another statutory change allows ambulance services to stock medications for up to six months past their expiration date, but Hoffer said Orr Ambulance doesn't use medications once they have officially expired.



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Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

"The city has received comments expressed by some individuals concerned over continued 24/7/365 coverage," the release said. "We want to assure you that our goal is to continue to provide this critical service on a local basis."

As first reported in the June 3 edition of the Timberjay the city confirmed that two part-time EMTs have been hired to help with calls and transfers and assist with some administrative duties.

Cook has also hired an outside consultant with more than 30 years of experience working with ambulances services.

The memo noted that the city has committed to receiving feedback from current ambulance service staff by creating an anonymous survey to solicit crew input for improvement and changes. Meetings have also been held with various personnel to fact-find and help identify a positive new direction for the service.

The city and ambulance advisory board are also reviewing and restructuring the duties of the local training officer.

The memo ended with a call for community members to consider becoming members of the ambulance service.

"Staffing a small ambulance service is a challenge," the memo said.

### FLOOD....Continued from page 1

ue, any future rainfall will likely just 'pause' the trend of falling levels but are unlikely to cause levels to rise above the peak crest," the report said.

Accordingly, flood mitigation activities around Kabetogama and Crane Lake have dwindled from the days of furious sandbagging, although property owners remain alert to the need of maintaining sandbag walls against potential damage from wind-driven waves and boat wakes as the water slowly recedes.

KabetogamaTownship suspended its flood support activities on June 5 after producing about 135,000 sandbags, 35,000 produced by volunteers over a ten-day period before Minnesota National Guard members arrived. Efforts filling and setting sandbags were supported by crews from state correctional facilities in Togo and Willow River, Littlefork School, Hibbing police-assembled volunteers, the Conversation Corps, Voyageurs National Park, Team Rubicon, and St. Louis County Emergency Management and Highway Departments.

#### **Arrowhead Lodge**

The inexorable rise and sluggish fall of water over weeks and months instead of days takes a unique kind of toll on the people and property affected. Now more than a week past the crest, Mike Dario, owner of Arrowhead Lodge and Resort in Kabetogama, is grateful his resort was not as hard-hit as some of his neighbors, but it's still been quite an ordeal battling the flood.

Dario's dock had sustained heavy damage as a result of high winds just prior to the onset of the flood, and the rising waters unfortunately took care of the rest.

"The high water has really kind of finished them off," he said. "Any chance we had of saving them or repairing them has gone. That was right before fishing opener." Dario estimated the loss to be between \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Ice-out this year was late, but Kabetogama Lake cleared before fishing opener and Dario welcomed anglers to the resort. "We checked in a bunch of people on Friday prior to opener and by the time those people left they were trudging through water to get to their cars," Dario said. completely underwater," he said. "That water got waist high in the lot and I couldn't drive a truck through there anymore without fear of doing damage to it."

Dario said he held back on starting sandbagging efforts because he didn't want to diminish the supply for others who needed them more. That ended up leading to the loss of the one cabin, as he never dreamed the water would get that high. But Dario jumped into high gear with sandbagging in the parking lot when the rising waters posed a serious threat to a sewer system and to much more than just Arrowhead Lodge.

"I have two sewer grinder stations in my parking lot," he said. "The sewer services Puck's Point

Resort, and we would have had to shut it down. If the sewer was taking on the water of the lake it would have shut down not only us, but it would have shut down the entire point."

But despite the travails, Dario is doing his best to keep things in perspective.

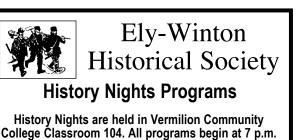
"It's not all doom and gloom. We have had a significant loss in business revenue and traffic, but we're still open and we're still doing the best with it we can. It's not the end of the world. There are resorts that are shut down due to sewers, there are people with cabins underwater."

Dario praised the response of the Kabetogama community throughout the crisis.

"I couldn't be thankful enough for how many people have their hearts on Kabetogama and who really did what they can to help out," he said.

He's thankful, too, for the people who have continued to support his resort and others with their continued business.

"Sure, we've had some cancellations, but there are people who stuck with us and have had a blast," he said. "We've gotten some feedback that some were thinking about canceling but we're so glad they came because it was such a good time. This area is up and running and doing well. You may have a curve ball thrown at you with some amenity that's not here, but the people that are coming here are having a wonderful time and they're overwhelmed with what they can do up here.'



June 22: Theresa Jamnick to speak on the history of Zup's Market, one of Ely's longest-standing institutions. Founded in 1916 by "Grandpa" John Zupancich, Zup's was initially operated by John and his seven sons, one of whom, Eddie, was Theresa's father. Jamnick has a wealth of stories to tell about the old days of Zup's Market, how it has changed over the years, and the place it holds in the Northland. *This History Night is sponsored by Zupancich Brothers, Inc.* 

While FREE of charge, donations are always

gratefully accepted.

Future History Night Speakers and Topics are: July 6: Nick Wognum on the history of the Echo newspaper

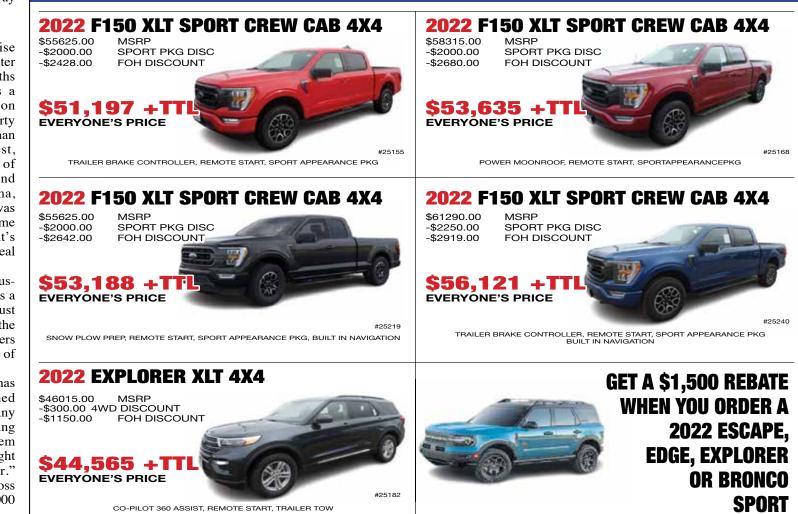
July 20: Curtis Laine on the Carl Gawboy murals August 3: Reed Petersen on the history of

Ely High School sports

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As the water kept coming, Dario's bait house was next to be impacted.

"That's where I keep all my bait, my ice, it's where we keep and clean our customers' fish, it's where we keep our tackle – it's a revenue stream for us," he said. "On top of that, boat rentals have diminished."

He had to shut down one of his cabins when its gas regulator went underwater, a unit which otherwise would've been bringing in close to \$2,000 a week, Dario said.

"The one saving grace we had is that our restaurant was open, and then the water kept coming. It flooded our parking lot. We spent \$1,000 on gravel last year to redo it and it's



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### CARS...Continued from page 1

hired some other vintage car enthusiasts to help restore it to road-worthy condition.

His car was one of about 75 on display at Fortune Bay on June 11. The club hosts their rendezvous one year in the upper Midwest, and the next year in Canada, which explained the large number of license plates from both Ontario and Manitoba. The event had been canceled the last two years due to the pandemic.

"About four times a year we will do a longer trip," Dennis said. The couple also owns a 1950 MG TD, a 1970 MGB, and about eight other MG's they use for parts.

Ken and Diane Merrill were some other MG enthusiasts at the show. This time the couple had driven their newest vintage car, a forest green 2001 Toyota MR2 Spyder, a 5-speed manual, up from St. Paul. This was the first time they had taken this car on a road strip. The only tricky part, Diane said, was the size of the two-seater car's tiny trunk, located under the front hood, which wasn't even large enough to fit a standard-size carry-on suitcase.

