



# HOME IMPROVEMENT

ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION

See inside...

# the TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1<sup>00</sup>



## OUTDOOR RECREATION

# Residents say no to ATV trail

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

EAGLESNEST—Residents here had a clear message for the town board on Tuesday: A high traffic ATV corridor through their township will permanently

Eagles Nest overwhelmingly turns out to oppose proposal

impact a way of life focused on peace, tranquility, and quiet outdoor activities.

It was a message that residents repeated again and again as the board agreed to take input on

a proposal by the Prospector ATV Trail Club. It would develop a designated route through the heart of the township's residential area to provide a shorter connection between Tower and Ely as part

of a series of loop trails the club has been developing. The board will take up the question again in a special meeting set for Wednesday, June 29, at 5 p.m.

The controversial trail

network, which is part of an effort to turn northeastern Minnesota into a national destination for ATV riders, has faced growing concern in parts of the region, but nowhere has it faced the level of opposition seen in Eagles Nest

See...ATV pg. 9

## WILD WEATHER



# STORM PACKS A PUNCH

## Nearly 28,000 lose power Monday night

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Thunderstorms packing damaging winds of around 60 mph barreled through the North Country on Monday night, leaving snapped off trees, property damage and thousands of homes and businesses without electricity.

As the storms swept through northeastern Minnesota, the combined number of powerless locations served by Lake Country Power and Minnesota Power across multiple counties grew to almost 28,000. The first reported power outages

**Above, a hoop house was torn to shreds at the Watering Can Greenhouse in Cook**  
photo by D. Colburn

**Right, A Frontier Communications lineman repaired a telephone line in Tower on Tuesday.**  
photo by J. Summit

in the North Country started rolling in just after 9 p.m. and kept on coming as the front pushed eastward.

Lake Country Power reported that about 16,800

See... STORM pg. 11



## LANDMARK RE-USE

# Coming soon: Hotel planned at Community Center in Ely



## Developer has three years to complete renovation

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The historic Community Center building here is destined to become a 28-room boutique hotel following a vote by the city council this week to accept a purchase agreement and business plan by a developer and approve an ordinance authorizing the sale of the landmark.

Matt Stupnik, of Dellwood, Minn., agreed to the purchase price of \$2 for the building and has three years to complete his plan to remodel the former Community Center into a boutique hotel “to serve travelers who are looking for a year-round get-way that would complement their back country, biking, shopping and business experience.”

City attorney Kelly Klun said Stupnik worked with city officials for the past year in developing his plan. Following a public hearing Tuesday night, and second reading of the land sale ordinance, council members voted to authorize the sale. “We intend to close on the transaction within the next week,” Klun said.

No one attended the public hearing. Klun offered details of Stupnik's plan that have previously not been made public.

The main level retail area would contain a

See...ELY pg. 10

## BOIS FORTE

# Cultural Center marks 20th anniversary

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION- It was not so much a crowd as it was a simple gathering of people who came to celebrate the

20th anniversary of the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum on Saturday. A good number of the 50 lunches provided by Fortune Bay Casino Resort went home with attendees to be enjoyed later as leftovers.

**Bois Forte Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Jaylen Strong spoke during anniversary festivities last Saturday.** photo by D. Colburn

But the messages delivered to that small assembly by director and tribal historic preservation officer Jaylen

Strong and others were ones that will likely resonate

See...CENTER pg. 12



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# Community notices

## After Antarctica documentary to play one night only in Ely on July 8

Attend Ely’s Historic State Theater on Friday July 8 at 7:15 p.m. for a one-time screening of the award-winning documentary *After Antarctica* and discussion with Will Steger and the filmmakers following the film. Tickets for the screening are \$10 with proceeds from ticket sales going to the Ely State Theater and the filmmakers.

“A melted drop in Antarctica ripples throughout the rest of the world,” said Steger.

A journey across both poles, *After Antarctica* directed by Tasha Van Zandt, follows polar explorer Will Steger’s life journey as an eyewitness to the greatest changes to the polar regions of our planet. In 1989, Steger led an international team of six scientists and explorers on the first coast-to-coast dogsled traverse of Antarctica. The ultimate mission of the expedition was to draw global attention to Antarctica’s changing climate and use the expedition as a tool to renew the Antarctic Treaty, which would protect the continent from mineral exploitation. Even with his background in science and knowledge of the changing climate, Steger could never have expected what he would soon discover. This arduous expedition opened his eyes to the most pressing issue of our time and ultimately changed the course of his life forever.

Now, thirty years later, Steger heads out on the ice once again, this time to the opposite end of the Earth, recounting the life-changing journey that led him to where he is today. *After Antarctica* is a film about a legendary expedition unlike any other - not only were Steger and his team of renegade explorers the first to complete this historic feat, they were also the last.

## The Wall That Heals erected on the Iron Range

IRON RANGE – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the founders of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., brought its 3/4 traveling replica of the national monument to the Iron Range on June 20.

The Wall That Heals arrived in Eveleth on June 21 and traveled through multiple Iron Range communities, led by a local motorcycle escort, before reaching its final destination for the week: the Chisholm Football Field. The memorial is open to the public beginning June 23. From the moment it opens, The Wall will be fully staffed by volunteers 24 hours a day until it closes at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 26.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) United for Veterans committee originally applied to host the Wall in 2020, but the arrival was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The week-long tribute to local Vietnam veterans kicked off Monday June 20 with a free community concert: The Fabulous Armadillos presents “What’s Going On? Songs from the Vietnam Era.”

The following day, local motorcycle riders escorted The Wall That Heals across the Iron Range with the public invited to watch the escort and welcome The Wall to the Iron Range.

The Wall That Heals opened to the public on Thursday, June 23rd, and sunset Taps will be played at 6 p.m. each night by a different musician.

An honor ceremony is scheduled Saturday, June 25 at 10 a.m. at the Chisholm Football Field. The program will feature the Mid Range Honor Guard, Bois Forte Black Eagle Drum, local Vietnam veterans reading the Honor Roll (105 names of local soldiers whose names are on The Wall That Heals), former Special Forces Green Beret veteran of three tours with MACV-SOG (the Vietnam War’s covert operations unit) Maj. John Plaster, a 21-rifle salute, and more.

A brief closing ceremony is scheduled Sunday, June 26 at 2 p.m. at the Chisholm Football Field. After the ceremony, deconstruction of The Wall will begin.

Local volunteers are still needed at this time, especially for deconstruction. To sign up to volunteer, learn more about the week’s events, and plan your visit to The Wall, visit [www.unitedwaynemn.org](http://www.unitedwaynemn.org).

## 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](http://www.vhhp.org), by contacting the program director at 218-780-5423 or [vhhpdirector@gmail.com](mailto:vhhpdirector@gmail.com). Come and support a great cause.

LIVE THEATER

# Quiltmaker’s King tries on his crown

Ian Lah who plays the king in the upcoming performance of the “Quiltmaker’s Gift” grew up in Ely and is a graduate of Ely Memorial High School. He has received numerous accolades and awards for his work on the stage. In Memphis, he was an associate company member at Playhouse on the Square. He then spent time as a company member at Thingamajig Theatre Company, Crane River Theatre Company, the Barn Theatre School for

Advanced Theater Training, the Springer Opera House, and the Legacy Theatre. During this time he received two nominations for Broadway World Best Leading Actor and Best Supporting Actor. The crown was created by Gail DeMarcken, illustrator of “The Quiltmaker’s Gift”. Tickets for the performances, July 15-17, are available now at [movies.elystatetheater.org](http://movies.elystatetheater.org).



Ian Lah, who plays the King in the production of “The Quiltmaker’s Gift”, tries on his crown for the first time this week during rehearsal.

# Vermilion Traditional Powwow set for June 24-26

VERMILION RESERVATION- The Lake Vermilion Traditional Powwow will be held Friday through Sunday, June 24-26 at the Lake Vermilion Powwow Grounds on the Vermilion Reservation. Co-host drums are the Lake Vermilion

Singers and the Burnside Lake Singers. Terry Goodsky is the Master of Ceremonies, and spiritual advisor is Darrel Kingbird.

Warmups are on Friday evening, grand entries are Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sun-

day at 1 p.m. There will be a Two-Step Contest on Saturday evening, with the top prize of \$1,000 plus a big belt and trophy.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved indoors. Masks may be required if indoors. The public

is invited to attend. The powwow grounds are located adjacent to the community center building. There will be food and concessions available for purchase.

## Camp Broadway presents “Snow White” on Friday, June 24

BABBITT- Camp Broadway, part of the Iron Range Summer Institute, is presenting “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” on Friday, June 24 at 7 p.m. at the Northeast Range High School Auditorium in Babbitt. The cast includes students from Ely, Northeast Range, Mesabi East, Mt. Iron/Buhl, and Hibbing. The play is directed by Crystal Poppler and Michael Rouse. The public is cordially invited to attend.



# Don’t let a heat wave spike your electric bill

REGIONAL- As a heat wave makes its way across Minnesota this week, Lake Country Power is offering its members advice on how to stay cool at home without running up their electric bill.

“These times when people in our community are using more electricity all at once — in this instance to stay cool — are called ‘peak hours,’” said Tracy Peterson Wirtanen, LCP chief financial officer. “The cost to provide power ends up being higher due to increased demand. By conserving energy use during this period of high temperatures, you’ll not only be sav-

ing yourself money, but you’ll be helping maintain the reliability of our regional electric grid by reducing stress on it.”

Here are a few easy ways to conserve energy for the benefit of yourself and your neighbors:

- Adjust your thermostat by raising it to 78 degrees during the day.
- Use ceiling fans to create a wind-chill effect that will make the air feel cooler to the skin.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes or shades.
- Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible.
- Turn off lights,

computers and other electronics when not in use.

- Run large appliances at night (e.g., dishwashers, laundry machines).
- Use a microwave oven instead of a regular oven.
- Remember to keep your body cool, too, by drinking plenty of water.

If you are unable to afford your cooling costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, reach out to Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959 and ask about energy assistance programs that may be available.

Another option to save on energy costs is by enrolling in Lake Country

Power’s Energy Wise® programs like cycled air conditioning and water heating. These loads are controlled for a period of hours on high-demand days in exchange for a lower energy rate.

“We depend on the flexibility of our Energy Wise® programs, and the membership, to avoid paying higher market costs during times when demand for electricity is high,” said Barbara Schmit, LCP manager of member services. “These programs also help avoid transmission and substation equipment from reaching thermal limits during extreme heat.”

[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)

39<sup>th</sup>

Vermilion Walk & Run

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](mailto: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

Ely Track Club’s 4 on the 4th

Monday, July 4, 2022

Miner’s Lake Trezona Trailhead

4 Mile Run or Walk

8:00 am Run

8:10 am Walk

Online registration is available at [active.com](http://active.com)

Early registration forms available at the Ely Public Library

Day-of-race registration is available. Payment via cash or check only.

Race day registration 6:40-7:40

Questions can be emailed to: [jkdunn355@gmail.com](mailto:jkdunn355@gmail.com)

Parking and registration will occur in the parking lot at the corner of Central Ave. and Miner’s Dr.

★ Cost is \$25 through 6/27

★ \$35 after 6/27

Free Kids 12 and under 1 mile race starts around 8:15 am

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## COVID-19 shots offered Fridays in Ely

ELY- The Ely Community Pharmacy will continue to offer COVID shots every Friday during their regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. These shots can be first or second doses or a booster. For more information, call the pharmacy at 218-365-8788.

## Free children’s vitamins offered in Ely

ELY- The Ely Community Pharmacy has started a new program to offer free vitamins for children. Your child will receive a punch card that can be used each month to refill their bottle of chewable children’s vitamins. For more information, stop in the Ely Community Pharmacy or call them at 218-365-8788.



BORDER FLOODING

# High water makes Kettle Falls Hotel an island

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- It appears that the historic flooding in the Rainy River Basin has made a temporary island of the historic Kettle Falls Hotel. According to the Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy Lake-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board, water has been circumventing the controlling dams in the area and flowing north of the hotel into American Channel from the nearby bay on Namakan Lake.

The situation was reported in a June 16 update from the watershed board:

“On June 14, it was discovered that water is overflowing from Namakan Lake into Rainy Lake through an area north of the Kettle Falls hotel and Namakan dams,” the update said. “There does not appear to have been much erosion and bedrock is visible so there currently aren’t concerns of the overflow channel eroding further. Both Kettle and Squirrel Falls dams were visually inspected and there are no concerns with either dam structure.”

The *Timberjay* spoke Tuesday with Scott Jutila, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers advisor to the board, for more information about a phenomenon that he said was nothing new, but more

High water taking multiple routes from Namakan to Rainy; USGS assessing impacts



The historic Kettle Falls Hotel was surrounded by water during recent high water. Levels have receded slightly since this photograph was taken. Flight courtesy Adventure Seaplanes.  
photo by M. Helmberger

pronounced given the record-high water levels of late.

“We’ve had some emails from people who lived up in the area for quite awhile who were saying this isn’t really a new occurrence,” he said. “It’s happened in the past at fairly high water levels.”

Jutila speculated that at some point a beaver dam may have blocked flow through that area and over time it has filled in with sediment. Jutila used historic aerial imagery of the area available through Google Earth

Pro to investigate his hypothesis.

“As you look at them you can see that it looks like things kind of trickled through,” he said. “I think it was either a 2015 or 2013 image where you could see evidence is kind of there that there’s a definitive channel occurring and then an area that looks like it’s ponded water behind it. With the high waters, things kind of washed out.”

Jutila confirmed that the channel won’t be growing in the foreseeable future.

“It’s Canadian Shield, a type

of bedrock up there,” he said. “(The high water) washed away the thin layer of soil in there and water is flowing across, but it can’t reach any further down because of the bedrock, so that creates a natural control.”

Shallow and limited in width, Jutila said that the flow was “very small” relative to the total flow pouring through the dams at Kettle Falls and Squirrel Falls on the Canadian side.

“It’s on the order of maybe less than a half a percent,” he said. “It’s not causing a substantial change in lake levels on either side.”

Staff members from the U.S. Geological Survey have been making flow measurements and will continue to do so for the next few weeks as the waters recede, Jutila said. They’ll also be doing some additional survey to determine the elevation at which the overflow occurs.

**Future assessment**

It’s too soon to predict when a formal assessment of the flood of 2022 will be done, Jutila said, but with August and October board meetings already scheduled, the flood will be a primary topic of discussion. But one doesn’t need to wait to see what’s been

happening.

“Widespread flooding has a widespread impact on people and resources in the basin,” Jutila said. “Roads are flooded. Businesses aren’t able to function, and those that are, are doing so at extreme costs. I understand the impacts.”

On the flip side, Jutila and his colleagues are working to provide the public with more information to hopefully better understand the extreme circumstances that came together to create this historic flooding.

“We have to lay out all those facts of what happened to the public. They deserve an accounting of what happened. It was just an overwhelming amount of water. If we started off a foot lower in that additional storage at the bottom, that was just a small fraction of the overall amount of water that came into the lakes. It isn’t easy to understand, so we’ve got some diagrams and things like that we’re working on and hopefully we’ll be able to better explain that to people. But it is an extreme event and it has extreme impacts on people’s lives right now.”

Jutila also said that now is

See **FLOODING...**pg. 5

U.S. SUPREME COURT

# Expected abortion decision won’t impact womens’ rights in Minnesota, at least for now

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— For weeks, the unauthorized release of a draft U.S. Supreme Court decision that would appear to overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* opinion, has roiled the abortion debate nationally and led to intense speculation over the eventual decision.

That speculation is almost certain to end within days, as the Supreme Court is expected to release the controversial decision by the end of June, before their summer recess. While the deci-

sion could have major repercussions for the reproductive rights of women in states across the country, it’s unlikely to have any immediate effect in Minnesota.

That’s due to at least two factors. First, Minnesota has not enacted any so-called “trigger laws,” which lawmakers in more than a dozen U.S. states have passed to immediately enact abortion bans in the wake of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. North and South Dakota are among those states that have enacted such trigger laws, so women there

are likely to lose their right to abortion, depending on the final decision issued by the court.

Any such law in Minnesota would face an immediate constitutional challenge, given the Minnesota Supreme Court’s own 1995 decision in *Jane Doe v. Gomez*, in which the high court voted 6-1 to affirm the right of women in the state to seek abortion services. The case went further than *Roe v. Wade*, and found that poor women on medical assistance can’t be denied an abortion due to inabil-


ity to pay— requiring the state to pay for medically-necessary abortions for qualified low-income women. “In reaching our decision, we have interpreted the Minnesota Constitution to afford broader protection than the United States Constitution of a woman’s fundamental right to reach a private decision on whether to obtain an abortion,” wrote the Minnesota justices.

At issue was a state law that prohibited the public funding of abortion for low-income women, a law that the plaintiffs in the

case alleged was discriminatory in that it effectively denied poor women a right guaranteed to other women in the state. The court did not rule on that equal protection argument. Rather, it found that the law at issue infringed on the right to privacy guaranteed to Minnesota women under the state’s Constitution. “Our decision is only based upon this court’s determination that a pregnant woman, who is eligible for medical assistance and is

See **RIGHTS...**pg. 5

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# OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...  
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OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Gun rights and wrongs

The founding fathers never supported armed radicals overthrowing the state

*“A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”*

**The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**

Let us, for a moment, consider the myth that has become a nearly sacred creed among those who oppose any type of restrictions on guns in this country: that the founding fathers enacted the Second Amendment to provide “the people” with a check on a potentially tyrannical government.

This argument has been used for years by groups like the National Rifle Association to justify inaction on public safety measures despite the extraordinary bloodletting that has become the hallmark of America in recent decades. In 2019, for the first time, guns became the leading cause of death for young people in America, surpassing motor vehicle accidents, and there is no sign that’s going to change any time soon.

We are told by opponents of gun safety legislation that while such deaths are tragic, they nonetheless represent the high price of liberty.

Yet, the Second Amendment was never enacted to protect the people from the government. As the language makes plain, it was to enable the people to protect the government, most likely from foreign threats, which were very real at the time of the Constitution’s enactment.

That’s not to suggest that Americans should have no right to bear arms, but that was long seen as a provisional right given through the political process, not through the Constitution, and that it is subject to significant regulation.

But let’s set that question aside for now and consider the larger issue behind the myth that widespread gun ownership in this country is critical to ensuring liberty. The idea suggests that at some theoretical point, certain Americans will decide the government is tyrannical and will turn their guns against it, thereby ensuring the continuation of liberty for all of us.

So, realistically, who will be in this vanguard of supposed patriots defending our liberty? Most likely, the same groups that attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The Proud Boys. The Oathkeepers, and others. White supremacists. Neo-Nazis. The Ku Klux Klan. Virtually by definition, the groups leading the charge would be those who are most radicalized, since they will be the first to detect signs of

“tyranny,” even if it is only in their imaginations. Keep in mind, a free and fair 2020 election was “tyranny” in the minds of many on the far right when the result wasn’t to their liking.

So, how exactly would a new and truly free America be birthed under such a scenario? Do we all expect the Proud Boys and Girls to lay down their weapons once they’ve seized control of the government? Do we expect them to call for representatives from all across the country to journey to Washington for a national Kumbaya sit-down to thoughtfully craft a new Constitution? Here’s some news. That’s not how it would play out. Any government formed in the wake of such a revolution would bear little relationship to a democracy and it’s one that would oppress far more Americans than it would ever free.

And that’s the optimistic scenario. Keep in mind, there are 50 states and many if not most are unlikely to pledge fealty to a bunch of armed radicals. The more likely outcome of any such “revolution” would be a civil war that would lead to the deaths of millions of Americans. Indeed, that’s something that many of the so-called patriots on the far right say they are itching for. And it’s not to spark a rebirth of liberty. It’s to kill people of color, Jews, and others they believe are trying to “replace” them.

It turns out, our founding fathers actually had a plan for preventing tyranny. It was called “The Rule of Law,” and it was predicated on putting America first, rather than our own wills or egos. They laid out a separation of government powers to ensure that no one person could become a tyrant and while it hasn’t always been perfect, it’s worked pretty well for more than 230 years.

It even worked when a wannabe tyrant named Donald J. Trump tried to throw out the Constitution and hold onto power despite the expressed will of a free people.

Our nation’s founders weren’t perfect, but they were thoughtful and well-read, and they did not, under any circumstances, believe that Americans would be well-served by allowing gangs of armed, pretend patriots to run amok in grandiose schemes of overthrowing the government. Indeed, this whole notion, upon which gun advocates have staked so much of their claim to unchecked access to any weapon of choice, is patently absurd. It bears no relationship to history or reality. Our founding fathers were a whole lot smarter than that.

The Sticker to Stick it to

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CULTURE BATTLE'S, SOCIAL ANGER  
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## Letters from Readers

### 2000 Mules? Don’t waste your 12 bucks

It turns out that the “Big Lie” is very significantly BIGGER than you thought. Just as you can not make a defensive person self-critical, you cannot make a serial grifter stop lying. And you apparently cannot get a true believer in the Big Lie to think any other way.

But much of what you might learn with the movie “2000 Mules” has been totally debunked — both by the bipartisan Jan. 6 committee and even Trump’s own attorney general, William Barr, in his sworn deposition, as well as judges appointed by Trump who reviewed all the evidence and ruled against the false claims presented in “2000 Mules” in 60 out of 61 cases.

I believe if there was a shred of evidence to the contrary, Trump could have prevailed at least a few times, and he did not. Trump’s “Big Lie” is bigger and more dangerous than anyone ever imagined. Even Trump’s own campaign documents show that his advisors all knew the fake elector plan was baseless.

Filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza, a convicted felon for campaign finance fraud who was pardoned by Trump, had his dip in the ocean of fantasy after amassing a pile of cellular data that proved nothing and uses a flawed analysis of the data. It only showed there is always a lot of traffic near voting boxes, placed where you might expect a lot of human traffic. A cell ping occurs for every electronic device you carry: a cell phone, a smart watch, an iPad, and even automobiles and delivery vehicles. How much traffic do you suppose would be near a voter drop box? Voting officials don’t place those where no one will show up. D’Souza has NO evidence of voter stuffing. He proves NOTHING. He basically says “Trust us on this.” That should be a red flag in itself.

My advice would be to save yourself \$12. You will learn much more from listening to

the Jan. 6 committee hearings. You may hear from right-wing entertainment “news” sites that this is all Democrats. So far nearly all witnesses and videotaped testimony have been Republicans, Trump loyalists or ex-loyalists who all — when under oath — say the Big Lie is BS and that Trump has lost any sense of reality. And for historical perspective, you might want to watch the two-part series by CNN, “Watergate: Blueprint for a Scandal.” There is a striking resemblance between the Nixon cult of loyalty and that of Trump.

It’s a shame that a local treasure like the State Theater was dragged into such a partisan propagandizing event. How close to yelling fire in a crowded theater can you get without getting arrested? The Big Lie? Save your money and view an in-depth review by the Washington Post instead. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/05/11/2000-mules-offers-least-convincing-election-fraud-theory-yet/>.

**Richard Watson**  
Ely

### Trump and treason go together

Remember the song, “Love And Marriage”? Campbell Soup Company used it as “Soup And Sandwich”.....I used it another way to fit our former Bone Spur.

Trump and treason,  
Trump and treason,  
Go together like the voice of reason.

Let me tell you Trumpsters,  
Every chump is like the others.....!

Fits, aye !???  
**Barry Tungseth**  
Ely

### U.S. on the wrong side in Ukraine

President Biden has sent \$40 billion in aid, largely weapons, to the Ukraine. We can always trust our dear Republican or Democrat presidents to keep America in war and to make sure

the large weapons (and other) corporations get much of our tax dollar. The thing is, the U.S. government does not represent us. It represents the rich corporations. Did they ask us if they could send \$40 billion to a government that has fascist tendencies? Russia is only an enemy because the U.S. wants it to be. America wanted this war (as always) and they don’t care that they are throwing Ukraine under the bus, or caring how many people die. Russia had no choice because of Ukraine’s treatment of the Russian community in the eastern part of the Ukraine and also because the U.S. and NATO pushed the Ukraine into breaking its promise with Russia (during Gorbachev) into joining NATO.

And we keep falling for the lies of the corrupt presidents and members of Congress. Don’t forget Bush’s lies about Saddam’s weapons of mass destruction. Don’t forget the Gulf of Tonkin incident that the Democrat Johnson used to bait us into supporting the war in Vietnam. The U.S. is always on the wrong side. It supports governments that are pliable to U.S. interests but when a government (Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, Iran for example) wants to go their own way and not kowtow to the U.S. then they become the enemy, which they aren’t.

The most malevolent government in the world happens to be our very own and we are gullible enough to call it the best in the world... a wonderful democracy. It isn’t. It is the true enemy of anything good. We need to wake up. The U.S. doesn’t care about democracy, doesn’t care about its own people, doesn’t care about global warming.

**Steve Johnson**  
Ely

### We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. Please email letters to editor@timberjay.com.

## A journey from Indian-clueless to Native-blessed

The Indians of my youth, as a child growing up in the 1960s, were mostly caricatures drawn from a time long ago, a time time defined not by their history but by America’s. They magically came into existence at Jamestown and Plymouth Rock, and virtually disappeared once the wild, wild West was “won,” as best I could tell



**DAVID COLBURN**

from watching “The Lone Ranger” and making construction paper headaddresses in school nearly every Thanksgiving. To be admired when subordinate or reviled when antagonistic, whatever the case, Indians were history to that kid back then. Period.

As the decade changed, that view became altered, albeit just a tiny bit. As my father was a religious consumer of nightly

news broadcasts, Native occupations of Mount Rushmore and Wounded Knee were things I became aware of, although as a young teenager, I failed to embrace their significance. However, Indians ceased being mere relics of the past, as here they were in the present.

They became a bit more so when I went off to college at the University of Kansas in 1976. Sharing Lawrence, KS with the Jayhawks, was a small school on the south side of town for Native Americans, Haskell Institute. I crossed paths with Haskell stu-

dents on those weekend nights when my friends and I would head out to the bars. They’d have their corner, we’d have ours, but there they were. Who were they, where’d they come from, what was life like at Haskell, I recall wondering once or twice. I never bothered to ask.

Fast forward to a new decade, to the summer of 1983. Driving an ancient Bluebird bus packed with about two dozen Presbyterian teenagers (a bus we frequently had to push start), I traveled to the little Navajo community of Oljato in Monument Valley for what was

to be a one-week work trip. My life hasn’t been the same since.

Simple things fascinated me, like learning that Navajo, a name I’d seen mostly on semi-trucks, was not their true tribal name. They are in their own language the Diné, “the people.” With no English equivalent, Oljato could best be translated as the essence of moonlight reflecting off the water, an elder told me. We were treated to traditional foods, whisked out to see ancestral ruins 700-800 years old, and told stories. And,

See **BLESSED...**pg. 5



# Letters from Readers

## Ely’s Historic State Theater is committed to non-discrimination

I write as the chair of the board of directors of Ely’s Historic State Theater. The movie “2000 Mules” is being screened this weekend at EHST by a local organization that is renting the theater for their use. Because many people within the community have expressed concern and are even upset about this, I would like to clarify the theater’s rental policy, and the particulars of this event.

First of all, the mission of Ely’s Historic State Theater is “to be a cultural hub of film, arts, entertainment, and learning that cultivate a vibrant, healthy community.” Additionally, the theater’s policy is to not discriminate against any individuals, groups or organizations that wish to rent the space. We could not in good faith deny this group’s request to host their event at the theater without violating this nondiscrimination policy. As long as entities are able to meet the theater’s own scheduling requirements, and their events are also not discriminatory, the theater makes its space available. EHST has adopted this policy to ensure equal representation by all individuals, groups, and organizations in the Ely community and surrounding areas.

The group that is renting the theater Saturday morning, outside of EHST’s regular hours of operation so as not to interfere with “clean screen” agreements the theater must maintain with movie distributors, is paying the theater’s standard hourly rental

fee. The event organizers have also, of their own accord, secured the public performance license for the film and are responsible for paying those fees. The theater is not receiving any proceeds from the ticket sales beyond the rental fee. The primary goal of the organization renting the space is to break even, not fundraise for any candidate.

The event is non-partisan, as it is legally required to be in order for the candidate for sheriff (a non-partisan office) to be in attendance. According to the organizer, this event is primarily to be a meet-and-greet with the candidates and a chance for people to watch the film. As of this writing, it is uncertain whether a discussion of the movie will take place after the screening (the group organizing the event is firming up their plans as they get closer to the date). The organizer has expressed repeatedly to EHST staff that the event is intended to be open to everyone of all political affiliations and that they have no interest in drumming up controversy.

The EHST board of directors appreciates that some people will disagree with or might be offended by the content of the movie, but the fact that it has played at most major movie chains across the nation (including the Marcus in Duluth) makes it difficult for us to refuse to rent the space for the screening of this film. That would clearly be an act of discrimination or censorship without cause.

It is the position of EHST, as a public resource, to support diversity, equity, and inclusion, which means remaining available to groups, organizations, and individuals who may or may not share

the same beliefs as the theater board, management or staff.

EHST is grateful for the high level of interest shown this week in the theater and its rental policies. Any additional input can be addressed to me or to any board member.

Thank you.  
**David Wigdahl for the EHST Board of Directors**

## Let’s turn to science, not Stauber’s false statements on risks of sulfide mining

Pete Stauber has demonstrated yet again that he is wrong for the Eighth Congressional District, just as sulfide-ore copper mining is wrong for the headwaters of the Boundary Waters.

On May 24, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on HR 2794, a bill that would permanently protect 234,328 acres of Superior National Forest lands in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs National Park from sulfide-ore copper mining. Stauber was in attack mode, wrongly accusing three witnesses, including a prominent business owner in his district, of disinformation, misleading statements, and half-truths. In fact, as more than one newspaper editorial noted, the misinformation came from Rep. Stauber and his allies, including the company proposing to mine sulfide-ore just upstream of the Boundary Waters.

Julie Padilla, a representative of Antofagasta and an officer of Twin Metals, testified on May

24th to oppose protecting the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs. In 2019, in response to a Star Tribune writer who asked if Twin Metals could say there was zero risk to the Boundary Waters, Padilla answered “That’s not a fair question.” This past March, Padilla testified at a U.S. Senate Committee hearing and said “everything has a risk.” On May 24, she flipflopped, insisting “there is no risk.”