Parts are a central concern for many of these vintage car enthusiasts.

"We usually ride in packs," said fellow foreign car enthusiast Steve Greenstein, who had his 1974 Triumph TR6 on display. Greenstein said, with a grin, that preferably you ride in groups on these longer trips with people who are better mechanics than you are. Greenstein said owners usually travel with spare parts, which can come in handy.

In fact, one participant in the car show had a clutch go out in their car while up in Ely and ended up renting a U-Haul to tow their car back home.

Greenstein bought his TR4 back in 2014.

"It was sad looking," he said, "and the motor was frozen." Greenstein had the engine rebuilt, a new fuel system installed, new suspension, and new brakes, which made the car road worthy. Some work he was able to do himself, the rest he had to hire out. The next step was new



A green Triumph, above, and a green MG, right, both convertibles, drew lots of attention at the Fortune Resort Casino last weekend during a vintage international car show. photos by J. Summit

The club not only connects people with a love of vintage cars, but also builds lifelong friendships.

Minnesota The Triumph Club helps newer enthusiasts with their restoration projects. Members can host "tech sessions" at their homes, Greenstein said, where people come with their own expertise, parts, and tools to help fix a problem with a car.

"These people can do just about anything," he said.

The club really works to bring in younger members, Greenstein said, because the hobby historically has attracted people "with plenty of gray hair."

Triumphs are a more affordable vintage foreign car than others that were on display. Greenstein said many sell in the \$20,000 range, whereas some of the others on display are worth

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well over \$100.000.

Many of the cars on display were unique and not models normally seen in the Midwest.

Michael Barone drove his 1971 Citroen DS 21 up from St. Paul. The car had a unique central hydraulic system and the back tires were set in narrower than the front tires.

A longtime collector, Barone has owned this car for six years, but has had one or another Citroen for close to 30 years. He said he wasn't the one to do the mechanical work on his collection.

"I let people who know what they are doing work on them," he said.

The event proved a popular outing for area residents.

"This was so unique for our area," said Brian Anderson, public relations manager at Fortune Bay.

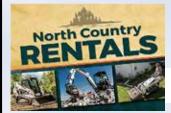
"It wasn't just old Chevy's. There were so many unique vehicles that people really enjoyed looking at."

Learn more about vintage car clubs:

> http://intermarque. org/

► www.mntriumphs. org





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upholstery and a paint job, which transformed the car back to its original glory.

The InterMarque is a central gathering place for more than 40 foreign car clubs in the upper Midwest. Greenstein belongs to the Minnesota Triumph Club, which has about 150 members.

"Our club started back in 1985," he said, "and some of the original members are still active."

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## FALL PREVENTION

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## HAPPY FATHER'S

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Left: Newlynamed wolf pups Blackstone and Caz were playful during a recent public showing of the new members of the wolf center's ambassador pack.

Below: Blackstone tugs on a root he found inside his enclosure.

photos by K. Vandervort



VCS junior Abbi Zapata gives a presentation for her group. photo by D. Colburn

LEARNING

### Expo gives VCS students a chance to shine Students seek solutions to pollution from plastics

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- As students from Vermilion Country School enjoy the summer, they'll do so with a mindful eye toward the environment, being watchful for evidence of something they once might have taken for granted - plastics.

As the school year was winding down, activity was ratcheting up at the Tower charter school as six groups of students, seventh through twelfth grades, made final preparations for their Spring Expo, the culmination of a learning project that this year was inspired by a community member.

"The reason we came up with plastics is because on Earth Day, we had Pat Helmberger come in with plastic bags and do a presentation for us, and the kids were just really interested in it," said learning advisor Karin Schmidt. "We decided to really focus on that, and we kept it open ended so they could choose what they like to do."

This was the second Expo project students did this year, both designed for them to investigate and learn about specific areas of environmental education. The first centered on their greenhouse activities, learning about where food comes from.

"Then they had to do a presentation on a particular type of food and what the environmental concerns are with it." Schmidt said. "They did individual projects the first time, and this time we're doing group projects.

Each group did online research to hone in on the waste and hazards created by single-use plastics, ones that are not readily

## INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER **Meet Blackstone and Caz**

Names of the new wolf pups announced at virtual Howl at the Moon Gala

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY-The International Wolf Center has two new residents, and now they have names. The two male wolf pups were named "Blackstone" and "Caz" in an online contest, the results of which were revealed during the Howl at the Moon Gala, held virtually on Tuesday.

Contest participants chose from the following selection of names and meanings for the first pup, temporarily named Blackbeard, because of his darker snout:

►Blackstone - in honor of Blackstone Lake in the Elv area.

► Beaufort - Beaufort Sea is a marginal sea of the Arctic Ocean, located north of the Northwest Territories,

the Yukon, and Alaska, and west of Canada's Arctic islands. These pups were termed "Alaskan Tundra" by the USDA source facility ► Broder - the

Scandinavian word for brother. The other wolf pup name

selections and meanings included:

► Caz - Celtic nickname for "watchful one" or "descended from the vigilant" according to some sources (much like his personality).

≻Cap - in honor of Dorothy Molter's father's nickname and Cap Lake in the Ely area; also, could be in honor of Black Cap Mountain in Alaska.

≻ Kapp - old Norse origin meaning "zeal, energy, competition." ► Caspian - a boy's name



meaning "white" (Cap's cheek hairs are white) as well as being a geographical name of the large salty Caspian Sea between Asia and Europe.

The addition of the new wolf pups this spring happened very fast.

forced officials to delay those plans for one year. And last year, the Wolf Center was only able to procure one pup.

"Adding pups this year was important for the health of the pack, and to allow our yearling wolf, Rieka, to experience some pup behavior she

The Ely Wolf planned to add pups in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic

See PUPS...pg. 4B

recyclable. They had to describe the scope

See EXPO...pg. 4B

#### SECTION 7A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

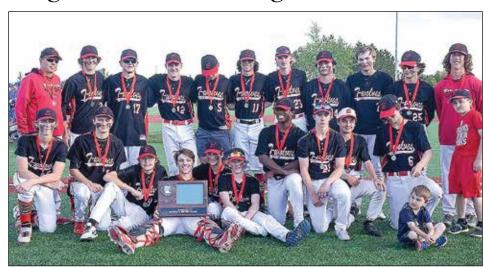
## Ely's season ends in section final Timberwolves edged 3-2 in hard-fought contest with top-seeded South Ridge

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

AURORA- It's said all good things must come to an end, and that was the case here last Thursday for an exceptional Ely high school baseball season as the Wolves fell 3-2 to South Ridge in the Section 7A championship game.

The Wolves came into the final round facing long odds in the double elimination tournament, as the top-seeded Panthers remained undefeated heading into the championship. That meant Ely needed to win the first game and then defeat South Ridge a second time the same day to claim the section title.

They almost succeeded in game one. Ely junior pitcher Gunnar Hart held the usually formidable South Ridge bats mostly in check through five and two-thirds innings, allowing just three runs while scattering eight hits and fanning eight. "It was a gutsy performance,'



said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich.

The Wolves took a 1-0 lead in the second inning as senior Mason Davis took advantage of a passed ball to score. Davis had led off the inning with a walk and then advanced on a single by senior Chase Sandberg, one of only four Ely hits in the game, followed by a bunt single from sophomore Drew Marolt to load the bases.

The Wolves threatened

Above: The Ely baseball team poses with its Section 7A runner-up trophy.

Upper right: Head Coach Frank Ivancich consoles one of his players after the game.

#### Right: Ely junior Erron Anderson races to first but not in in time for the final out of the game.

photos by D. Colburn

again in the fifth inning when sophomore Deegan Richards stretched a two-out single into the outfield into a two-bagger on a throwing error. He stole third moments later but South Ridge pitcher Christian Petaskey struck out Ely's next batter to end the threat.