In fact, the risk is enormous. Twin Metals cynically claims that its proposed storage technique for toxic tailings dry stacking is perfect and will never leach. At the May 24 hearing, Padilla omitted that in 2018 the dry stacking technique was rejected by the Minnesota DNR for a Polymet mine. The DNR found that in a wet climate such as northern Minnesota, dry stacking has major environmental disadvantages, including the potential to leach heavy metals and other pollutants into surface and ground water. Padilla failed to admit that the two mines in the United States that Twin Metals holds out as perfect examples of dry stacking are failures. An April 2022 report documented that these two mines, together with three others in Alaska, experienced more than 8,000 spills among them. She also failed to inform the subcommittee that the site Twin Metals proposed for storage – on state land – was rejected by the DNR in February 2022 because storage of these toxic tailings on state land “would pose an unacceptable financial risk to the state.”

Padilla testified that a Twin Metals mine won’t leach acid mine drainage. But Padilla failed to tell the subcommittee that the

DNR determined that the claim by Twin Metals that its tailings pile would not generate acid mine drainage was unsubstantiated.

Instead of accepting the self-interested statements of a foreign mining company that wants to mine on public land, let’s make decisions based on facts and science. Let’s recognize what is at stake: Minnesota’s greatest natural area, with the cleanest water in America, and a major reason that people live, work, and play in Stauber’s district.

Fortunately, a fact-and-science-based process is now underway on behalf of the American people. The U.S. Forest Service, which has steadfastly rejected sulfide-ore copper mining on federal lands in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters since 2016, is preparing an environmental analysis that will document the risks of sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters of the Wilderness. The Forest Service commenced this work in late 2016. After 20 months of work, two public comment periods, and more than 180,000 comments by citizens, the Trump administration stopped the analysis and hid the work from Congress, the press, and all of us.

The Forest Service is now diligently completing the analysis. More than 270,000 citizens provided new comments. Stauber’s constituents want decisions based on facts and science – and values. Stauber’s derogatory comments and false allegations won’t overcome facts and science. The Forest Service analysis will provide a solid framework for judging HR 2794. Let’s use it.

**Rebecca Rom Ely**

## BLESSED...Continued from page 4

too, we learned about the contemporary challenges facing the Diné, and there were many. In befriending Harold, a Lakota who married into the tribe years earlier, I gained my first glimpse into the differences of tribal cultures and intertribal discrimination. Native Americans, I realized, was a term with limited utility. For insight and understanding, I needed to try to understand people, their tribes, and their cultures. It was one of the most enriching and enlightening weeks of my life.

Two years later I had my first job out of college working in Shawnee, Okla., a town of about 20,000 near Oklahoma City, with the Absentee Shawnee, Kickapoo, and Citizen Band Potawatomie all having a major presence there, with several other tribes also represented. It was a complex social landscape, one I was eager to learn and work with respectfully, bolstered in part from the insight I’d been given by Harold. As with my work trip, I benefited much more from the

experiences there than did those I interacted with.

Suffice it to say that over the ensuing decades, as my relationships and knowledge relative to Native cultures have grown, my life has continued to be enriched beyond anything that young kid in Kansas could ever have imagined.

Ever since climbing that rocky slope to stand in the ancestral ruins of the family of my Diné hosts, I’ve not been able to aptly put into words the connection I’ve felt to indigenous cultures, but perhaps there was a partial answer in the Ancestry DNA test I took four years ago. As an adoptee, there were numerous surprises for me, including one I didn’t see coming at all: I’m nine percent Native American. My immediate reaction was, “Yes! That explains it!” But does it really? Is there something about my physical being that resonates at its core with indigenous cultures because of a bit of shared genetic coding? It is a mystery beyond my comprehension, but as with many of life’s mysteries

not one I choose to discount. “Perhaps” is the best answer I can manage, and it will have to do. These musings on my past are prompted in general by the fact that, in accord with sacred importance of the circle, my work career has brought me full circle in my Native experiences, as the Ojibwe and Potawatomi, Anishinaabeg and Bodéwadmik, share common ancestry as two of the groups represented in the Council of the Three Fires centuries ago.

More immediately, they’re sparked by an event from last weekend.

Last Saturday, I got a little glimpse into the future by attending the 20th anniversary celebration for the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum. Accustomed to seeing such historic endeavors in other small towns where I’ve lived entrusted to gray-haired retirees, I was delighted to see instead a couple of relative “youngsters” in the lead, and I’m pleased to say that this old dog was rather impressed. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Jaylen

Strong honored the past by laying out a vision for the center’s future that I certainly found compelling, and I hope others there did, too. Visitor Services Manager Kyle Littlewolf’s comments showed he shares Strong’s heart for making the center not simply a place to go, but a living, vibrant entity bringing the past, present, and future together in the life of the Bois Forte people and the surrounding community. It will be decades before either can be considered an elder, but that doesn’t particularly matter when communal responsibility for ancestral heritage is part of the culture. Honoring and drawing upon all the resources available to them, remaining learners while becoming teachers as well, the potential is there with the proper support over time for them to realize that vision. I, for one, am excited about the possibilities that may unfold.

As for me? I’m blessed to believe that learning and becoming are things that continue all our lives, even when sometimes it appears otherwise. In moving here,

I feel I’ve been given a special opportunity to learn more about Ojibwe culture as expressed through the lives of the Bois Forte people, and it’s something I do not wish to take for granted. I’m humbled by the gracious sharing of so many so far, and indeed look forward to more. I

have far too many interests and far too little time left on the planet to ever learn enough, but as it is often said, it’s not the destination but the journey that counts. I’m glad this is part of my path.

## RIGHTS...Continued from page 3

considering an abortion for therapeutic reasons, cannot be coerced into choosing childbirth over abortion by a legislated funding policy,” concluded the justices.

In reaching their conclusion, the state’s high court expressly rejected the 1980 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Harris v. McRae, which determined that federal legislation that prohibited the use of federal funds for abortion services did not violate the U.S. Constitution.

Yet the state court’s decision was largely in line

with other U.S. Supreme Court decisions, such as Griswold v. Connecticut, which had determined by the 1960s that women had a fundamental right to make private reproductive decisions without government interference.

Courts have consistently held that the government, whether at the local, state or federal level, must demonstrate a compelling state interest before it can place restrictions on a person’s fundamental constitutional rights.

### Future changes?

While the state’s high court decisions would

appear to prohibit any prohibition on abortion in Minnesota even in the event the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, courts can and do alter their positions over time. The current high court is arguably more conservative than the 1995 court, with three of the seven justices, including Chief Justice Lorie Skjervén Gildea, having been appointed by former Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty. One justice, Natalie Hudson, was a Ventura appointee, two others were appointed by former Gov. Mark Dayton,

getting to their properties. Maybe we need better information for people about the elevations of their properties so that they can protect those better. But you really want to find out what

while the newest member of the court, Gordon Moore, was appointed by Gov. Tim Walz.

Were the Legislature to enact more abortion restrictions, or even an outright ban, the state’s high court would likely hear a challenge to the law and that decision could reach a different conclusion than the 1995 court.


AGOP-led Legislature could also potentially place a constitutional question on the state ballot, which could place the right to abortion up to a vote of the people.

causes the flooding so that if you know what caused it you can come up with the right solutions.”

## FLOODING...Continued from page 3

the time to start taking steps to be more resilient in the event another high water event would occur. What that specifically means, however, will take some work to figure out.

“I don’t know the answers to how to become more resilient,” he said. “Maybe, for example, road infrastructure needs to be raised because a lot of people were cut off from



*the*  
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Week of June 27

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is July 19.

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.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://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:  
Pam and Doug Carter  
Robin Majerle  
Paul & Judy Pishler

**History Talks kicks off on Monday, June 27 at Breitung Community Center in Soudan**  
SOUDAN- If you want to learn more about the rich history of our area, the places and the people who live here, the Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) is offering many opportunities to do so.

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.

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER  
**Annual Midsummer fundraiser another success**



The historical St. Mary’s Hall, inside the Vermilion Cultural Center, hosted the Midsummer concert last Saturday.



TOWER- A full house, good food, and wonderful entertainment marked this year’s Midsummer fundraiser for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. This year’s theme was “A Musical Evening in Norway,” and highlighted the area’s connection to Norway, along with Norwegian music and humor.

The LVCC has raised over \$750,000 to date which has completed the exterior of the new building and the grounds, but as much as \$500,000 is needed to complete the interior. The evening included both a live and silent auction, both of which were very successful.

“You came to help something near and dear to the heart of the Iron Range,” said St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald. “This is a legacy for the entire Range as well as our state.”

Tower Mayor Dave Setterberg said he was seeing more engagement in the city, and more volunteering.

“This just spurs things on,” he said. “The more we do, the more it builds.”

Left: Musician Steve Solkela played the accordion and acted as the live auctioneer to the delight of the audience. Below left: Program director Jan Kimes with LVCC President Mary Batinich. Below center: Bud Larsen played his Hardanger fiddle. Below right: Orlyn and Marit Kringstad said grace in Norwegian. photos by J. Summit



COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet on July 7**  
TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters Guild will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 7. The meeting will be held in the lower level of St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower. After the meeting, Kathy Lovgren will present a program called “first quilt, last quilt” which asks quilters to bring in

their earliest completed project and their most recently finished one. If you have a recently completed project in a red, white and blue patriotic theme, please bring it for show and tell. Visitors are welcome.

**BBQ fundraiser for Tower Ambulance Service**  
TOWER- A group of community members is hosting the Great All American BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, July 2 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. Suggested donation is \$8 with kids five and under

free. Take-outs will be available. Seating will be indoors or outdoors in the park by the train.

All proceeds will be donated to the Tower Area Ambulance Service. Please come and support the ambulance staff who serve our community.

The fireworks display will begin at dusk on Saturday, July 2.


**Come sing the National Anthem prior to the Tower parade**  
TOWER- People attending the Fourth of July parade in Tower are invited to come sing the

National Anthem and other patriotic songs prior to the start of the parade. Singers should meet at Tower City Hall (by the flagpole) at 10:30 a.m. for a quick warmup. All ages are welcome. Bring your family and friends.

**Old Settlers planning underway; time to renew your membership**  
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 payable to Vermilion Range Old Settlers, and mail to P.O. Box 724, Tower, MN 55790. Memberships are also available the day of the picnic, but pre-payment is preferred to make the registration line move faster at the picnic!

Membership in Old Settlers is open 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.



## History Talks on Main Street

*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 Sundahl


**FREE • Light refreshments served**



## Fridays

### 4-6 PM

at the  
Train Depot  
in Tower



## NOTICE

### STUNTZ BAY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

**Friday, July 8 • 6 PM**  
Breitung Community Center

The dock replacement issue will be discussed. All members are encouraged to attend.

Any questions, call Dan Wuirre at 218-969-6374

## IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN!

### 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



WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

The little known history of Italians in Ely

by DAVID KESS  
Ely-Winton Historical Society

The history of Ely has often been interwoven with references to its Slovenian and Finnish culture. Mention has been made of Norwegian, Swedish, and Cornish immigrants. But very little or nothing has noted the Italians who came to Ely. Compared to those groups, the Italians were indeed a much smaller group.

While ethnic groups often settled near one another, these Italians were perhaps less visible because they spread out more around the city. Eveleth, Hibbing, Chisholm, and even Virginia had much larger Italian populations than did Ely.

From the information available at the historical society the Ely Italians came from the Milano, Piemonte and Veneto provinces. The underground mine in Soudan first attracted them but when it closed for a time in 1903 these miners and their families moved to Ely.

With the help of Gloria DeBernadi Vertin, we have identified more than 30 families. These include the DeBernardi, Paris, Chiabotti, Tibone, Galli, Berrini, Mondati, Cadari, Garni, Rolando, Gianotti, Dargontina, Feroni, Folio, Colombo, La Franchi, Masnari, Tome, Peyla, Leoni, Terzini, Prola, Martinetti, Artisensi, Bottiani, Sartori, Antonelli, Buraglio, and Mariani families.

The Tobacci family was one of the first. “Grandma” Tobacci was one of the early town characters. Other Italians, such as the attorney Peter Moscatelli, came being of the second generation. The Mondavi family, of wine making fame, lived briefly in Ely before going to California.

I knew the Paris and Chiabotti families well. Both families had huge extremely well-tended gardens that went from near the city sidewalk to the alley. Old wooden shingles shaded the tomato



Above: Grandma Tobacci was one of Ely’s early residents.

Right: Fishermen outside of Rolando’s Dock show off their catch.

photos courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

plants, old boards were laid between the rows, and there was seldom a weed or a rock to be found anywhere. Both women often sat on their back stoops wearing a cotton house dress and slippers. The men, under the direction of their wives, tended the gardens.

Nothing less than a perfect garden would do, so the wives would be constantly giving directions. The husbands would only put up with the criticism for so long before they would throw down the hoe, rake, or shovel, and head off “downtown” while the women just kept on muttering. Mr. Paris worked in the mine and Mr. Chiabotti was the gardener at the school. Those large flower gardens.

Two different Italian lodges or clubs were organized. The first was the S. M. Victor Emmanuel III lodge in 1926. That was followed by the Amerigo Vespucci Society. Both met at the Community Center. A women’s auxiliary was formed in 1935. Meetings were conducted in Italian.



When they disbanded is not known. It is safe to say, however, that the Italians were an integral part of Ely.

Italian weddings were elaborate affairs sometimes lasting for several days. Wedding dresses and head-dresses were very elaborate. A collection of wedding

pictures is featured in the current display at Vermilion Community College.

If you have other names we might have missed or if you have other information to share, please contact the historical society at 218-365-3226 or David Kess at 218-365-3928.

Please consider a visit to our museum at Vermilion Community College or a \$10 membership to help support the effort to keep the history of Ely alive. The office and museum are open from Tuesday to Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

AROUND TOWN

**House fire on Van Vac Road**  
Three Ely-area fire departments battled a house fire Sunday morning in Morse Township. The fire was reported around 10:30 a.m. in the 3100 block of Van Vac Road. The home was extensively damaged. No injuries were reported. Departments on the scene included: Morse-Fall Lake, Ely, and Babbitt. The cause is under investigation.

photo courtesy of Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department.



ATV safety course offered July 9

ELY - The Prospectors ATV club will be conducting ATV training class on Saturday July 9 at the Long Branch in Winton. Each student must complete the on-line segment and bring their certificate with them to class. Each student must be accompanied by a parent or qualified guardian like a grandparent that will be required to sign a release form. Also, each student needs to bring their own helmet. Long pants are required, no shorts. No

sandals or flip flops, tennis shoes or outdoor boots are required. The class will start at 10 a.m. Pizza and water will be provided for lunch at noon. Field testing will be from 1 to 3:30 p.m. This course has been registered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. More information is available on the following link for the on-line course: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/atv/index.html> For more information, contact instructor Mike Banovetz at 218-235-9969.

New Ely support group meets Mondays

ELY - A new support group for family and friends of people with addictions, called “Hope,” meets Mondays, at First Lutheran Church Library, 915 E. Camp St., beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, call 218-235-1576 or 218-343-0970.

Ely Senior Center Bingo on Wednesdays

ELY - Looking for something fun to do in 2022? Members and guests are invited to the Ely Senior Center on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. for Bingo. Boards are 10 cents each per game. They play 20 games with four special games. Winners split the pot up to \$10. The final cover-all game is a jackpot game starting at \$50 and 45 numbers. If there is no winner within the designated numbers, the game will continue until a coverall is reached and the winner will receive \$10. One number and \$5 will be added each week until the jackpot is won. Participants must play the whole bingo session to participate in the coverall. Anyone over 55 may become a member for \$10 per year.