South Ridge tied the score in the third and added

See WOLVES ...,pg. 4B







#### LIFE IN THE WOODS

## Small device keeps mosquitoes away

I tested the Thermacell E55 to see if it lived up to its promises. For the most part, it did

Imagine if you could spend a nice evening on the patio or the back deck and not be

accosted by clouds of mosquitoes, in June, here, in the North Country. And without resorting to those nasty foggers that kill insects, even beneficial ones, indiscriminately.

Sound farfetched? Maybe not.

I've been testing a new version of a product

that's been around for a while, known as a Thermacell mosquito repellent device. I'm not a gear junkie and rarely research such things, so I hadn't heard of it until my wife Jodi (who does

like to shop for gear) ordered one of these devices after reading about it on Wirecutter. If you haven't heard of Wirecutter, it's a product review service operated by the New York Times and they're pretty thorough. They had tested a long list of mosquito repelling options and the new Thermacell E55 wound up as their

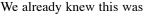
We already knew this was

See INSECTS...pg. 3B

MARSHA

HELMBERGER







This small device, known as a Thermacell E55, appears remarkably effective at keeping mosquitoes at bay under certain conditions. photo by M. Helmberger



#### ONE EXTREME TO ANOTHER

### Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower LARGE-LEAVED LUPINE



The Large-leaved Lupine, Lupinus polyphyllus, is a showy flower along area roadsides in June, but it's not native and could displace other native plants including milkweed, which benefit monarch butterflies.

This is a species that is native to the West Coast but it is also a popular garden flower that has naturalized across most of the Arrowhead.

It is easily recognized by its large flowering stalks, which contain many dozens of individual flowers in shades of blue and purple.

It can also be told from its prominently sharply-divided leaves, which grow from the base of the plant. It sometimes grows in sizable patches along roadsides this time of year, providing appealing swaths of color.

In other words, for a plant, it's definitely a mixed bag. Invasive, but a pleasing flower nonetheless.

### **Fishing reports**

#### Ely area

Walleye anglers have begun to find walleyes out on sunken islands in 15-20 feet of water. Out here, spinner rigs tipped with crawlers, leeches or minnows have been very productive during the day. During evening hours, anglers are finding walleyes sliding up on shallow flats, along shorelines. Here a slip bobber and a leech have been very effective in four-to-seven feet of water. Hot colors continue to be gold, pink, blue and purple. Smallmouth bass status ranges from spawn to post-spawn right now. Spawning bass are easy picking for anglers. Tube baits fished right on beds have been the easiest way to catch spawning fish. Post spawn bass have been very active and hammering topwater baits, such as Ned rigs, spinnerbaits and wacky worms. Shallow bays with boulders, down trees and large shallow points have been great locations to fish aggressive bass. Crappies and sunnies are also pre-spawning, spawning or post spawn. Spawning panfish are located back in shallow bays with hard, sandy bottoms. Small jigs, tipped with angleworms or wax worms, have been very effective. Crappies seem to be more post spawn and are starting to transition to sunken trees and weedlines. Twisters and beetle spins and crappie minnows under a bobber have been very effective. Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

#### Un track for record dry

### After wettest first five months on record, rain in June is running well-below average

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

REGIONAL - Don't look now, but it appears the weather gods may have flipped the switch on northern Minnesota yet again, as the area is currently on track to see one of its driest Junes on record.

If so, it would be a remarkable reversal from the first five months of the year, which were, by far, the wettest ever recorded, at least in International Falls, which has the longest period on record in the region. According to an analysis by the state climatology office, the border city saw 17.08 inches of liquid precipitation from Jan. 1-June 2, 2022. That was not only twice the average precipitation for that period, it was 38 percent wetter than the previous wettest Jan. 1-June 2 period set in 2013.

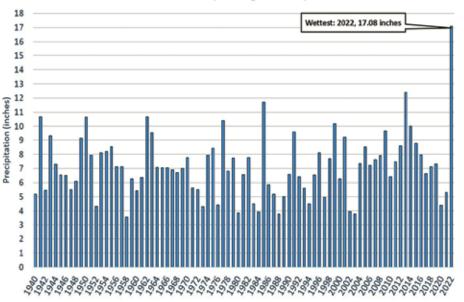
But now, the border city is on track to set an entirely different mark. With just 0.18 inches of precipitation since June 1, International Falls is on a pace to set a new record for the driest June on record.

"With Minnesota, it seems we're always waiting for the other shoe to drop," said state climatologist Pete Boulay.

With just over half the month already in the record books, International Falls has received just 0.18 inches of rain in June. That's at a time when the region typically receives just over an inch of rain per week. Northeastern Minnesota relies on its wet season, which runs from May-September, for at least two-thirds of its annual precipitation, so when the rains don't arrive, the shortfalls can add up quickly.

Even two weeks with little rain at this time of year can make a significant difference in soil moisture. Boulay said the fact that the first half of June has been relatively

#### International Falls -- Year-to-Date Precipitation 1940-2022 (Through June 2)



graphic courtesy MNDNR

Top: Two weeks with little rain has pushed the fire danger to high in the DNR's Tower area. The area continues to experience wild swings in weather conditions.

graphic by M. Helmberger

cool, helped to prevent the lack of rain from stressing plants. But with an impressive heat wave forecast to arrive over the weekend, the stress on plants will increase. Without accompanying rainfall, that could quickly deplete soil moisture and send water levels, which had hit record highs in many parts of the area last month, down sharply.

That's already being experienced on the Little Fork River, where the flow fell dramatically in the past week, from 3,610 cubic-feet-per-second (cfs) to 644 cfs. That's now slightly below the average flow for June.

The Little Fork isn't alone. Water levels on all of the rivers in the Rainy River basin are currently falling, although none have fallen as dramatically as the Little Fork. The Vermilion River, for example, fell from 2,830 cfs last week to 2,270 cfs this week, while the Basswood River fell from 6,330 cfs to 4,510 cfs. Both of those rivers are still considered to be at high-water levels and are fed by large upstream reservoirs.

The forecasted heat wave expected to



#### **OUT THERE**



April's black lab, named Nibs, has been mistaken for a lake monster on occasion.

## The legendary and not so legendary monsters of Loch Vermilion

Don'tyouthinkit'stime that someone addressed the question of monsters in Loch Vermilion? I mean if not with solid scientific evidence, then certainly with a sense of humor. I am ready to accept that challenge.

There are undeniably monsters in the lake. I have

seen many of them with my owneyes.Now, I cannot subject my monsters to DNA testing but put 'em in a line up. I know a monster when I see one.

Take the other morning when I was out on my front deck talking to

my sister. I witnessed a long thin monster making its way through the water in the front of my house. I watched it for a long time until I had to go off the porch. When I came back, it was gone! Could it have been, upon closer inspection, a birch tree that kept rolling to bark side up? I guess maybe, but what are the odds?

Or how about the strange incident when I found several pieces of my firewood in the bay? I came home later than usual one evening to find my cut, split, highly-coveted firewood floating in the bay. And the same thing the next night. Could it have been the beaver thought he had found the mother load of perfectly cut, split wood for his own purposes? Especially since the pieces had tooth markings in the bark. Ha! I think not! Definitely a monster. And then one morning on my way through Stuntz Bay, there was a fluorescent green monster heading out from the landing. Could it have been an overturned kayak washed from its owners yard in the high water? Nothing in nature comes in that color green. Yet! Last night I was fishing and hooked a monster. I got it to the boat several times, but it was a huge monster and was hooked lightly.

Ultimately, it proved to be a smart monster and when it went under the boat, I lost him. No chance for a photo op to prove my theory.

And lastly, just to clear things up about a not monster. I think quite a few boaters may have been tricked into believing

that my black lab Nibs is a monster. He likes to swim out to boats near my shoreline, especially if they are trolling for muskies with the bubble bath lures. That big black head coming at you could easily be confused with a

true monster head. I try to keep him from doing this as I think it is dangerous, but it usually nets him a sandwich and a ride back to the dock. All of which he likes. He's been in more different kinds of boats than I have, and he is a monster. Just not that kind.