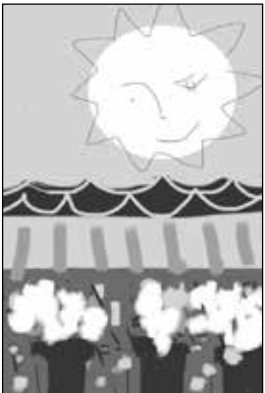
In Brief

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](mailto:ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com) or call her at 218-216-9141. Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers: ➤ June 28: Meet Jennifer Schultz, 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). ➤ July 12: An Update on the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



feel the temps rising  
nature pours on its heat waves  
aiding garden growth

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday	10 am-6 pm
Tuesday	10 am-6 pm
Wednesday	10 am-6 pm
Thursday	10 am-6 pm
Friday	10 am-6 pm

Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**SUNDAY NIGHT AA -** at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church is canceled.  
**ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA -** Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.** Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.  
**AL-ANON -** Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.  
**BABBITT AL-ANON -** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.  
**CO-DEPENDENTS’** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Ely.  
**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED** Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.  
**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:** Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Couple buys longtime Cook furniture store

## Right move at the right time for a team excited for new life chapter

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- New empty-nesters usually find something to occupy their time when their kids finally fly the coop. Some travel. Some pick up new hobbies.

As for Chris and Dawn Bogdan of Cook? They bought a furniture store.

“It’ll be our new baby and we’re really excited,” Dawn said Monday.

The Bogdans’ only child, recent North Woods graduate Haley, is headed to Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis. this fall, and Dawn said the timing was just right for the couple to buy the well-established Furniture Plus Gift and Video store in Cook from now former owners Mike and Dianne Suomela.

And like any couple with a new baby, the Bogdans have picked out a new name for their new “baby”: Northern Comfort Company.

“Chris and I each made a list of names that we thought might work individually, and for some reason Northern Comfort Company was on both of our lists,” Dawn chuckled. “We both just laughed and said, ‘That’s it. We’re done. That’s the name we’re using.’ Because, I mean, how did that even happen?”

They have a new logo, too, a sasquatch sitting in a chair looking quite content with its selection.

“It’s kind of ironic, be-

cause they had a statue out there for a long time that they sold of a sasquatch, but that had nothing to do with it,” Dawn said. “It’s just kind of a fun, whimsical Northwoods thing, and we’re fun people and pretty laid back.”

Chris said they didn’t have to think too hard about shifting gears to go into the furniture business.

“We’ve been working many years for other people, and we used to work for ourselves and wanted to get back into that,” Chris said. “This was just a great business. Mike did a great job here all those years and you hate to see it leave. People in town can use a store like this. So we figured what the heck, let’s give it a try.”

It’s a partnership that’s surely destined to work given that Chris and Dawn have been together since they were 16-year-old high schoolers living in Naperville, Ill., a busy corporation-oriented suburb of Chicago.

“We’ve been together a long time. We dated for ten years and then got married, and it’s 24 years coming up,” Dawn said.

Dawn owned and operated an insurance agency in Naperville and Chris was an auto body/paint shop manager and had vacationed for four summers in a row at Vermilion Dam Lodge. When Haley came around in 2003, the couple found their priorities were changing.

“We always wanted to move up north because we love this area, so we sold

everything and we bought a house out near Vermilion,” Dawn said.

The Bogdan family eventually became part of the Timbuktu family, with Dawn working for Timbuktu Marina as manager for the past 13 years and Chris notching a six-year run with Timbuktu Marine Sales and Service as service manager. Leaving Timbuktu was perhaps the most difficult part about buying the furniture store.

“They’re very supportive of us,” Dawn said. “We’re starting a new venture and they’re very excited. They’re like a second family to us.”

Monday was akin to Christmas for the Bogdans due to a delivery truck showing up at the back door with 50 new pieces of furniture for the showroom floor, and aside from not actually giving them the furniture, Mike Suomela was the next best thing to Santa Claus. Knowing the extraordinary lead times for orders from his primary suppliers, Suomela placed orders for this shipment last fall.

“Mike reserved all that production in the fall not knowing what he was going to be doing but knowing that he would need to have that product in the store to be able to sell for the rest of the year and into next,” Dawn said. “We’re glad to have it because people get very excited when they come in and we can deliver in a couple of days. This is actually the largest amount



**Having avoided most of the unloading because she was working with customers and an inquisitive member of the press, Dawn Bogdan takes a brief break on Monday to help her husband Chris wheel a chair into their newly-named Northern Comfort Company store in Cook.** photo by D. Colburn

of furniture there’s ever been at one time in this store. It’s a lot to take on but we’re excited about it.”

And the Bogdans haven’t waited to start focusing on next year.

“We have production reserved for 2023 already for five months,” Chris said. “We could take 50 custom orders and still have furniture for people by the fall of next year. People who don’t inventory or production reserved like Mike did for us, they’ll be waiting until 2024.”

And Mike was there on Monday helping unload. A few of those pieces on the truck were ones he’d already sold, and true

to form, he was there to see the sales through to the end. It’s a model of service the Bogdans embrace as well.

“We’re very big into customer service,” Dawn said, “and it’ll be nice because he and I can run the business on our own, other than some delivery help.”

Perhaps it needn’t be said, but the Bogdans are planning on sticking with the tried-and-true mix of suppliers that cater to the outdoors, north woods styles that regulars and potential new customers seem to want, although over time they’ll add their own flair to the business.

Folks will soon see new stock in the gift shop,

too, as that will remain an integral part of the business. And whatever decisions lie ahead, there’s little doubt that the Bogdans will make them together.

“We know each other pretty well,” a grinning Chris said. “We get along really well and we make a good team. Whatever my weaknesses are, she’s stronger, and I’ve got my spots where I can do a little bit more than she does, so it works out perfect.”

The store is located at 123 2nd Ave. SE in Cook. The phone number to call for more information is 218-666-9891, or check for the Northern Comfort Company page on Facebook.



# Orr preps for another July 3rd Fun Day

ORR- For those who may have had their worries last fall that Orr’s July 3rd Fun Day would be a thing of the past, get out your sunscreen and put on your patriotic best, because the festive community event is back this year in true Old Glory fashion.

The Sunday gala offers two options to get the day off to the kind of start that suits you best.

Registration for the ninth annual 5K run/walk will start at 8 a.m. at the Orr ice rink/tennis courts, with the race kicking off at 9 a.m. Advance registration is \$25 for adults and \$20 for kids 13 and

under, with race day registration costing \$5 more.

Those more sedentary souls who favor a morning that starts with a hearty breakfast, and runners daring enough to go the distance on a full stomach, will want to avail themselves of the Pancake Breakfast in the community center that runs from 7-10 a.m. Indoor and outdoor food and craft vendors will also be set up in and around the community center.

Luke’s Annual Tractor and Car Show is back, beginning at 11 a.m., and this year you’ll see more than tractors, as organiz-

ers have proclaimed, “If you think it’s cool and it has wheels, bring it! We want to see all your coowl stuff!”

The always highly-anticipated Children’s Parade will get underway at noon, and this year anything goes – if it has wheels or legs, it’s welcome. To secure your child’s spot in the gala, be sure to register between 11 a.m. and the start of the parade.

The tractor show wraps up at 3 p.m., giving folks a little break before dashing over to the Orr Muni between 4:45-5:15 p.m. to register for the

bean bag tournament that begins at 5:30 p.m. Registration is \$20 per team with an all-cash payout.

A street dance featuring Wrecking Crew gets underway at 8 p.m., but everyone will want to pause and turn their eyes skyward at dusk for what’s traditionally been one of the best fireworks shows to be found anywhere across the North Country. Once that spectacle is over, there’s more dancing to enjoy until midnight.

For more detailed information, see the Orr’s July 3rd Fun Day page on Facebook.

**Park group seeks donations for parking lot**

COOK- The new Veterans Riverfront Park in Cook is a beautiful addition to the community, with places for reflection, for family gatherings, and more, but there’s one more thing Friends of the Parks believes they need to make it complete, and that’s a paved parking lot.

Having nearly exhausted their development funds, the group is asking the community for help to provide a safe all-weather surface to provide full accessibility for veterans and community members.

A goal of \$50,000 has been set to cover the estimated cost, and there are three ways for someone to donate. Friends of the Parks has set up a GoFundMe account, GoFund.me/f8f99f7e, and a Venmo account of @friendsoftheparkscookmn to make it easier for indi-

viduals and groups to donate. Donations may also be mailed to Friends of the Parks, P.O. Box 1141, Cook MN 55723.

**Health office grand opening is Monday**

COOK- Bridge to Health, the healthcare practice in North Office Center in Cook set up by family nurse practitioner Dr. Brittany Debeltz, APRN, DNP, FNP-BC, will hold a grand opening and ribbon cutting this coming Monday, June 27, from 3-6 p.m. to showcase their services and new office facilities.

Snacks, drinks, and health-related door prizes, including a 50-percent discount on a three-month membership, will be available as visitors tour the office and have the chance to meet and learn about Debeltz’s services.

The public is invited to attend this event at 1817 Hwy. 53 in Cook.

**Paint A Barn Quilt at NWFA in Cook**

COOK- Have fun making your very own barn quilt for outdoor installation by enrolling at Northwoods Friends of the Arts for a class to be held Monday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery in Cook.

Instructors, Kathy, JoAnn and Alberta will help you choose a quilt pattern and paint a barn quilt on wood. Materials are provided for this fun project at 210 S River St. in Cook.

The \$30 registration fee for members and \$45 fee for non-members will cover material and instructor costs and hold your place for the workshop, so please register soon.

Stop at the NWFA Gallery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. Saturdays or call the gal-

lery at 218-780-7130 during open hours to register, or call Alberta at 218-666-2153.

**NWFA annual meeting on Tuesday features new Graham novel**

COOK- Author Donna Graham will introduce her second novel this coming Tuesday, June 28 at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts annual meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the gallery in Cook.

“Falling Silent” is another Graham thriller, with action on Lake Vermilion and in Northeastern Minnesota. Her presentation on Tuesday will cover both of her books.

Members of NWFA and the public are also invited to view the “Spring Art Expo Exhibit” during the gallery’s regular open hours at 210 S River St. in Cook.



**New benches in Veterans Riverfront Park in Cook narrowly escaped being crushed by a large tree topped by high winds from the nearby river bank.** photo by D. Colburn



ISD 696

# Carey accepts Ely school 6-12 principal position

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—The grandson of two Ely residents accepted an offer last Thursday to become the next 6-12 principal at Ely Memorial High School.

Jeffrey M. Carey, of Eveleth, and two other candidates, Hibbing administrator Mandy Huusko, and Northland Learning Center Dean of Students Crystal Poppler, were interviewed by ISD 696 school board members and an extended committee of administrators and faculty last Wednesday after the *Timberjay's* deadline.

The position was vacated by Megan Anderson who resigned her principal post at the end of the year to return to an Ely middle school teaching position.

By unanimous board decision, Carey was offered the position later that evening and accepted the offer last Thursday morning, according to school board chair Ray Marsnik.

“His previous principal and superintendent experience really stood out,” he said. “The extended committee (of faculty and administrators) were

also fond of the choice. We are fortunate to get him.”

Most recently, Carey was the ISD 2909 Rock Ridge School District Construction Liaison, since 2020, and previously was the ISD 2154 Eveleth-Gilbert School District superintendent/elementary principal from 2014-2020, and Grades 5-8 principal. From 1996 to 2013, Carey was employed by ISD 2142 St. Louis County School District where he held a number of positions including K-12 principal at Cherry, Tower and Cotton schools and dean of students at Cotton school.

Carey started his post-secondary education at Vermilion Community College in 1991 and attended Moorhead State University, Bemidji State University, University of Wisconsin-Superior, and St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

Carey holds licenses and certificates for district superintendent, K-12 principal, K-12 special education, 7-12 social studies and 7-12 coaching.

Marsnik said Thursday that he was impressed by Carey's answer to an interview question about addressing the district's

declining enrollment.

“He said we have to offer a good product and have a good relationship with our college here,” Marsnik said. “And he stressed having a positive learning environment.”

Marsnik added, “All three of the interviews went really well, Carey's experience really stood out. And it is nice that he has a connection to Ely with his grandparents from here and his VCC education.”

The school board's contract negotiations committee is in talks with Carey to finalize a starting salary. He is expected to start his duties in early August.

“I'm very happy with our new principal,” Marsnik added. “I was a little concerned that he might be looking at other locations, but we are fortunate that he verbally accepted the position.”

**School safety**

In light of yet another recent school shooting where 19 children were gunned down in a Texas school, Ely school board members last week expressed their school safety concerns and discussed secured entry protocols with the new school

addition opening this fall.

“With the new single secured entrance, are we going to have secretarial staff on both sides?” board member Rochelle Sjoberg asked. “Are we going to review policies and practices for visitors coming in? In this small community, it is tough because you know people, you know parents. I would like to see us review our visitor process with badges, and knowing who's in and who's out.”

Anne Oelke, K-5 principal, assured board members that staff reviewed crisis planning all year.

“We are all on board with really communicating heavily coming in August what our new crisis planning will be, and all of the new changes with the new building and secured entrance. We all received feedback that communication is key when that incident happened in Texas. It brought to the foreground what we are doing here in Ely.”

Sjoberg suggested that school board members receive an overview of the school safety plan before it is rolled out.

“So we have an understanding. That knowledge and refresher is good for everybody,” she said. “Any

kind of change like that is going to stir up some frustration. It is for your safety.”

While staff and faculty will continue to be able to enter any school door with their authorized key card, all students and visitors throughout the school day will be required to enter the building through the single secured entrance located in the new building addition between the Memorial and Washington buildings.

“All doors will be locked except for the front door,” Oelke said.

Apparently, included in the new facility construction plan, an office will likely be provided for Ely police officer use.

“This room would be for storing equipment and such,” school board member Tony Colarich said. “That is for discussion. I'm not saying that is something we are going to do. It is something that we are going to discuss.”

Interim Superintendent John Klarich offered a clarification.

“Whatever role (for police on campus) the school board, administration and staff would like to see,” he said.

**Other business**

In other business last Wednesday, the school

board took the following action,

➤ Approved a contract agreement with the confidential/supervisory employees union, including facilities director Tim Leeson, payroll coordinator Jordan Huntbatch, and superintendent's assistant Mary Wognum.

➤ Hired Heidi Omerza, Ely city council member and spouse of school board member Tom Omerza, as a full-time fifth grade teacher.

➤ Hired Amanda Nelson as a Home-Based Learning Teacher.

➤ Hired Erika Mattson as a Preschool Summer Skills Classroom Assistant.

➤ Accepted the resignation of cafeteria aide Richard Kovall.

➤ Accepted quotes from Como Oil and Propane for the district's 2022-23 fuel needs for \$1.68 per gallon (bobtail) and \$1.54 per gallon (tanker). Both prices are about 50 cents per gallon higher than last year.

➤ Approved quotes for the district's milk products from Prairie Farms, bread products from Pan-O-Gold Baking Co., and snow removal services from Phil Hegfors and Sons Construction for the upcoming school year.

## ATV...Continued from page 1

Township, where it appears the overwhelming majority of residents oppose the trail. More than 50 residents packed the small town hall to voice their concerns and they were joined by several dozen more who watched and participated in the meeting over Zoom.

Township resident Bud Van Deusen presented the town board with a petition including 413 names of residents and property owners in the township. That's out of an estimated 500 property owners in the township, according to the Fire Chief Larry McCray.

“We ask the town board to consider the long-term ramifications of this proposal to residents and the environment,” said Van Deusen, who was one of more than two dozen people who spoke to the board during Tuesday's meeting. “We believe it's more of a commercial enterprise, not compatible with our lifestyle.” Van Deusen and others recently organized under the banner of the Eagles Nest Trail Advocacy Group.

Van Deusen stressed that opponents to the trail were not opposed to ATV use by residents, which has never been controversial. “What we're opposed to is the magnitude of stress that this primary corridor would bring to our community,” he said.

Steve Casey, a resident of Eagles Nest Lake 3, spoke for many in his view of the outdoor pursuits favored by residents of the township. “In my 20 years here, I've seen very few jet skis,” he said. “For every jet ski, I see 100-200 canoes or paddleboard users. That's the spirit. That's the atmosphere that we have here. And I think



The noise is taking over the sounds of the wind and loons.

Lisa Krause, Eagles Nest resident ATV trail opponent

one of the reasons you have so many people here and so many signatures is that this is a real affront to that atmosphere.”

There were a handful of voices expressing a different view. Percy White, a Walsh Road resident, said she liked to use her ATV to visit her neighbors and was upset that the issue had left neighbors at odds. “The division is killing me,” she said. “I want to get along with my neighbors.”

But Tim Rund, who had helped to organize the petition drive, rejected the notion that the issue had divided the community. “The community seems to have come together on the issue,” he said, noting the overwhelming consensus in opposition to a corridor trail.

In an effort to address the concerns of residents, the town board had formed a three-person study group tasked with finding alternative routes for the proposed trail that might face less

opposition. The group had identified three alternatives, including a north route that ran mostly north of Hwy. 169, a central route closer to developed parts of the township, and a southern route that passed along the existing Taconite Trail. That route found some support from those in attendance, mostly because it was an existing corridor and that it kept the noise from most parts of the township, with the exception of properties along the Swanson Shores Road.

But residents of Swanson Shores also turned out and voiced strong opposition to the alternative. The southern route, which would pass through Bear Head Lake State Park, would likely face statewide opposition from groups that have fought to keep ATVs out of state parks.

While a few speakers voiced support for a particular route, the overwhelming majority of speakers

said they opposed any new designated route. “I don't think attracting ATVs nationally should supersede our right to enjoyment of our property,” said resident Cindy Johnson.

Lisa Krause, a resident along Bear Head Lake State Park Road, said the noise from the current ATV route is already causing problems. “The noise going by on our property has literally stopped conversations on our deck and in our garage,” she said. “The noise is taking over the sounds of the wind and loons.”

Greg Junek, who had served on the study group, said he couldn't recommend any of the alternatives the group had developed. “Why should anyone's quiet enjoyment of their property be impacted?” he asked. Junek, and several others, noted that the township, which has no commercial district or services, would see no economic benefit from the trail, only negative impacts.

trails. “Biking is the number one sport in Minnesota so I don't understand all the funding going to ATV riding,” she said.

Irene Van Deusen noted that an existing ATV trail that runs to the south of the state park already exists and makes a new route unnecessary. But a White Iron Lake resident, who identified herself only as “Paula” said that route takes her five hours to get from her home to Tower.

“I've experienced a lot of stress the past year with all the ATV traffic on the road by my house,” said Lori McIntire. “They like to rev as they go up the hill by my house,” she added.

Mary Jo Deters questioned why the state is pushing so hard for ATV

### Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$15.96-\$27.50 per month and business services are \$34.61-\$48.61 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.





**ELY ROTARY ANNUAL  
\$10,000  
CASH RAFFLE**

**GET TICKETS FROM A  
MEMBER or go to  
ELYROTARY.ORG**

**Drawing at Blueberry Festival**

The public is invited to an

# OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 25 • 1-5 p.m.

Vermilion Park Inn,  
30 Center St, Soudan MN

to meet **Rob Ecklund,**  
representative House District 3A

and **Grant Hauschild,**  
candidate for the District 3 Senate seat



**ELY...**Continued from page 1

Council members voted 5-0 to approve the ordinance for the sale of the Community Center. One council member, Heidi Omerza, was absent from the meeting. Council member Angela Campbell abstained from voting on the measure.



STORM...Continued from page 1

of its customers were without power as of 11:30 p.m. Monday, and crews working through the night had reduced that number to around 10,000 by 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. A mid-afternoon update said that 3,600 members in St. Louis County were still without power, with Crane Lake and several areas around Lake Vermilion prominently highlighted on the company’s online outage map. Many of the Lake Vermilion outages were fixed by early Tuesday evening, but increasing winds and crews being idled for mandatory safety rest breaks slowed overnight progress. Fallen trees were also hampering access to some locations, LCP officials said, and they projected it would be Thursday before power was completely restored.

Minnesota Power representatives said they expected to have power restored by Tuesday night to the majority their 11,000 customers who lost service.

Storm damage

From Kabetogama down to Angora and all points east to beyond Ely, tree damage was widespread. Images shared on the Duluth National Weather Service office social media site revealed trees snapped off at mid-trunk and below, with others



A welcome sign in Soudan was wiped out by the storms that moved though parts of the North Country Monday night. photo by D. Colburn

uprooted entirely, although thankfully few showed tree-damaged structures. Reports of significant tree damage were registered for Cook and Field Township, numerous locations on Lake Vermilion, Clear Lake, Burntside Lake, and Ely.

While straight-line winds exceeding 60 mph at times likely accounted for most of the reported damage, some concentrated areas showed evidence of

possible microbursts, such as an area on the north side of Cook.

Beginning in the new Veterans Riverfront Park, with a large tree naturally leaning to the south over the Littlefork River that was snapped off at its base and toppled northward, a narrow trail of heavily damaged trees could be found stretching about a third of a mile to the north-northeast. That path

included the Watering Can Garden Shop, where an isolated greenhouse near Vermilion Dr. was totally demolished while the shop and other greenhouses weren’t damaged.

The description of the extensive damage around Ludlow’s Island, Polley’s, and Muskego Point resorts on Lake Vermilion as reported to the NWS by Lisa Wolfe also has elements that could be indicative of

a microburst, although there is no way to be certain.

“Lost at least two dozen trees, snapped in half, uprooted, large and small, some trees cracked but still standing, downed trees going all different directions, with others right next to them fine,” she wrote. “Pontoons flipped upside down in water, covered boat slips pretty much destroyed at those locations. Bizarrely, hanging glass solar lights untouched with multiple large trees down just yards away.”

Bizarre was descriptive of the damage to the eight-stall boathouse at Muskego Point Resort. The lakeside façade of the structure with its distinctive messaging appeared to be intact, while nearly all of the structure behind it was completely demolished.

Precipitation

The NWS precipitation map covering the region indicates that

estimated rainfall ranged from a quarter inch up to an inch and a half. Unofficial individual reporting to the NWS was generally in the higher end of that range, with amounts of close to two inches reported in Babbitt. There were also scattered reports of pea-sized to quarter-sized hail.

With the Rainy River Basin flooding now in slow but steady retreat, Monday’s rain will temporarily slow that process a bit more as water makes its way into the basin tributaries and streams and on through the basin. However, overall rainfall from Monday’s storm is unlikely to cause a reversal of the downward trend, although NWS officials said that afternoon that Rainy Lake remains vulnerable to a slight rise should the region experience a heavy rainfall.

Students can brush up on their theatrical skills with Susan Nelson

Lyric Youth Arts Theatre Education offers workshops for students entering grades 3-8. “These workshops are designed to teach and enhance theatre skills while maintaining a game like atmosphere. It is playing with a purpose. They are taught specific skills and have fun while doing it,” Susan Nelson declared about her

summer offerings with The Lyric Center for Arts Youth Theatre Education Program.


The twice weekly classes run every other week on Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11:30 a.m. (with the exception of one Monday, June 27). The schedule is as follows; June 27 and 30 (Theatre Masks & Improv), July 12 & 14 (Marionette Theatre), July 26 and 28 (Creating a Character), August 9 and 11 (Technical Theatre) and August 23 and 25 (Theatre Scenes).

Students can sign up for one week at a time at \$10 per week or attend all five weeks for \$40. Scholarships are available.

For more information or to register your

child at lyriccenteronline.org or by calling (218) 741-5577.

All questions and concerns should be sent to youth@lyriccenteronline.org.



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**Registration begins at 10 AM;**  
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**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.**  
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Hollace Fenske, above, and other Ely-area youth gather on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Ely Little League Field for T-Ball action. At just three to five years old, the enthusiastic boys and girls are clearly excited to be on the baseball field, but constantly need to be refocused as they participate in the throwing, catching, base-running, and batting drills. Clark Lassi, top right, and other players, far right, put on a throwing clinic. Bruce Barton, center, goes after a grounder. Coach Jenny Meyer, bottom right, shows the proper form for catching a grounder. photos by K. Vandervort



## CENTER...Continued from page 1

throughout the Bois Forte Band and the surrounding communities long beyond the center's 21st year.

"We'd like to expand a lot of our services that we provide," Strong said. "We'd like to provide more classes that are taught by community members to pass that knowledge on. We'd like to expand our library. And the main thing we'd like to expand with the museum is offering those services in different spots."

Strong's vision places the center as the hub of a many-spoked wheel, using its resources for outreach to Band members both on and off the reservation, schools and colleges, and other community venues, all while continuing to upgrade and enhance the museum itself.

It's a vision that builds

on work of Phyllis Boshey, an elder and Tribal Council Member who conceived the idea of the museum and dedicated years to seeing it come to life, according to the center's website. The center was built in 2001 and dedicated on June 1, 2002.

First and foremost, Strong's vision is focused on what the center can and should do for the Bois Forte people.

"The main thing I want to do would be to build our identity as a Native people," Strong said. "For example, there are a lot of people that want to do things like learn how to hunt, learn how to sing, things like that, but they don't know the resources to do so. We want to provide that opportunity."

That goes beyond Band members living on the Nett

Lake and Vermilion reservations to those living in Duluth, the Twin Cities, and other areas.

"We want to provide opportunities for people who are enrolled or have ties to the community, to provide a space that makes them feel comfortable to come back and learn and feel a part of the tribe here," he said.

But Strong also sees a role for the center in the surrounding community, providing opportunities for people to ask questions and attend workshops to increase their understanding of Ojibwe history and culture.

"Building relationships with the community starts with building relationships with individuals," he said.

Strong wasn't yet born

when Boshey first brought up the idea of a museum, and he said he believes that there's been a transition over the years as to how generations have each experienced tradition.

"With my generation I think it's changed a little bit in the sense that we're trying to find ways for Western society to view us as legitimate," he said.

Western culture has often dismissed tribal authority, knowledge, and beliefs, Strong said, particularly when it comes to the validity of oral histories.

"In academic situations a lot of places don't necessarily take our traditional histories as credible sources," Strong said. "But for us, we have stories that are hundreds of years old. I use my grandparents as an example. They're in their

seventies, and their grandparents were in their seventies before they passed, so that's 140 years of knowledge that's being passed on to me. Why wouldn't that be credible? I think that's one of the things that people in my generation are recognizing."

Another member of Strong's generation and his colleague at the center, visitor services manager Kyle Littlewolf, is also invested in integrating the center more fully in the life of the Bois Forte Band. Toward that end, he described a series of events for Saturday's attendees that will take place across the summer as part of an extended 20th anniversary celebration.

"I'm fairly new to this job, and I think there's a lot of knowledge here that

needs to be shared with other people," Littlewolf said. "I want to have a celebration all summer long."

The events will include such things as movie nights, a late-July flintknapping class open that is open to the public, and special pontoon boat trips for Band members to sites of historical importance on Lake Vermilion.

For complete information about the Heritage Center and Cultural Museum, including hours, admission prices, and upcoming events, go to [www.boisforteheritagecenter.com](http://www.boisforteheritagecenter.com), check their Facebook page, or call 218-753-6017. The center is located in within the Fortune Bay resort complex grounds at 1500 Bois Forte Road, Tower.

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INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

# Coaching tips from a pro

Recently-retired Atlanta Braves scout Jack Roddy talks baseball and World Series bling

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

Soudan- A World Series ring was a nice capstone to a long career in baseball for Jack Roddy, and it offered a bit of inspiration this past week to local Little Leaguers.

Roddy, a long-time talent scout for the Atlanta Braves brought his ring and his insights about the game to a recent youth baseball practice in Soudan. While Roddy’s advice was welcome, it was the bling that will probably prove the most memorable part of the day for the young ballplayers.

The large diamond ring, encrusted in diamonds, ruby, and pearl, was embossed in large letters with his last name, is a cherished and valuable reminder of the Braves’ 2021 World Series victory. Yet, valued at over \$25,000, it’s a keepsake that spends most of its time in a safe deposit box, said Roddy. Which made Roddy’s recent appearance all the more special.

As each of the players got a chance to try on the ring, there were big smiles as they struck the classic World Series pose. Roddy also showed the players the smaller, plain gold, World Series band, designed for regular use.

Roddy retired at the end of the 2021 championship season and now lives in Soudan. He grew up in California, but his parents were from the Twin Cities, and they had honeymooned on Lake Vermilion back in 1948. When he was a boy, his family bought their own cabin



on the lake, and it soon became his “favorite place in the world.” He now calls Soudan his home.

“Baseball,” he told the kids, “is all about having fun.”

And when he was scouting for both college and professional teams, determining if a player was having fun was an important part of the process. “They play better if they are having fun,” he said. “You also want to see a player who hustles 100-percent of the time, before and during the game.” Other important factors are players who show a positive attitude towards their coaches, along with hitting the ball hard and throwing the ball fast.

Roddy shared these tips with the young players, some who will go on to play in high school, but

See **RODDY...**pg. 2B



Kate Coughlin slides safely into second for a steal.

SPORTS

# Softball honors for two Ely players

Flom and Coughlin named to All-Conference team

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Two Ely High School softball players, senior Charly Flom and junior Kate Coughlin, earned All-Arrowhead Conference honors following the 2022 season.

They were key contributors to a Timberwolves team that won 11 games during the regular season and reached the double-elimination round of the Section 7A playoffs. All-conference teams are picked by league coaches.

Flom, a multi-year starter, anchored the shortstop position this year. She led the Timberwolves with 28 runs and 63 at-bats. She had 23 hits for a .365 average, and contributed 13 stolen bases, two doubles and a triple.

Coughlin, the team’s left fielder, was the Timberwolves’ best hitter with 29 hits and 31 runs batted in with a .500 average. She led the team with seven doubles and added a triple and home run. She also had 12 stolen bases. Coughlin also tops the team with a .531 on-base percentage.

“Charly, obviously offensively, was very deserving of the honor,” Coach Cory Lassi said. “She was a truly great lead-off hitter. She was a hard out, as she was good at drawing walks (10 for the season), and she hits the ball hard. What she brought to the table defensively for us was just as important. She anchored us at shortstop and made a play on every ball hit toward her. She’s a really good all-around solid player.”