So, there you have it, my reputation on the line about monsters, and not monsters. Make your judgments as you will. But I truly believe there are Loch Vermilion monsters.

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06/08	73	43	0.00	06/08	72	34	0.00	06/08		44	0.00	06/08	72	46	0.00		06/08	70	44	0.00			
06/09	74	38	0.00	06/09	72	35	0.00	06/09		44	0.00	06/09	73	39	0.00		06/09	73	36	0.00			
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YTD Total 8.45				YTD To	itai		10.48	YTD	Iotal		11.44	YTD T	otal		NA	NA	YTD Total 14.56						

#### **INSECTS...**Continued from page 2B

going to be a bad year for mosquitoes, so I was interested to give it a try. I'm always skeptical that the latest and greatest will work any better than anything I've tried in the past, which is one reason I don't generally shop for gear, but reviewers at both the New York Times and Outside magazine, insisted the thing really worked. I figured it might work on those effete eastern mosquitoes. But what about those beasts that inhabit the margins on the Lost Lake Swamp? Those are some pretty tough customers.

Before I tell you how it worked, let me tell you a bit about it. The device is slightly larger than a softball, and it's designed to sit on a flat surface, like a table on your deck. It operates on a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, which provides a source of heat to volatilize a mosquito repellent known as metofluthrin, which is a chemical, derived from chrysanthemums, that has been thoroughly vetted by the Environmental Protection Agency and determined to be safe at the levels you would be exposed to sitting near one of the devices. That's why the EPA has found the chemical to be "practically non-toxic to mammals and birds,' according to Wirecutter.

The American Mosquito Control Association has found metofluthrin to be highly effective in repelling mosquitoes within a certain range. The Thermacell E55 promises to create an exclusion zone encompassing a 20-foot radius, which would be sufficient to enable you and a couple friends to enjoy a mosquito-free evening in the yard. You should place the device where you plan to sit and turn it on about 15 minutes before you plan to be outside to get the maximum effect.

Does it work? It works better than anything I've ever used before, although it has certain limitations. The good news is that when



the air is calm, which helps to concentrate the repellent effect near the device, it is remarkably effective. I've spent considerable time testing it from our front patio, where I've now been able to sit in the morning almost entirely free of mosquitoes. I've tried turning it off during those experiments, and after about five-to-ten minutes, the mosquitoes returned in large numbers. I subsequently turned it back on and the mosquitoes vanished again just as quickly. I was impressed enough to want to spread the word.

It won't keep every mosquito away under every condition. I tried it on a recent cool and drippy morning (when the mosquitoes were swarming outside) and using the device I was able to sit out on the patio without being driven inside, even though the occasional mosquito did buzz me.

But without the device, I would have quickly had a cloud of mosquitoes around me. It's the worst mosquito year in our neighborhood in probably a decade, so being able to tolerate sitting outside on a damp morning - normally prime time for mosquitoes- was amazing.

I didn't test it on a windy day, but other reviewers have said its effectiveness wanes the windier it gets. Of course, a good breeze can help keep mosquitoes at bay as well. It's those calm mornings or evenings that can really draw them in.

The Thermacell won't kill the mosquitoes, so if you're just looking for revenge, it might not satisfy you. Unfortunately, most the of the devices or foggers designed to kill mosquitoes kill everything. In an era when we know more than ever before about the benefits of many, if not most, insects, it seems that indiscriminate slaughter is entirely inappropriate. If we can simply keep the mosquitoes at bay while we're outside, why would we not let the other insects alone?

As for other limitations, the Thermacell is not designed to provide you protection if you're hiking or walking in the woods. It's probably not sturdy enough to toss in your pack for a Boundary Waters camping trip. But Thermacell does make sturdier, portable devices, such as the MR 450, which were also rated as highly effective for use around a camp or in a hunting blind. I've already ordered one for when I'm out photographing wildlife. When you're sitting still for long periods deep in the woods, it can require considerable discipline at times to not run away screaming.

One unanswered question in my mind is how well any of these devices work on deer flies, which have yet to really emerge in large numbers around our house so far this spring. Most reviews I've read suggest that it's less effective against various types of flies. Which just means that Thermacell probably hasn't rendered the good old-fashioned screen porch obsolete.

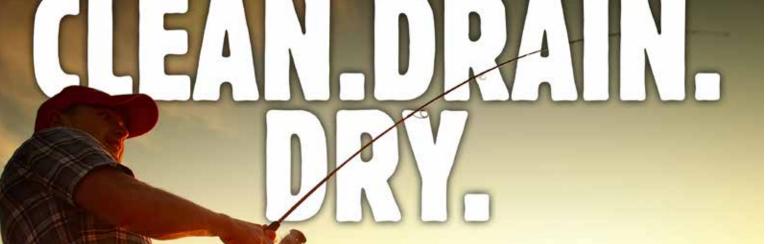


#### WEATHER... Continued from page 2B

begin later this weekend, is likely to hasten drying across the area unless it's accompanied by rainfall. The extended forecast shows only small chances of significant precipitation in the week ahead, while also forecasting temperatures that could reach into the low-to-mid 90s by Monday.

Hot temperatures, without accompanying rainfall, are likely to further elevate fire danger in the area, which was listed as high in the Tower area earlier in the week.

The normal high and low for June 17 is 74 and 46 degrees.



# DRAIN

🕗 Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

Trash unused bait



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(Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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from axles, wheels, undercarriage,

motor, prop, nets, and gear

before leaving boat landing





### **EXPO...**Continued from page 1B

of the problem and propose possible alternative uses for them, then illustrate those by creating display boards with the information, pictures, and graphics. They also created physical samples of alternative uses, such as cutting bottles down into planters and making rope by weaving together plastic bags, and more.

June 2 was Expo Day. Schmidt and learning advisors Paula Herbranson and Allan White were joined by other staff and local community members to put the students to the test.

"We're assessing what they know and how they learned it through an interview process," Schmidt explained. "It's very different from a traditional assessment process."

Working individually and in pairs, the adults spread out through the room, spending 10-15 minutes with each group listening to their presentations and asking questions. Some questions were straightforward, while others forced students to take what they had learned and go a step further by hypothesizing possible actions or outcomes, including how to

advocate for change.

"That's the highest one, to actually make a change and do something for your community," Schmidt said. "When we ask kids those questions, they're having to think outside the box rather than just what they can do but how they can stretch it out to the community." While their research was thematically similar and their displays had common elements, each display and presentation featured something unique. One group created a tropical island with sand, a creative palm tree crafted from plastic, and its shores overwhelmed by plastic scraps. Another made extensive use of plastic bags as a foundation for the display and had a plastic jump rope at the ready for demonstrations. Illustrations varied from basic pictures of single-use plastics like water bottles to thought-provoking photos of adverse environmental impacts on nature.

One evaluator who was particularly impressed with the students' work was Helmberger.

"I was just totally amazed at the work thkids have done. Some of those



A group of Vermilion Country School students discuss their project on plastic pollution with evaluator Patricia Helmberger, of Tower. photo by D. Colburn

kids are really innovative with their ideas," she said. "I shouldn't have been surprised but I kind of was because they were so enthusiastic about their projects. There are some real creative ideas here."

Helmberger was also

encouraged by the prevailing attitude she discovered as she circulated throughout the room.

"I saw a positivity in these kids that really surprised me," she said. "One kid told me, 'Since you were here last, I have

noticed more and more of the plastic that's in the community, and it does make me want to do more.""

The group-based project also drew on community service experiences and integrated other academic learning students

had throughout the year, Schmidt said.

"So, this is the culmination of everything," she said. "I think it was a good, successful Expo."

### **PUPS...**Continued from page 1B -

lacked as a singleton," Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt said.

"We had three educational facilities lined up to work with, two in Canada and one here in the United States. Pup welting is always a waiting game. One facility's mating pair didn't work out. The other facility's just had a single pup available this year, and they decided to keep her. The third facility, where Rieka came from, had multiple breedings but each had just one pup," she said.

Schmidt said she looked for other wolf pup options, through the help of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and found an acceptable facility in western Minnesota. "I

haven't dealt with them before but they are very reputable in the 'zoo world,'" she said."That was a whole new experience for me to work through the American Zoological Association. They were a little bit older so we didn't bottle feed them, as we normally start with that at 10-12 days of age." The new pups were born April 6, so Wolf Center staff spent a lot of extra time working on their trust since we received them in mid-May.

'It was out of the blue this year," Schmidt said. "I had one place in Michigan lined up and ready to go, but they wanted to ship them to us, but that was a red flag to us. Four other colleagues I

work with also warned me about that."

The 2022 pups were acquired from a USDA regulated facility in western Minnesota. "It is a wildlife park located west of Brainard," Schmidt said.

The two new pups, born April 6 and brought to the Ely facility on May 10, were unofficially named "Blackbeard" and "Captain" by Wolf Center staff as they got acquainted with the new ambassador pack residents.

They are Alaska Tundra or Northwestern wolves. Wolf Center staff will conduct DNA sampling

"We want to know the species as best we can determine. They are clearly wolves. They have huge feet and are growing as much as a half-pound per day," she said.

The two new pups will likely join the other three wolves in the ambassador pack in early August, according to Schmidt.Axel and Grayson are each six years old, and Rieka turned one year old last month. Schmidt estimated that once all five of the ambassador pack members are in the exhibit enclosure together, the lone female, Rieka, will take over as pack leader.

"Rieka is still mentally kind of a juvenile and missed out on all the roughhousing and playtime with a litter mate," Schmidt said.

"We felt it was healthier for her to have some play companions. Rieka will be the dominant female, and she already acts like it. These new pups have already had a tremendous influence on them. She is already guarding them from the other boys and has that hormonal care-giving behavior."

#### See the pups

The Wolf Center's newest residents are available for public viewing.

One way for Ely Wolf Center visitors to see the pups is through an outdoor viewing area adjacent to the wolf yard, where pups will be spending time conditioning to the human component of a public exhibit. These programs are dependent on the weather, according to Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt. They last 15-minutes each and are held throughout the day. General admission prices apply. Another way to see the

2022 wolf pups is with a one-hour behind the scenes tour. These tours are only available only for members of the International Wolf Center. Information about membership is available at www.wolf.org.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

Pick Up Mail

single runs apiece in the fifth and sixth innings to take a 3-1 lead heading into the seventh. Ely had rallied so many times in recent games that it had

and Joey Bianco to start the seventh, it seemed like history just might repeat itself. When freshman Caid Chittum ripped a ground out, it advanced Loe and walked juniors Logan Loe the next at-bat with another Ely's season.

fielder's choice, while Bianco advanced to third. Then it all came down to junior Erron Anderson, but when his infield grounder was scooped up by the almost come to be expect- Bianco to scoring position. South Ridge third baseman, years. ed, and when South Ridge Richards drove Loe in on the routine out at first ended

Despite the disappointment, the Wolves found plenty to like in their 19-8 season and their second appearance in the Section 7A finals in the past four

despite the late start," said Ivancich. "Probably the most encouraging part of the season was being able to play a full schedule of 20 regular season games. a short stretch of days in the playoff run. Playing 11 games in the last 12 days of the regular season prepared us for the mental and physical grind needed

That most certainly paid a "Overall we had a huge dividend, preparing tremendous season us to play many games in

Memories of the Early Days A fascinating look back at the early history Back By of the Lake Vermilion area Popular **Demand!** Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay نز نهده Memories of the Early Days A Regional Favorite STOP IN TODAY OR CALL ... lust + Tax Over Don't miss your chance 100 Historical to own Lake Vermilion's most Photographs! definitive history! Pick up book(s) at Timberjay office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each. The Timberjay **BOOK ORDER FORM** P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950 Quantity of Books \_\_\_\_\_ Name 🔜 Address\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_State \_\_\_\_\_ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_\_ Tel.#\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_ Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER Billing address if different from above \_\_\_\_\_ Book Total - Mail \$39.95 Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16) Total charged to credit card \$\_\_\_\_\_ Paid by check \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check #\_\_\_\_\_

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to get through the playoffs. We played two games a day for three days in our playoff run."

Ivancich also credited the team's strong bench. "Having 17 players contribute to our playoff run was an awesome advantage to have, whether a player pinch running, courtesy running, pinch hitting, or pitching an out and inning or whatever we needed our guys accepted whatever role they were asked to play. A true team effort by these players had an awful lot to do with our successful year."

Looking ahead to next season, Ivancich said the team will feel the effects of the loss of several seniors, including catcher Chase Sandberg, pitcher Harry Simons, pitcher/leftfielder Mason Davis, rightfielder Eddie Prijatel, DH/pinch hitter Jacob Towley, and pitcher/pinch runner Bryce Fairchild. "They have experienced it all over the past four years," said Ivancich. "A Section 7A runner-up in 2019, a lost 2020 year due to Covid, a disappointing 9-13 record and first game exit from the playoffs in 2021, to another Section 7A Runner-Up in 2022. These seniors are just simply a great group of young men who were truly team players who accepted their roles and encouraged our younger players."

#### AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

### Winton resident uses and teaches a second language-Morse Code

WINTON- Terry Jackson of Winton has a gift that a lot of folks likely don't know about. As an avid amateur radio operator, Jackson is skilled in Morse code, a language that has been around for well over 100 years.

Morse Code transmissions, sometimes known as CW, are a series of short dots and long dashes put together to form letters, numbers, and sentences. Perhaps the best-known Morse code transmission is the emergency radio signal SOS, which consists of three dots, three dashes, and three dots.

Jackson's journey into amateur radio started when he was a Russian High-Speed Morse Code Intercept Operator for the U.S. Naval Security Group from 1966 to 1969. While stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany, Jackson intercepted Morse code messages sent from Russian and Russian satellite country ships. He got so good with his work that he could tell you the name of the operator by the "rhythm" of his messages.

Jackson's work with the U.S Navy did not go unnoticed. When his time was up with the

Navy, he was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency for an overseas assignment. While it was certainly tempting, Jackson and his wife, Anne, decided to turn down the offer. It was from there that he decided to become an amateur radio operator, so he could continue to use his Morse code skills. Jackson has been a licensed operator, sometimes referred to as a "ham," for 53 years. One of his most satisfying and rewarding experiences occurred in the 1970's when he was setting up phone patches between soldiers in Vietnam and their families back in the United States.

Throughout the 70s, Jackson volunteered for the Navy Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS). This organization supported his phone patching while providing surplus equipment so he could set up a radio operation which would be available to deliver messages during emergencies.

As part of his continuing interest in amateur radio, Jackson teaches Morse code for CW-Academy and the Long Island CW Club. His Zoom



courses range from beginners to advanced high-speed operators.

"This is a good way to give back to a hobby I love and respect," said Jackson. "It is so heartwarming and rewarding to see so much interest in preserving the Morse code legacy."

Jackson says amateur radio has many aspects, ranging from Morse code, voice, slow and fast scan TV, and even satellite transmissions.

"My favorite is Morse code," he said. "It is another language that I am proud to

Obituaries and Death Notices

know. It is a real joy to see my students go on to make live contacts on the air. It is also a challenge for most CW operators. Someone once told me that anyone can blab on the radio, but it takes skill and determination to do Morse code."