Coughlin will return to the team next year. “She really dialed it up a notch this year,” Lassi said. “She always hit the ball hard. It was phenomenal to see her hit at a .500 average. She led the team in doubles. I’d say she has a violent swing. She hits everything very hard. She’s a natural. In left field, she made the plays that were hit near her.”

Lassi said the two players fed off each other all season long.

“Who knows how good Charly would have been without Kate, and also how Kate would have been without Charly in the



Shortstop Charly Flom tosses a grounder to first.

TRANSITIONS

# New owners take the reins at Grubens

Couple wants to keep historic business close to its roots

by RACHEL BROPHY  
Staff Writer

GREENWOODTWP- Even though Gruben’s Marina and Resort is under new ownership, the name of this longtime Lake Vermilion institution will live on.

The marina and resort, started by the Gruben family in 1919, was purchased this past winter by Fred Brett and Chessica Reichert and the owners have faced more than a few challenges since.

Fred, Chessica, their son Jace, and their four dogs moved to Lake Vermilion from the Twin Cities last December. It was a matter of opportunity knocking. Chessica said when the company where Fred was working changed ownership, they saw it as a sign

to try something new.

The couple, both outdoor enthusiasts, had previously talked about owning a resort and Chessica said it didn’t take much to convince Fred to consider the idea. Their 16-year old son, who hopes to be a fishing guide, was all-in as well.

The couple started actively looking for a resort to buy. They checked out five places in all, but according to Fred, “everything brought us back to Grubens.” It didn’t hurt that Fred’s experience working in retail as a spirits buyer and Chessica’s experience as a realtor and property manager were a great fit to run a resort and marina that comes with a popular bottle shop and general store.

Fred also has family on Lake Vermilion and his new home at

**Right: The new owners of Gruben’s Marina and Resort on the steps outside the business’s general store. Pictured are Fred Brett, Chessica Reichert, and their son Jace.**

photo by R. Brophy

Grubens enables him to enjoy riding his Harley Road King on his favorite stretch of road to Ely and down Hwy. 1.

Of course, finding time in the summer for such pursuits can be tough for resort owners, but Chessica said they’re trying to make the time. “That’s the one balance we’re trying to do,” she said, adding that sometimes it’s just a quick excursion, like a quick paddle around the bay in

See **GRUBEN’S...**pg. 2B





HANDS-ON LEARNING

# Ely Folk School’s canoe project resumes

## 20-foot Ojibwe-design birch bark craft should hit the water later this summer

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Work is underway once again on the birch bark canoe project at the Ely Folk School, offering participants handcrafting skills and more as they learn, in traditional detail, the many aspects of creating a remarkable watercraft.

Master Birch Bark Canoe Builder Erik Simula is leading the project.

“Our goal is to complete and paddle our 20-foot, traditional Ojibwe-style birch bark canoe, which is in its fourth year of construction, by this August,” he said.

While the first class of 2022 was held in early June, work will continue through the summer. “We are almost done and I am confident we will float her this summer,” Simula said. “We have some lashing to do on the ends and we need to add a few more ribs and some other work on the gunwales.”

The canoe project classes meet outside on the lawn by the Folk School, at 209 E Sheridan St., each Sunday, 1-4 p.m., weather permitting. Community members and visitors are encouraged to stop by and watch and ask questions while the class is working.

“Observing and learning the process of building a birch bark canoe gives people today an understanding of the history, culture, art and craft that is embedded in the canoe,” he said.

Simula, a Finnish-American outdoor educator, has overseen the project the previous three summers.

“Because of COVID-19 the canoe was stored in the EFS garage for more than a year. We worked hard on the project in 2021 and this canoe is waiting for its day to greet the water,” he said.

The group’s first task was to carefully carry the canoe from its display in the folk school to the

front lawn for a good washing and cleaning. Simula noted that a good portion of the canoe was completed back in 2019 before the project was halted in 2020 and resumed last year.

Folk school students completed a smaller 13-foot Ojibwe-style birch bark canoe under Simula’s guidance during his first summer at the EFS. Simula is also the executive director of the Minnesota Canoe Museum here in Ely, and continues to promote its growth and exposure.

With extensive teaching experience at Voyageur Outward Bound School, Vermilion Community College, Ely Folk

School, and the North House Folk School, Simula said he enjoys giving back to the community. He lives in Finland, Minn., and spent most of his 50-something years in the northeast part of the state.

“Canoeing has always been a big part of my life,” he said. “This community has great people and I’m glad to be a part of it. Ely has always been a special place for me.”

For those who cannot attend any of the classes, but wish to help support this project, consider making a donation to the Ely Folk School for the BBCP. For more information, go to [www.elyfolkschool.org](http://www.elyfolkschool.org).

### GRUBEN’S...Continued from page 1B

her kayak. Fred echoed that sentiment. “That’s one of the beauties of being here. You don’t have to drive two hours to get out for a pontoon ride.”

Another thing the couple has been making time for is getting to

know the people in their community. Chessica mentioned that they’ve joined the Vermilion Lake Association as well as other area groups, and they try to frequent local businesses often. The couple agreed on the importance of getting to

know their neighbors. “We live here now,” Fred said.

So far the new adventure has been a positive one that the couple is embracing with great enthusiasm. The unusually high water this spring along with late ice out and early season storms

that caused damage to the boathouse were learning opportunities that are not dampening their spirits. As far as future plans for Gruben’s, Chessica says the plan is to “build on what was here.” One way they have done this is by opening

up the office building to be a welcoming family friendly space to get ice cream and make friends with Bosko and the rest of the canine family. “We’re very pet friendly,” she said.

So far, it appears long-times users of Gruben’s like

what they see. “The history (here) is really neat,” Chessica said. “People have commented that it’s very much like what Sally was doing, and that’s a great compliment!”

### RODDY...Continued from page 1B

others who probably will end their baseball careers after Little League.

“Play every game like someone is looking,” he said.

Working with players this age is his favorite, he said.

“It is so fun,” he said. “The little ones are wide open for suggestions.”

Roddy worked on throwing form, fielding techniques, and other skills during the morning practice session. The kids listened and hustled, and hopefully will show some results during the rest of their summer season.

“It is so much fun helping kids get to the next level,” he said.

He said he was impressed with Little League coach Nate Dostert.

“He really gets it,” he said. “He understands how to coach.”

Dostert’s 11-year-old twin sons were at the prac-

tice, and were two of the most attentive during the coaching session. Dostert learned his coaching skills from his father Greg, a longtime Little League coach in Tower-Soudan who started when his boys were old enough for t-ball and continued to coach Little League once they were grown. While Nate has taken over some of the Little League coaching duties, Greg is still in action, running the youth leagues for older players.

“Parents should be involved with their kids,” Roddy said. “They should show up at their games and be enthusiastic. Having a parent around is a great advantage. It doesn’t have to be for baseball. Just for whatever their child is interested in.”

Roddy himself doesn’t have any children.

“My family is the kids that I have helped,” he said. “There are 4,000 kids

### LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday

84 59

Saturday

73 49

Sunday

64 46

Monday

74 52

Tuesday

76 54

Ely					Emb.					Cook					Orr					Tower				
	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.		Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.		Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.		Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.		Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
06/13	72	52	0.04		06/13	73	53	0.02		06/13	76	48	0.02		06/13	75	55	0.01		06/13	73	52	0.01	
06/14	70	56	0.33		06/14	69	55	0.18		06/14	72	56	0.08		06/14	75	57	0.01		06/14	72	56	0.34	
06/15	78	57	0.00		06/15	78	56	0.00		06/15	76	60	0.16		06/15	77	61	0.05		06/15	78	55	0.00	
06/16	79	56	0.00		06/16	79	56	0.18		06/16	77	61	0.03		06/16	70	59	0.01		06/16	80	57	0.08	
06/17	69	53	0.13		06/17	70	53	0.00		06/17	67	58	0.00		06/17	73	52	0.00		06/17	69	49	0.00	
06/18	75	43	0.05		06/18	73	38	0.00		06/18	71	48	0.00		06/18	64	45	0.00		06/18	74	39	0.00	
06/19	66	50	0.00		06/19	68	51	0.00		06/19	66	49	0.02		06/19	91	52	0.00		06/19	66	49	0.00	
YTD Total			9.00		YTD Total			10.86		YTD Total			11.76		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			14.98	

who know me by my first name.” He keeps in touch with many of them and has watched them grow in both baseball and life, going on to successful careers after they are done playing ball.

**Major league scout**

As a scout, Roddy said his career really focused on helping kids. And sometimes he got to watch players grow through four

years in high school and then four years in college. He mostly scouted players in southern California.

He graduated from college in Iowa, then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree at Texas A & M. His first job was head coach at a high school in Texas, and then he coached and played in the Independent Baseball League in Kansas City.

His first scouting job was for the Los Angeles Angels. But then his boss, Dan Cox, was offered a job with the Braves, and Roddy followed him there and spent the rest of his career with that team.

“Scouts don’t want to stand out at a game,” he said, adding that he would never show up at a game wearing a Braves cap.

“Over my career I

scouted over 500 kids who got drafted by a major league team, and quite a few have gone on to have great careers.”

But Roddy is also proud of the fact he has helped many more players who were not major-league prospects get college scholarships to play ball, as well as getting players on independent league teams.

“There is a place in college ball for most players,” he said, “but maybe not on very competitive teams.”

Sometimes players that get picked up by a major league don’t end up with major league careers, but there are other options for those who want to keep playing ball.

“I got a phone call two weeks ago from a player I had scouted who’d been picked up by the Red Sox,” he said. “He had just been chucked from the team during spring training. He was 23 years old and wanted to know what he could do. I found him a place on a team in the independent league in Montana.”

While he is retired from his job with the Braves, he has continued to do some scouting for some college teams, observing players in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Roddy knows that life isn’t just about baseball. There is fishing, of course.

“Whatever I catch, that is my favorite,” he said. He fishes year-round on Lake Vermilion, and now that he is retired, has more time for this second favorite pastime.

Roddy said he is willing to give private lessons to any aspiring baseball player in the area. Please contact the *Timberjay* if you’d like to get in touch with him. Roddy said while he did charge for such lessons in the past, he now does them on a volunteer basis.

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TOWER

City approves new contract with union staff

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here, in a special meeting held Monday, voted to approve a substantial revision to the city’s union contract. The new package, which came to the council with the recommendation of the bargaining committee, is more in line with labor agreements in other small cities around the area, according to city attorney Mitch Brunfelt, who took part in the negotiations.

The city’s current unionized workforce includes the deputy clerk and the city’s two full-time maintenance workers. Brunfelt said the changes represent an improvement for the city’s workforce, which he argued is important given the current tight labor market. “It’s getting tougher and tougher,” said Brunfelt. “Overall, the world has changed in terms of the labor market. These are skilled workers, and it is very, very competitive,” he said.

Among the major changes to the agreement include a significant modification to the longevity pay provision, which had effectively substituted for health benefits in the previous contract

and bore no apparent relationship to a worker’s longevity with the city. Brunfelt told the council that the new contract now comes with a more traditional health insurance package that isn’t tied to the unusual longevity pay provision.

The contract also eliminates a pay grid that had set out wages for years in advance for each employee. Brunfelt said that type of pay structure wasn’t unusual for teachers in school districts, where years of service and educational attainment both affect teacher pay through a rubric that includes steps and lanes. But Brunfelt said he hadn’t seen such a standardized grid in a small city before and noted that it reduced the city’s flexibility to adjust pay and benefits based on changing economic and budgetary conditions faced by the city. He said small public employers like the city typically set pay amounts on a 2-3 year basis depending on the length of the labor agreement. “This really simplifies and streamlines it,” he said.

The new pay schedule establishes hourly wages for 2022 at \$24.91 for the deputy clerk, \$24.64 for the maintenance foreman and \$22 for the

maintenance assistant. Those amounts will increase by two percent each year over the next two years.

In addition, the maintenance staff will receive an extra \$4,500 in longevity pay under the contract, along with an extra \$1,825 for on-call compensation for weekends and after-hours when they are subject to call-back for emergencies.

The deputy clerk is slated to receive an additional \$7,000 annually for longevity pay.

Councilors generally favored the recommended contract, although council member Joe Morin expressed some reservations about the agreement and whether it was beneficial enough for city workers. He said he appreciated the work of the bargaining committee and opted to support the changes.

Just as the council was approving one union contract, it continued to delay action on a request for union representation from the city’s ambulance director, who submitted a request to join the AFSCME union nearly a year ago. The council held a closed session on Monday to discuss their negotiation strategy but took no action on a new agreement with the current

director, Dena Suihkonen.

In other action, the council:

➤ Approved the low bid of \$471,160.75 from Mesabi Bituminous for work on a new trailhead and parking lot on the East Two River, just north of Hwy. 169. The bid was about \$57,000 higher than the engineer’s estimate, but clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz said the project has a \$50,000 contingency budget, which could cover most of that shortfall. The included work will be funded by a \$600,000 grant from the LC-CMR. Additional work associated with the project, including improvements to extend Main Street to the new trailhead and other amenities, will be funded through a separate grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

➤ Approved the expenditure of up to \$16,000 for work associated with a joint road improvement project on N. Second Street, near St. Martin’s Catholic Church. Breitung Township and St. Martin’s are also contributing funding for the project.

Breitung awards bid for joint infrastructure project

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- Jola and Sopp was awarded the bid for the Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board’s (TBWWB) force main and manhole improvement project. The project includes work in both Tower and Breitung Township, and includes replacement of manholes and main sewer lines along the Mesabi Trail in both Tower and Soudan. The winning bid, at \$362,280 plus \$15,000 for the optional add alternate, was almost half the price of the second bid received. Bids were opened at a special meeting on June 15.

Breitung Township is acting as the fiscal agent for this project. They received a \$250,000 grant for the work, but they need to secure a PFA loan (low-interest) for the remainder of the cost. The details of the loan should be available soon. The loan will be repaid by customers of the TBWWB.

Once this project is completed, the Mesabi Trail resurfacing project can begin. The section of the Mesabi Trail between Tower and Soudan was the first section of trail built, and has fallen into poor repair.

In other business at the meeting, the board heard that work on the paving project for the road between St. Martin’s and Hwy. 169 should begin before the Fourth of July.

Other projects on track for this year include work on the bike trail to McKinley Park, work on Spring Rd. and Poplar St., water meter replacements, and work on Stuntz Bay Rd.

Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre auditions for the Wizard of Oz on Monday in Ely

ELY - Auditions for Prairie Fire Children’s Theater’s original production of the Wizard of Oz will be held on Monday, June 27. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and auditions will be held from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Vermilion College in Ely.

Auditions are open to anyone ages 7-18 years. The audition process lasts up to two hours. Those auditioning are required to be in attendance for its entirety with the cast announced at the end of the audition.

Each cast member will receive a rehearsal schedule for the remainder of the week. Some of the cast will be asked to stay following auditions for a short rehearsal.

Participation fees are \$50 for one child, \$80 for two children, and \$100 for three or more. Up to 83 children (and adults if applicable) are needed to play the roles of Dorothy, Toto, the Munkins, Glinda the Good Witch, the Tinman, the Cowardly Lion, the Green Guard, the Wiz-

ard, the Emerald City Traders, the Flying Monkeys, the Winkies, Aunt Em, Uncle Harry, 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 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. throughout the remainder of the week, with performances scheduled for Saturday, July 2, at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the theater at Vermilion College.