Jackson is a member of the Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club (VRARC), which is based out of Ely. The group meets every Saturday morning at 9 a.m., usually at the Grand Ely Lodge. If you're interested in amateur radio and its



Left: Terry Jackson, Amateur Radio Operator

#### Above: Begali Magnum CW Paddles that are used to generate Morse Code.

photos by P. Makowski

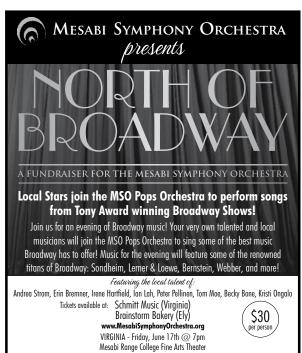
many offerings, please contact VRARC President Pete Makowski at 218-749-7600.

Article by Pete Makowski, President of the Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club.

#### FREE MEDICAL CLINIC provided by Ely Community Health Center

**Thursday evenings 5:30-7 p.m.** 111 S 4th Ave E, Ely - *No appointment necessary* -

Contact us for more information 218-365-5678 or email us director@elycommunityhealth.org





#### **Roy H. Soderberg**

Roy H. Soderberg, 95-1/2, died on Friday, June 10, 2022, after a brief stay at Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. Roy's family would like to thank the staff at Vermilion Senior Living for the wonderful care during his brief stay. Also, many thanks to Dr. Bianco for the years of care for Uncle Roy. At Roy's request, no formal services will be held. Family services provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

4, 1926, in Soudan, the youngest of 12 children born to Chas and Signe Soderberg. Roy was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School in the class of 1944. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1944 until 1946. Roy was employed by the Soudan Underground Mine, the Pioneer Mine in Ely, and Minntac. He was a member of the VFW, Elks, Masons, NRA, Ducks Unlimited, Tower-Soudan Old Settlers, Stuntz Bay Association, and many other local organizations. Roy was a very avid bowler and on many championship teams with his brother Norm.

Roy was born on Dec.

But Roy was best known for his love of flying. As an avid hunter and fisherman, he would fly his plane to many remote lakes in Ontario for lake trout, Saskatchewan for ducks and geese, and South Dakota for pheasant. He knew Lake Vermilion like the back of his hand. No one could filet a fish like Roy, a skill he passed on to his nephews.

Roy is survived by his caregivers: niece, Patti Soderberg Buffington, great-nephews, Jeff (Joan) Jauss and Terry (Amy) Soderberg; nieces and nephews, Lois St. Sure (Jay), Karen Karni, Linda (Don) Duffer, James Cooley, John (JoAnna) Pucel, Bill Pucel, Mary Gayle Pucel, Kurt (Barb) Soderberg and Nancy (Barry) Przybylski; many extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Carl, Lawrence, Clifford, Norman, Hazel, Lil, Grace, Ozzie, Mildred, Jane and Ollie; and nieces and nephews, Jean Soderberg, Susan Stalder, George Jauss and Tom (Dale) Soderberg.

#### **Bruce W. Johnson**

Bruce William Johnson of Anchorage, Alaska, passed away unexpectedly in his home in Anchorage on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, June 20 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Lunch will be served immediately after the service, followed by interment at the Leiding Cemetery.

#### **Elizabeth Schultz**

Elizabeth "Liz" Schultz, 36, of Grand Rapids, passed away on Friday, June 10, 2022, after a courageous battle with adrenal cancer. Arrangements are pending with Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rapids.

ELY - Saturday, June 18th @ 7pm Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater



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Muck Excavation – 780 Cu.

Muck Excavation – 780 Cu.
Yd.; Granular Borrow (CV)
1,475 Cu. Yd.; Geotextile
Fabric Type 5 – 7,100 Sq.
Yd.; Aggregate Base Class
5 – 3,200 Cu. Yd.; 15" RC
Pipe Culvert – 60 Lin. Ft.;
Dedem Dirace Dirac House H

Random Riprap Class III - 20

Cu. Yd.; Silt Fence - 5,200 Lin. Ft.; Filter Berm Type 5 -

800 Lin. Ft.; Common Topsoil Borrow – 700 Cu. Yd.; Turf

Bids will be received by City of Tower, Michael Schultz,

City Clerk/Treasurer, City Hall

(602 Main Street, Tower, MN

Plans and Specifications,

and Forms of Bid Bond,

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Bond, and other contract doc-

uments may be examined at

Benchmark Engineering, Inc., 8878 Main Street, Mountain

Copies may be obtained at the office of Benchmark

Engineering Inc. upon pay-ment of \$50.00 (non-refund-

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Published in the Timberjay, June 17 & 24, 2022

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REMINDER

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ANNUAL MEETING

RECONVENES

JUNE 23, 2022 AT 6:00 PM

RECONVENING AT GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL

3000 COUNTY RD 77

TOWER, MN 55790

THIS MEETING IS FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND SEASONAL RESIDENTS TO VOICE OPINIONS AND CONCERNS

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- at \$17.36/hr \$1,500 sign-on bonus)

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

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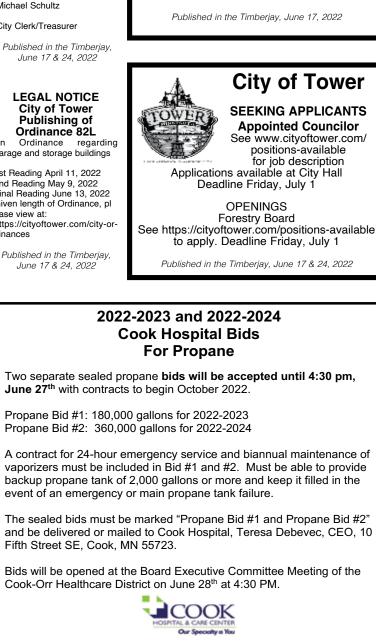
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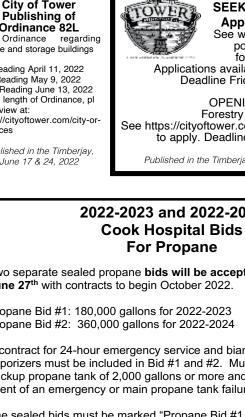
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The sealed bids must be marked "Propane Bid #1 and Propane Bid #2" and be delivered or mailed to Cook Hospital, Teresa Debevec, CEO, 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723.

Bids will be opened at the Board Executive Committee Meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 28th at 4:30 PM.

55790) until 1:00 P.M. local LEGAL NOTICE time Friday, July 8th, 2022, and then at said office publicly City of Tower Publishing of Ordinance 82L The information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract,

garage and storage buildings

1st Reading April 11, 2022 2nd Reading May 9, 2022 Final Reading June 13, 2022 Given length of Ordinance, pl ease view at https://cityoftower.com/city-ordinances

Published in the Timberjay, June 17 & 24, 2022

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

The Owner reserves the right

to waive any informality or to

Each Bidder must depos-

it, with their bid: security in

the amount, form and subject

to the conditions provided in

the Information for Bidders. The bid should be in a sealed

envelope with the project name, bid date and time clear-

All applicable state laws rela-

tive to wage rates shall apply on this project. Contractors will

be required to submit payroll

No Bidder may withdraw their

bid within 35 days after the actual date of the opening

June 17 & 24, 2022

ly labeled on the outside.

reports

thereof

Michael Schultz

City Clerk/Treasurer

reject any or all bids.

**RESIDENTS AT THIS MEETING** 

### **City of Tower**

**Appointed Councilor** See www.cityoftower.com/ positions-available for job description

## 2022-2023 and 2022-2024

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 pm, June 27<sup>th</sup> with contracts to begin October 2022.

Propane Bid #1: 180,000 gallons for 2022-2023 Propane Bid #2: 360,000 gallons for 2022-2024

A contract for 24-hour emergency service and biannual maintenance of vaporizers must be included in Bid #1 and #2. Must be able to provide backup propane tank of 2,000 gallons or more and keep it filled in the event of an emergency or main propane tank failure.



Published in the Timberjay June 10, 17 & 24, 2022

### **FUNERAL SERVICES**



### **EMPLOYMENT**

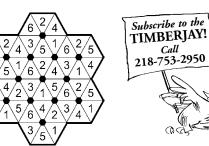
#### JOB OPENING · CITY OF ORR **MAINTENANCE / PUBLIC** WORKS ASSISTANT

The City of Orr is seeking candidates for a full-time General Maintenance/Public Works Assistant. Located in far Northern Minnesota, Orr is considered the gateway to Voyageur's National Park and Superior National Forest. Minimum qualifications include: valid driver's license, high school diploma or GED, required licenses or ability to obtain required Water and Wastewater Licensing, and mechanical aptitude. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following: daily/seasonal operations, streets and parks, water and wastewater systems, operation and maintenance of public works equipment and machinery, and municipal airport.

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The City of Orr is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



## Weekly SUDOKU

### by Linda Thistle

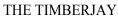
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦



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#### **SUPPORT** GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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#### Super Crossword COMMAND LINES

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size, jewelry, luggage, small appliances, much more. Info/ directions call 218-235-1023. 6/17p **Find It** Here

# basement.

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can

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there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a HIV/AIDS? For confidential com-

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-East Range meetings and infor-mation, call 218-749-3387 or

www.district8online.org. AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the

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33 Rescue

#### MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE-Anonymous. We have been Saturday, June 18, 8-5. 1423 E Lake 4 Rd. Eagles Nest Lake area, take Hwy. 169 to Bear Head State Park Rd., 3 miles to Lake 4 Rd. Priced to sell! non-profit organization.) Housewares, collectibles, plus-

passionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).



MEETING- Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community

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### MRS. MINNESOTA

North Woods teacher will head to Las Vegas to compete for Mrs. America title

## From Miss to Mrs., Betterley adds a new pageant crown

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- There are a lot of words one could use to describe North Woods art teacher Rachel Betterley - vivacious, caring, passionate, empathetic, and committed, to cite just a few. Yet, if asked to pick just one for herself, Betterley would likely choose the one she aspires to in everything she does: authentic. Being true to who she was as a young single woman seven years ago named Rachel Latuff led to winning the Miss Minnesota pageant, something that opened doors for Betterley well beyond being a Miss America contestant. During this time, she served as the state ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and underwent a oneyear anti-bullying awareness campaign that reached over 10,000 youth across the state of Minnesota. She appeared on numerous television shows, became a brand ambassador for Zandolee Media, and used all of those experiences to grow as a teacher.

But time brings with it change, and shortly after her reign as Miss Minnesota ended, Rachel Latuff became Rachel Betterley, the wife of Brad, who founded and runs BRB

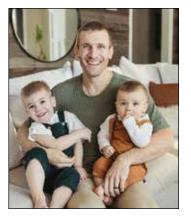


Services, a handyman and construction business in the northland. In the ensuing years the Betterleys became parents to Ryland and Nash, now three and one, respectively.

As a wife, mother, teacher, and passionate advocate for the arts. Betterlev recently began thinking about doing something that would celebrate those roles while also serving as a form of individual affirmation, and for that she turned to something uniquely authentic to her, the world of pageantry.

Last weekend, Betterley competed in and won the Mrs. Minnesota contest.

"I'm kind of a firm believer in trying to push yourself in new ways in order to grow as a



Above: The Betterley boys include Rachel's husband, Brad, Rylan, left, and Nash. photo by Herberg Photography

Left: Rachel Betterley poses after winning the Mrs. Minnesota America pageant in Eagan last weekend. submitted

person, as a teacher, as a public figure, and one of the ways that I thought I could do that best was by competing in the Mrs. division in pageantry," Betterley said. "I have my best sense of self right now as a mother and a wife, as a teacher, and I feel a lot more confident going into the national competition being able to fully represent who I am. It's

like a personal journey, I think." Betterley described the appeal the competition has for her.

"What's nice about the Mrs. division is that it's fam-ily centered," she said. "They know you have a husband, and they want him to be involved in supporting you, they want him on stage walking you down the aisle. They know you might have kids. They accept families and they want you to feel that you can bring them all along for the ride while also honoring the role of the married woman. In the Miss division it's not like that at all, it's very individualized. This is a different avenue for pageantry that is very refreshing."

"I really like the idea of married women being repre-sented," Betterley continued, "because they wear so many different hats. They're a mom, wife, they're a partner, they have a career, they're doing so much more, while also taking the time to compete and be community service leaders. That, to me, elevates it so much more, and if you can find a way to balance all that, that to me is like

See...CROWN pg. 9B

#### COUNTY SCHOOLS

## **ISD 2142 sees financial issues looming for next year**

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA-ISD 2142 school board members reviewed the adjusted budget for the current school year at Tuesday nights meeting, but there was little doubt that next year's budget was weighing heavily of the minds of all.

"For the current year revised budget, take a look at that first page," Finance Director Kim Johnson said. "As you can see, the revised budget for this year has us increasing total ADM (average daily membership, or enrollment) 50 students from last year. But last year we lost almost 137 ADM. We're not back to where

Based on Kindergarten numbers, I think our enrollment is going to slightly drop again."

Simply put, ISD 2142 is going to lose more revenue because of enrollment losses. While the formal computation of basic aid to schools is somewhat more involved to calculate, a simplified view is that the district would lose nearly \$6,900 for every student they fall short of meeting enrollment targets for.

Referring to the current budget later in her presentation, Johnson said, "In total, in this budget, there's about  $$52\overline{5},000$  related to cost increases in food, fuel and utilities. Next year it's going to be even worse.'

The district started the current year with just over \$3 million of unrestricted general fund money, but will have to tap that to cover increased expenses, leaving about \$1.4 million as the revised fund balance. That has concerning implications for next year.

"The administrative team is looking at staffing already, they've been doing that this spring," Johnson said. "We're going to have to take a deeper dive. I don't know where we can cut anything. Part of the problem is the increase in costs that we've got related to running the buildings and food service. Everything costs more, and costs. We've got to figure out what we can do. I have no idea at this point what we can do to offset those huge increases in inflation. They hit districts really hard because we're paid based on the number of students, and as you saw earlier the number of students we have is still lower than what it was before COVID."

Declines in enrollment and skyrocketing inflation will prompt tough budget choices

As this was a working meeting there were no actions to be taken on the budget, but at the next meeting Johnson will be presenting her projected budget for next year.

In other business, the board:

➤ Held a brief special meeting to approved the sale of its bus barn in Orr to the city of Orr for \$10,000. In return, the district secured the use of one stall in the building for continued use by a bus for 99 years, or until the district determines that a route in the area is no longer needed. The city plans to use the building to house the Orr Ambulance Service, although it may take thousands of dollars

and perhaps years to complete the conversion of the structure to suit the service's needs. Orr officials said they will be seeking federal and/or state grants to fund and facilitate the conversion.

► Discussed reinstating admission fees for the 2022-23 school year. No admission fees have been collected the past two years due to the COVID pandemic, but that has cost the district about \$45,000 annually in lost revenues which are needed to support the athletic program. Members noted that a combination of free admission for youngsters and seniors and passes for

action on a formal proposal at their next meeting.

> Discussed a proposed purchase agreement submitted by a Cook resident for multiple lots located in Art's Addition. After much discussion, the board decided that others should be made aware that the land is available by advertising for three weeks in the district's official newspaper, with the minimum price set at the estimated market value according to county property tax record. Bids will be received for the property

➤ Discussed an informal offer from an individual to purchase the bus

we need to be yet and I don't think we'll be back there this next year either. the legislature isn't giving us enough money to even pay for the increased

### **COOK'S ANNUAL TIMBER DAYS THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all the generous sponsors of Cook's Annual Timber Days 2022!

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students, staff and coaches, the impact for district families would be relatively small.