Obituaries and Death Notices



**Elizabeth M. Schultz**

Elizabeth “Liz” Margaret Schultz, 36, of Grand Rapids, passed away on Friday, June 10, 2022, after a courageous battle with adrenal cortical carcinoma, a very rare cancer. Visitation will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 2 at Grace Bible Chapel in Grand Rapids, followed by a 3 p.m. memorial service. There will be a light supper after the service at the Grace Bible Chapel. Arrangements are with Rowe Funeral Home and

Cremation Services of Grand Rapids.

Elizabeth was born in 1985 to Leon “Lucky” and Jutta “Karin” (Polensky) Schultz, in Cook. She grew up in Gheen, attending school in Orr and graduating in 2003. She was invited twice to attend the Elite Basketball camp in the Cities where she played with Lindsey Whalen and where several college scouts were there watching her. She was offered a four-year scholarship to play basketball at Dartmouth, but it never worked out for her, and her priorities had also changed by then.

Liz attended college in Thief River Falls for one year, and then went on to Ridgewater College in Willmar, completing her Vet Tech degree. Liz then moved to Grand Rapids where she worked at various jobs before starting her own dog grooming business called “Furget

Me Knot Dog Grooming”. Because of her love of animals, it was her dream job. She loved the dogs and their owners.

Liz was a beautiful, determined, strong and independent woman. She continually worked so hard to provide for herself and her daughters, sacrificing everything for her children. They were everything to Liz and she was determined to protect them.

Elizabeth is survived by her daughters, Lillah and Alexis and their father, Adam Richmond; parents, Lucky and Karin Schultz; sister, Erica (Jeff) Iverson; brother, Adam (fiancé, Sarah Yuenger) Schultz; nieces, Bonnie, Shelby and Elizabeth; nephews, Brody and Jasper; her daughters’ grandparents, Kris and Pamela Richmond; her daughters’ aunts, Rebecca Boyd and Leanne Johnson and their children; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and many, many friends whom she loved.



**Thomas N. Tomlinson**

Thomas Neale Tomlinson, 77, of Tower, died on August 30, 2021, at St. Mary’s Hospital in Duluth. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at Bauman Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service.

Family services are provided by Bauman Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Tom was born on June 24, 1944, in Chicago, the son of Raymond and Anne (Remback) Tomlinson; he served in the United States Army. Tom was employed as a

truck driver for Georgia Pacific and Ideal Industrial Supply until 1992. Tom owned the Glenmore Resort in Tower prior to purchasing the Tower Cafe in 1994. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, skiing, reading, trail riding, playing chess, and coffee with the Liars Club.

Tom is survived by his life companion, Donna Renkosiak of Chicago; sister, Tracy Kupferber; nieces, Kristen Mysliwiec and Michelle O’Keefe; grandnieces and grandnephews, Amelia, Justin, Benjamin and Violet; best friend, Kim McCubbin; the Liars Club; extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and nephew, Jason Mysliwiec.

**Anne H. Wierimaa**

Anne Haugen Wierimaa, 97, child of God, formerly a longtime resident of Orr, died in her sleep at Franciscan Health Center in Duluth on Thursday, June 16, 2022. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 24 at Family of God Lutheran Church in Duluth. Visitation will be one hour prior. Pastors Bob Paulson and Laura Berdahl will officiate. Private family inurnment will take place at the Birch Grove Cemetery in Buyck at a later date. Memorials are preferred to Family of God Lutheran

Church, 4097 Martin Rd., Duluth, MN 55803, or Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries, 1105 E Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802.

A very special thank-you to the staff and residents at Franciscan Health Center for their amazing care and friendship for Anne and her family.

Take time to read Psalm 121 and have “coffee time” with a friend in Anne’s memory.

She will be dearly missed by her daughter, Susan (Loren) Janson; son-in-law, Neil Fredrickson; grandson, Dustin (Malia) Fredrickson; granddaughters, Kristine (Chris) Stanny, Marja (Jake) Stenzel, Karin (Aaron) Hassett and Elsa (Paul) Gould; 13 great-grandchildren; and many dear relatives and friends.

**Martha E. Twite**

Martha Eleanor Bowman Twite, 88, originally of Soudan, passed away on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Waterview Pines in Virginia. The family would like to thank Waterview Pines Nursing Home in Virginia for the care given during her one and a-half-years there. A private gathering will be held by the family at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her daughter, Shirley (Richard) Weiss of Pequot Lakes; son, Robin (Denise) Twite of Cook; daughter, Heidi (Dean) Bialik of Delta Junction, Alaska; son, Galen Twite of Virginia; 12 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

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Northern Community Radio

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KBXE


91.7fm - Grand Rapids  
90.5fm - Bemidji  
89.9fm - Brainerd  
kaxe.org

**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

**PESHEL**  
**ACCOUNTING**



218-365-2424

1704 E Camp St. | PO Box 89 | Ely, MN 55731 | askjean.net

CHECK OUT askjean.net for current TAX TIPS!

**FREE DENTAL CLEANINGS AVAILABLE**  
*provided by*  
**Ely Community Health Center**

Make an appointment  
call us at  
603-502-2268  
or email us at  
dentalEHC@gmail.com



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.

Hiring Range: \$14.47 to \$18.47/hr (DOQ) and competitive full-time employee benefit package.

TO OBTAIN APPLICATION: Contact Orr City Hall, PO Box 237, Orr, MN 55771, at 218-757-3288; or email orrmn@centurytel.net. Position will remain open until filled.

The City of Orr is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.  
6/17 tfn



City of Tower

SEEKING APPLICANTS

Appointed Councilor

See [www.cityoftower.com/positions-available](http://www.cityoftower.com/positions-available) for job description

Applications available at City Hall  
Deadline Friday, July 1

OPENINGS  
Forestry Board

See <https://cityoftower.com/positions-available> to apply. Deadline Friday, July 1

Published in the Timberjay, June 17 & 24, 2022



Heavy Equipment  
Mechanic

\$23.90 Hourly • Continuous

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
or call 218-726-2422

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 624

MAIL CARRIER

Hiring for full time and possible part time  
position for contract mail route in Babbitt.

Starting pay is \$20/hour plus  
gas mileage with an annual raise.

Must be reliable and have a dependable  
vehicle. Mandatory background check, drug  
test and clean driving record required.

Send resume to [ross.routes790@gmail.com](mailto:ross.routes790@gmail.com)

Published in the Timberjay, June 17 & 24, 2022

POSITION OPENING  
Ely Public Schools  
Assistant Hockey Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Assistant  
Hockey Coach for the 2022-2023 winter sea-  
son. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's Degree preferred;
- Previous coaching experience preferred;
- Must be available for several practices/meets per week from November through March, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Application and full job description is available  
at: <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/job-openings>  
A complete application must include the  
following:

- District Application
- Resume

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

Stipend: \$3,920

Deadline to apply: July 8, 2022; open until  
filled.

Published in the Timberjay, June 24 & July 1, 2022

Legal notices are online  
each week  
at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com)



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting  
at \$35.17/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

PT Unit Clerk/HUC

Wage starting at \$17.36/hr. EMT  
and/or NA cert. required

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook  
(Wage starting at \$14.18/hr.)

Laboratory

FT Medical Lab Tech (Wage starting at  
\$23.38/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist (Wage starting  
at \$26.14/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant  
(Wage starting at \$17.36)

Care Center

FT & PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting  
at \$35.17/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

FT & PT LPN (\$4,000 sign-on bonus)

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting  
at \$17.36/hr - \$1,500 sign-on bonus)

Environmental Services

FT Laundry Aide

FT & Housekeeping and Laundry Aide  
(Wage starting at \$14.10/hr)

TO APPLY:

[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Dream on!"  
5 Clothing pro-  
tector  
8 Greet  
12 Well-read  
folks  
14 Celestial bear  
15 Beatles drum-  
mer before  
Ringo Starr  
16 Algeria's  
neighbor  
17 Occupation,  
for short  
18 Straw hat  
20 Young horses  
23 Printer's blue  
24 New York  
canal  
25 Talkers' mara-  
thon

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41					42	43				44	45	46
47					48							
49					50				51			

- 28 Bankroll  
29 North African  
capital  
30 Josh  
32 Doctor's  
order  
34 Trellis climber  
35 Missing  
36 Mature, as  
fruit  
37 Small porches  
40 Spelldown  
41 Ms.  
Brockovich  
42 Oater setting  
47 "— Lang  
Syne"  
48 Pokey

- 49 Disarray  
50 Toronto's  
prov.  
51 Artist Bonheur

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- 9 "I smell —!"  
10 Cruise stop  
11 Hideaway  
13 Baseball stats  
19 Lummoxes  
20 Hardly any  
21 Verbal  
22 Opera set in  
Egypt  
23 Is able to, old-  
style  
25 "Recognize  
my voice?"  
26 Omit  
27 Fork prong  
29 Sporty car  
roof  
31 Lion's home

- 33 Light-headed  
folks?  
34 TV audience  
member  
36 Some wines  
37 Line of fash-  
ion?  
38 Verifiable  
39 Monet's sup-  
ply  
40 Inky stain  
43 Charged bit  
44 Id counterpart  
45 "Mayday!"  
46 Former Delta  
rival

ADVERTISEMENT  
FOR BIDS

PROJECT NO: RENJ21-04

OWNER: CITY OF TOWER,  
MINNESOTA

SEALED BIDS FOR: 2022  
VERMILION RV PARK SITE  
DEVELOPMENT including  
the approximate quantities:

Mobilization; Clearing  
and Grubbing; Common  
Excavation — 1,540 Cu. Yd.;  
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.;

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  
Establishment

Bids will be received by City  
of Tower, Michael Schultz,  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City Hall  
(602 Main Street, Tower, MN  
55790) until 1:00 P.M. local  
time Friday, July 8th, 2022,  
and then at said office publicly  
opened and read aloud.

The information for Bidders,  
Form of Bid, Form of Contract,  
Plans and Specifications,  
and Forms of Bid Bond,  
Performance and Payment  
Bond, and other contract doc-  
uments may be examined at

Benchmark Engineering, Inc.,  
8878 Main Street, Mountain  
Iron, MN 55768.

Copies may be obtained  
at the office of Benchmark  
Engineering Inc. upon pay-  
ment of \$50.00 (non-refund-  
able, sales tax included).  
Electronic documents are  
available from QuestCDN,  
Project No. 8231017 for  
\$25.00 (non-refundable, sales  
tax included).

The Owner reserves the right  
to waive any informality or to  
reject any or all bids.

Each Bidder must deposit,  
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  
clearly labeled on the outside.

All applicable state laws rela-  
tive to wage rates shall apply  
on this project. Contractors  
will be required to submit pay-  
roll reports.

No Bidder may withdraw their  
bid within 35 days after the  
actual date of the opening  
thereof.

Michael Schultz

City Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay,  
June 17 & 24, 2022

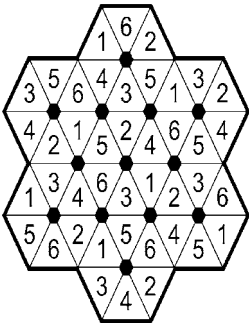
LEGAL NOTICE  
City of Tower  
Publishing of  
Ordinance 82L

An Ordinance regarding  
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-or-  
dinances](https://cityoftower.com/city-or-<br/>dinances)

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Super Crossword

Answers

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

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used  
for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters,  
apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all  
hints. Each week the code letters are different.

IEUSTSRNM RVKQWYH SAM

JRKKVMHH QJ KTJM. TS SREVV

FAUS FM AUBM TVSQ MVQRIA,

UVN XQEM.

— XMKQNZ GMUSSTM

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

AUTOMOTIVE

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
*Full Service  
Auto Repair & Garage*

Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F  
2 Miles South of Tower  
**218-749-0751**

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

CryptoQuote

answer  
Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more.  
— Melody Beattie

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	S	I	F	B	I	B	H	A	I	L
L	I	T	E	R	A	T	I	U	R	S
P	E	T	E	R	E	S	T	M	A	L
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S	T	O	O	P	S	B	E	E		
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A	U	L	D	H	O	O	S	E	G	O
M	E	S	S	O	N	T	R	O	S	A

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MISSING/LOST

MISSING DOCK- 8 ft by 20 ft floating dock, six floats, 2x6 wood decking. First missing in early May from Pike River. If found, please call 218-742-6970. 6/24

FOR SALE

KAYAK FOR SALE- Pamlico145 w Wilderness Systems and 2 paddles: \$650. Can send pictures if you like. text or call: 218-742-7537 . 7/1

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Super Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Binary  
5 GPS guesses  
9 White stuff that falls  
13 Gum rub-on for toothaches  
19 "One-l lama" poet  
21 Sported  
22 Nullify  
23 Start of a riddle  
25 Noteworthy periods  
26 Crony  
27 Fisher of "Star Wars"  
28 U.N. medical agcy. based in Geneva  
29 Words before roll or tear  
30 Hockey glove  
32 Riddle, part 2  
36 "Washboard" muscles  
37 Cut of beef  
38 2001 bankruptcy company  
39 Sushi bed  
40 Squalid room  
42 4.0 is a good one, for short  
45 Golden ager  
47 Riddle, part 3  
54 Tom, Dick and Harry, maybe  
55 Puzzles  
56 Not abridged  
57 Spares no expense  
61 Hack off  
62 Prez after HST  
63 See 42-Down  
64 Noteworthy periods  
65 Riddle, part 4  
69 Bakery buy  
70 Luau souvenir  
71 Prevarication  
73 Flier of myth  
74 Bogs, e.g.  
77 Ice homes  
79 Tel Avivian, for one  
82 Used to be  
83 Riddle, part 5  
89 Skylit lobbies  
90 Put turf on  
91 Give a new hue to  
92 2004-11 Laker Lamar  
95 Place to "dry out"  
98 Be a sign of  
99 Small, as Abner  
100 End of the riddle  
105 Guy  
106 Give a new hue to  
107 Rock producer Brian  
108 Hit the sack  
109 Affront, to a hip-hopper  
110 Java is one  
112 Riddle's answer  
117 Money in the form of coins  
118 Author Wiesel  
119 Player of multiple records, of sorts  
120 "Mad" one in Wonderland  
121 Star studier's sci.  
122 Figure skater Lipinski  
123 Leisure tops  
**DOWN**  
1 Wall Street index  
2 "Yecch!"  
3 Gradually accepts  
4 Release upon to attack  
5 Lieut.'s subordinate  
6 Bit of body art, in brief  
7 Waste barrel  
8 Wheat bundle  
9 Move as an eddy does  
10 "Sorry, I'm in a hurry"  
11 "The Orchid Thief" novelist Susan  
12 Pint-size  
13 Ten squared  
14 Transplant, as a perennial  
15 Of yore  
16 Knighted actor Derek  
17 Of national origins  
18 Alain-René — ("Gil Blas" author)  
20 None at all  
24 Lead-in to lateral  
28 "Orlando" novelist Virginia  
30 Actress Helgenberger  
31 Certain steel girder  
32 Taiwan tea  
33 Feudal estate  
34 2010 Super Bowl MVP  
35 French for "stop"  
37 Horse, when running  
41 Organic part of soil  
42 With 63-Across, boomer's kid  
43 Mile High Center architect  
44 Some Christians  
46 Austrian "a"  
48 New Age pianist John  
49 In a frenzy  
50 Stare stupidly  
51 37th president  
52 Abject fear  
53 Feudal laborers  
57 Former baseball boss Bud  
58 Brand of pasta sauce  
59 One of the boxing Alis  
60 Meadow mother  
62 Meadow mother  
66 Guess qualifier  
67 Petty of "Tank Girl"  
68 Cookie bar from Mars  
69 Lariat  
71 Pillage  
72 "Uncle!"  
75 Collegiatly stylish  
76 Tilt weapon  
78 44th president  
79 Pocatello's state  
80 Psyche part  
81 Went first  
84 Have a link with  
85 Horse's gait  
86 Mistreatment  
87 Nullify  
88 — Stanley Gardner  
92 A bit weird  
93 Place to be pampered  
94 Egg-based dish  
96 They follow Marches  
97 Subject of a 2016 U.K. referendum  
98 With 115-Down, she sang "All Alone Am I"  
101 Lamp spirit  
102 Frisky water animal  
103 Bakery buy  
104 Put up, as a tent  
105 "I — think so!"  
109 Cloning stuff  
111 Make believe  
112 Briny deep  
113 Outmoded TV accessory  
114 "I solved it!"  
115 See 98-Down  
116 Soon-to-be grads: Abbr.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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117								118					119							
120								121										123		