> Discussed reimposition of school meal fees for the 2022-23 school year. Children have received free meals the past two years courtesy of COVID pandemic relief funds designated for that purpose, but the program has expired. Board members will receive and take

barn in Cotton for \$25,000 to convert for use as a private business. The offer is below the estimated market value of the property, but a stipulation similar to that in Orr that would give the district a long term, cost-free lease for bus storage was determined to be a justifiable offset. Members asked that the item be placed on the next board meeting agenda for formal action.



### Monday, July 4 • Tower Main Street/LV Cultural Center 10K Run - 8 a.m. 5K Run/Walk - 8:05 a.m. 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

Preregister: Email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org for registration form or stop by the Timberjay office

Registrations accepted race day 6:30-7:45 a.m. sharp! 10K or 5K- \$15 per person in advance- \$20 on race day Kids 12 & under free with paid adult

Free T-Shirt (while supplies last) for all participants.

Race course is slightly modified this year due to planned construction on the Mesabi Trail!

For more information, contact Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 (leave message)

Sponsored by the Friends of Vermilion Country School and the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Area Events Board

Far left:

Learning to cast.

Left: Kaelyn

ready to catch

Puzel gets

some fish.

**Below: Ruby** 

### ELY CHAMBER Fishin' fun on Fall Lake at the Ely Chamber Fishing Derby

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

WINTON - The Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby at Veterans on the Lake Resort last weekend not only included dozens of area youth trying their luck fishing for prizes off the piers, it also included knot-tying lessons, lure-casting lessons, aquatic invasive species exploration, and even an opportunity to learn about a traditional Japanese art form.

What organizers hope will be an annual start to summer event was sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce and hosted at the military veterans family facility on Fall Lake. First developed in 2019 by the Chamber's Events Coordinator Bureau, city of Ely, Merchant Committee, Incredible Ely, and Ely Area Tourism Bureau, the event was postponed a couple of years because of COVID-19.

"We were fortunate to have some great sponsors," said Eva Sebesta, executive director for the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

The Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club was a "Trophy" sponsor and their contribution included a refund of each kid's registration fee, cash prizes for the fishing component, plus their contribution covered the cost of the t-shirts for all youth and volunteers, plus bandanas for the youth.

In addition, Conservationists with Common Sense (CWCS) and Friends of the Boundary Waters were "Deep



Diver" sponsors at \$1000 each. Additional sponsors included the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with contributions of new rods and reels through the Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) program and water education through Project WET. Area invasive species groups provided education opportunities, too.

The seed money for this event originated from the Event Coordinator Bureau, which was comprised of the Ely Chamber of Commerce, city of Ely, Ely Area Tourism Bureau, and Incredible Ely.

"We need to mention all the hardworking volunteers who donated their time and expertise on Saturday. We had over 20 volunteers who worked directly with youth at all the stations.

We would also like to thank Veterans on the Lake Resort staff and their board of directors for allowing us to hold the event at their location," Sebesta added.

More than 30 youth, ages 6 to 14, took advantage of the opportunity to work with fishing experts, veterans, wildlife biologists and artists as they rotated through four stations and did a little fishing during the all-day derby

"We worked with the DNR to participate in the water education part," Sebesta said. "We were also involved with their 'Fishing in the Neighborhood' program. Soturi Tackle, a veteran-owned Minnesota company, helped teach participants everything from how to cast and reel in a fish to bait hooks and tie fishing knots."



Ice created some fishy art. photos by K. Vandevort art called Gyotaku. According to Ellen Cashman, the chamber's event coordinator, the art practice dates back to the mid-1800s, when fishermen used the technique of applying sumi ink to one side of a freshly caught fish before rubbing it on rice pa-

per to create an image of the fish as a way to record their catch. "The method has now become an art form," she said.

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital provided a first aid station and the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association presented information on aquatic invasive species.

The chamber and city of Ely also partnered with Veterans on the Lake, Project WET (Water Education Today), to make the derby possible. Other sponsors included Conservationists with Common Sense, and Friends of the Boundary Waters.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce is already making plans for the 2023 Fishing Derby. "The event will expand to accommodate more youth," Cashman said.

**CROWN**...Continued from page 8B

the crème de la crème of women that I admire."

The competition in Eagan was different in several respects from Betterley's experience in the Miss division. For starters, it was conducted on only one day. The field of entrants was certainly smaller, only seven. And while an extensive interview was followed by traditional pageant competitions in evening gown, swimsuit, and on-stage speaking, one was noticeably absent - talent. Betterley didn't have to reboot her ribbon dancing routine from her Miss division days, and while she'd have been fine to have the talent segment included, she was also

fine without it. "It was different easier because I didn't have any fear of wrapping my 18-foot-long ribbon around my feet."

Betterley discovered that the directors were looking for title holders with fresh perspectives to bring to the table, and that was something that played to her strengths.

"I was like, boom, I'm your girl, this is my forte," she said. With a master's degree from Boston University in fine arts and ten years of teaching fueling her creativity, and with a natural knack for marketing as well, Betterley sees this as a golden opportunity to grow the Mrs. division brand and find new ways to connect a wide array of women with the pageant and its affirmation of married women. "I so look forward to working with them to help them think about

stuff like this," she said. And yet, it's something she can work in along with all of the other thing she does.

"What's nice about Mrs. Minnesota is that can be whatever you want it to be," Betterley said. "This isn't like a job where I have to move back to the cities and do an appearance every other day. This is your title and it's what

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you want to make of it. A personal goal is to set myself up for a great national experience, because I want to push myself. And it's important for me to be a voice for the arts, always. And I think it's important for women to feel empowered, to have those times and experiences for themselves for their own mental well-being. Whatever that avenue is, they



should pursue it."

Betterley's next stop will be the Westgate Las Vegas Resort, using the same stage where Elvis Presley once performed,

where she will compete against women from across the country for the title of Mrs. America. That event is scheduled for mid-August.





Fishing rods and reels were donated, so each participant went home with a new rod and reel, a T-shirt, and a bag full fishing items.

And in a surprise announcement on Saturday morning, Sebesta said the Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club refunded the entry fee for each participant.

Prizes were awarded for the most fish caught and the largest and smallest fish.

At the art station, kids learned the traditional Japanese

cause I was taking out one form of expression," Betterley said. "But in a way it was a little bit

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#### "The Wizard of Oz" PRAIRIE FIRE CHILDREN'S THEATRE & Northern Lakes

Arts Association



Auditions for Prairie Fire Children's Theater's (PFCT) original production of "Wizard of OZ" will be held on June 27, 2022. Registration begins at 10 AM; Auditions are 10:30 AM-12:30 PM (at Vermilion College in Ely).

Auditions are open to anyone ages 7-18 yrs. The audition process lasts up to two (2) hours and all those auditioning are required to be in attendance for its entirety. The cast will be announced at the end of the audition; each cast member will receive a rehearsal schedule for the remainder of the week. A portion of the cast will be asked to stay following auditions for a short rehearsal. Participation fees: 1 child \$50, 2 children \$80 and 3 or more \$100

Up to 83 children (and adults if applicable) are needed to play the roles of DOROTHY, TOTO, THE MUNCHKINS, GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH, THE TINMAN, THE COWARDLY LION, THE GREEN GUARD, THE WIZARD, THE EMERALD CITY TRADERS, THE FLYING MONKEYS, THE WINKIES, AUNT EM, UNCLE HENRY, AND THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD. Prairie Fire Children's Theatre will direct the production and play the roles of THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST and THE SCARECROW Rehearsals will be held 9 AM to1:15 PM throughout the remainder of the week, with performances scheduled for Saturday, July 2, 2022 at 2 PM & 5 PM in the theater at Vermilion College in Ely. Tickets will be available at the door prior to performance(s). Tickets: \$15 for NLAA members, \$20 for non NLAA members and kids 12 and under are free!

For more information email us at: contact@northernlakesarts.org





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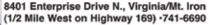




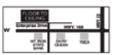


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