# Spend 4th of July in Tower-Soudan

Celebrate our Nation's Birthday in Tower-Soudan This Year

This Tower-Soudan Fourth of July schedule of events has been brought to you by these community-minded businesses:

- Aronson Boat Works  
Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home  
Benchwarmer's Grille  
Bob's Service & Towing  
Breitung Township  
Broten Construction  
Como Oil & Propane  
D'Erick's Tower Liquors  
Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union  
Fortune Bay Resort Casino  
Frandsen Bank - Tower  
Glenmore Resort  
Gruben's Marina & Village Harbor View  
Health & Wellness  
Janisch Realty  
Lake Vermilion Houseboats  
Lamppa Mfg.  
Langevin Auto  
Little Green Pantry  
Marjo Motel  
Neighbors BBQ  
Nordic Home North  
No. Pine Embroidery  
Northwoods Land Office- Tower  
Northwoods True Value- Tower  
Pier 77 Mini-Golf  
Pike Bay Lodge  
Pike River Products  
Scenic Rivers Medical & Dental  
South Shore Creamery  
Sulu's Espresso Cafe  
Sunrise River Boatworks  
Tech Electric  
The Timberjay  
Tower-Soudan Agency  
Ubetcha Antiques & Uffda Thrift  
Vermilion Club  
Vermilion Fuel & Food/ Soudan Store  
Vermilion Land Office  
Vermilion Park Inn  
Vermilion Senior Living  
Vermilion Storage  
Y Store  
Your Boat Club  
Zup's Grocery - Tower

## Parade – July 4th

Judging begins at 10 a.m.  
at Tower Civic Center parking lot

Honored Citizen  
Phyllis Burgess

Flag Raising at 10:45 a.m.  
at Tower City Hall.  
Come join us and sing along as the Star Spangled Banner is played.

Parade starts at 11 a.m.

### Kiddie Parade

Kiddie Parade lines up between UBetcha and the Birch & Main Bldg (across from City Hall)  
Please be ready by 10:45 a.m.  
All participating children will receive \$5, lanyard, and a flag.  
All children welcome to come march in the parade.  
Decorations welcome but not required!

### Adult Parade Prizes-

Best of Show \$450  
1st \$350 • 2nd \$250 • 3rd \$150  
Best Family Float \$100 • Most Patriotic Float \$100 • Best Business/Commercial \$100

Please Pre-Register Parade Floats/Entries with  
Julie Johnson (218) 750-7242 or  
tseventsboard@gmail.com

## July 2nd

Fireworks at 10 p.m.  
from the North Hill in Tower

## July 4th

FOOD, FOOD, FOOD...and more!

**Benchwarmer Grille**  
Outdoor food and beverage trailer  
featuring cheeseburgers & fries (Full Menu Indoors)  
Green Machines, Strawberry Daquiris,  
Special Drink Prices • \$1 off malts & shakes

**D'Erick's Beer Garden**  
Pulled Pork and Chicken Sandwiches,  
Hot Dogs, Green Machines, Beer, Pop & Water.  
Bloody Mary Garden. Beanbags all weekend.

**Sulu's Espresso Cafe**  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Hot dogs and brats, lemonade,  
Coffee drinks, baked goods, sandwiches inside

**Pins 'n' Needles**  
Free Hot Dogs & Beverage for Children after the Parade!  
Hot dogs donated by Randy & Carol Semo/Good Ol' Days  
Grand Opening celebration for Pins 'n' Needles (old Legion Building, across from Bob's Service)  
Temporary tattoos, free pig roast (while it lasts!),  
raffle drawing for free tattoo and other prizes

**Little Green Pantry**  
Cold drinks & snacks at  
615 Main Street Building

Check out all the Food Booths on Main Street

## Monday, July 4th

39th Vermilion Walk & Run  
Starts on Main Street • 8 a.m.  
(Lake Vermilion Cultural Center lawn)

10K Run- 8:00 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk 8:05 a.m.  
1-Mile Kids Fun Run- 8:15 a.m.

Free race shirt (while supplies last) and Vermilion Run stickers for all participants. Race courses are slightly different this year due to construction on the Mesabi Trail. Race will start/end at same spot!

### Pregister:

Pick up a registration form at the Timberjay office or email  
jsummit@vermilioncountry.org  
Questions, Call Jodi Summit  
at (218) 753-2950

Register on race day from  
6:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m.

10K or 5K \$15 (\$20 on race day)  
Kids Fun Run is FREE • 5K Family Rate is \$40.  
Kids 12 & under race free (5K or 10K) with paid adult.

## July 4th

### Children's Races & Sawdust Scramble

12:30 p.m. – Sawdust Scramble  
at the football field (west end)

Children's Races at the school field –  
following the Sawdust Scramble  
Be sure to thank the race volunteers!

- 6-yard dash ages 2-3 (boys & girls races)
- 10-yard dash ages 4-5 (boys & girls races)
- 20-yard dash ages 6-7 (boys & girls races)
- 50-yard dash ages 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (boys & girls races)
- Backwards Race (boys & girls races) ages 2-3, 4-5, 6
- Wheelbarrow Race (boys & girls races) ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14
- Sack Race (boys & girls races) ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14
- Adult Races: Prizes for 1st, 2nd, ages 15-25 and 26 & up
- He/She Race, Water Balloon Toss

Actual races subject to change & new races may be added!

## Monday, July 4

### Pancake Breakfast

Tower Civic Center  
8 - 10:30 a.m. • \$10 adults, \$5 kids 8 & under  
Pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee

Sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club

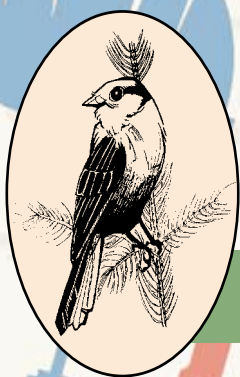
❖❖ July 2nd BBQ ❖❖  
4 - 7 p.m. • \$8 suggested donation (5 & under free)  
Seating indoors or outdoors, take-outs available  
All proceeds to benefit the Tower Area Ambulance

## Sunday, July 3

from 12 - 3 p.m.  
**Community Picnic**  
Breitung Recreation Area  
in Soudan

Sponsored by Breitung Township  
Free community picnic, hot dogs, popcorn,  
root beer floats, games and fun for all ages.  
4th of July Raffle Drawing will be held





# HOME IMPROVEMENT

## ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION

### A deep dive into home renovation

When the home improvement DIY gene steals 18 months of your life

It was several years ago that I told myself in no uncertain terms that my major home improvement days were behind me. I knew small projects and the endless task of maintenance were inevitable since it comes with the territory when you’re a homeowner and a DIYer, like myself. But the big, all-encompassing, months-long projects that become like an obsession with me, were going to be no more.

Yeah, right.

Enter that phase of life known as elder care. As I wrote last year in our Home Improvement section, in the fall of 2020, we hijacked my elderly father, then 96 and suffering from Alzheimer’s, and moved him temporarily to assisted living in Tower. We then sold his house in Plymouth and bought another one, for half the price, on North Third St., in Tower. A good friend and my sister moved in with him, mostly just to be

there. My father has no short-term memory, so every day is incredibly disorienting and having someone in the house to answer his endless and repetitive questions helps keep him as content as he can be under the circumstances.

It’s worked out fairly well, so when the house across the street went on the market in the late winter of 2021, we bought that one for my 86-year-old mother, who had been living in Grand Rapids. I figured having both parents, who had split over 40 years earlier in a bitter divorce, in close proximity would make it easier to watch over both of them.

Unlike my father’s house, which was move-in ready, the house we bought for my mother had issues — lots of issues. But the price was right and my sister convinced me we could

See **DIY...**pg. 2C



MARSHALL  
HELMBERGER



A once dark and depressing upstairs has been converted into a bright and comfortable living space.

photo by M. Helmburger



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DIY...Continued from page 1C



Above: The front entryway used to open into a bathroom, with orange shag carpeting on the floor and stairs. The carpeting was replaced with tile and an arched doorway leading to the living room.

Left: The original kitchen with the former mudroom in the background. It's now been opened up and redone from top to bottom.

do the work to transform the two-story colonial into the house of my mother's dreams. We had no idea what we were getting ourselves into.

It's been a massive undertaking, far beyond what I could have imagined. When I wrote about it last year, we had really just started the project,

with the focus on initial demolition. It seemed like an overwhelming project at the time, one that I indicated was almost certain to occupy my summer. It turned out that it occupied my summer, fall, winter, and now most of this spring. By the end of the summer, we'll probably be more or less done.

We spent an entire year redoing the home's interior. First, we ripped out almost everything. The house had been a confusing array of oddly configured rooms. The front entry featured a toilet, which could have been handy in the odd emergency, but definitely wasn't what my mother, who likes every-

thing just so, was looking for. The living and dining rooms featured dark, 1970s vintage wood paneling, complete with the patina of years of cigarette smoke. There was still orange shag carpeting, pretty worn in places, over the original hardwood floors.

The kitchen probably dated back to the 1940s,

and included mostly wasted space. There was a long, narrow, separate room, which had been an addition at some point, just off the kitchen. We called it the mud room and its floor was sagging and appeared to be supported primarily by wishful thinking. In the middle of the floor was a large hole and if you peered down it, you realized it was the start of a steep stairway to the basement. There were no walls or railings along the descent, which must have made it a challenge for the elderly man who had lived there for years

and heated with wood he fed into a huge old wood-oil combination boiler in the basement.

Most of that heat must have gone right out the roof. When we looked at the attic, there was two inches of old cellulose insulation tops. We learned later that the three tiny, second floor bedrooms had been freezing and were mostly unused in the winter months.

We also quickly realized that most of the wiring was knob and tube (the inspector had informed us

See next page...

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MORE...Continued from page 2C



of that). There were a few newer circuits, but it turned out it was just easier to redo everything, so we added a nearly complete rewiring to the to-do list.

My mother wanted an open design, so one of the first tasks was demo. I had learned from a pre-

vious project that there are few things worse than demolishing walls made of plaster and lath. The dust and the amount of debris it generated was incredible. We salvaged what wood we could and the rest went to the dump one pickup load at a time.

We converted three bedrooms upstairs into a large master and a sitting room, separated by a hundred-year old set of French doors my mother and sister found in Two Harbors.

We worked in stages, focusing first on the second floor, where my mother

Above: The main floor in progress after plaster and lath demolition. Here, I'm sizing up the plan for removing bearing walls to replace with headers that we eventually converted into the beams, pictured at left.

would essentially hide out while we undertook the renovations on the first floor. We tore out the lone radiator, that had provided the only heat for the second floor, and replaced it with electric baseboard. We added large new windows to bring in more light and totally redid the upstairs bath, with the exception of the bathtub. We added off-white carpeting and tile to replace the badly deteriorated wood flooring.

Once we had the second-floor wiring strung,

DRYWALL TIPS



The knock-down method

If you haven't heard of the knock-down method for texturing drywall, it's worth considering for a couple very good reasons.

It looks great, and it's easy.

I've always preferred the look of textured walls and ceilings, so when I realized that it was easy to do and virtually eliminated the need for sanding, it's become the only method I use on drywall.

You can find an instructional video on YouTube, but there are three basic steps to the method.

First, mud your seams and screw holes, but don't worry about making it perfect. Once you apply the texture, those little imperfections that would be obvious on a flat wall virtually disappear.

Second, apply your sheetrock mud in an irregular pattern across the wall surface. I typically use a large, stiff-bristled brush to do this. I add a bit more water than usual to my mud to thin it. Then, I dip the brush into the mud tray and apply the mud to the wall. Just touch the wall with the brush firmly and keep moving the brush around as you cover the wall. Don't smear it with the brush. You'll want to see little tufts of mud. Then let the mud set slightly. I usually give it about 20-30 minutes, depending on the humidity.

Third, come back with your taping knife and just lightly graze over the wall's surface. You want to knock down those little peaks of mud, but not all the way. It might take a few attempts before you get the hang of it, but that doesn't matter. You can always redo an area if you don't like how it came out the first time. The knock-down method is very forgiving.

Once you've knocked things down, you're practically done, other than priming and painting. You'll want to give it a very light sanding to just knock down any little places you missed and get rid of any loose mud, but that's a quick and easy job compared to the multiple rounds of sanding typical for achieving an acceptable look on a flat wall.

See next page...

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PROJECT...Continued from page 3C



Above: The living room, still a work in progress, is still lacking some of its final wall decor.

Right: My mother’s upstairs sitting room, just off what is now the master bedroom (below right), created out of what used to be two very small bedrooms.

much of which went through the attic, we had 18 inches of cellulose blown in to bring the R-value up to R-60. That made a tremendous difference. The old drafty upstairs was now incredibly warm and cozy and the baseboard heaters ran so infrequently, they barely registered on my mother’s electric bill. If there’s one message to take home here, it’s insulate, insulate, insulate. It’s good for the environment and the payback is practically immediate and just keeps adding up over time.

We refinished all the walls that remained and the ceilings, which my sister finished using the “knock-down drywall method,” a look that I’ve always preferred to flat walls. The fact that it’s more forgiving of

the occasional imperfection just makes it even better. Even so, it was a major undertaking, but my sister just kept at it. Everything was painted in white or off-white. We added a few little design features, such as the arched alcove tucked into a wall that just thrilled my mother and turned what had been a depressing, dark, and cold living space into a cozy and inviting place.

We had the upstairs largely finished by late fall, which is when we turned our attention to the main level, where the real work began.

We gutted more walls, added one-inch foam sheets to any exterior walls we opened up, which was most of them. At some point, the previous homeowner had had a cellulose-like

material blown into the walls, so the addition of an inch of foam on the inside, followed by sheetrock, made for a very acceptable R-value on the exterior shell.

We realigned the first-floor bathroom, so it’s accessible off the fully remodeled kitchen and the toilet isn’t the first thing you see when entering the front door. Instead, we put in a Mediterranean-look tile in the new entry, along with an arched doorway into the living room. We pulled out a suspended ceiling throughout to give us higher ceilings.

We moved the laundry from the basement to the redesigned bath off the kitchen, so my mother no longer has to go into the basement, at least for



day-to-day purposes. We opted to keep the electric range that came with the house, which was fairly new, even though it was a bit small. The older refrigerator, which was an outdated green, would have clashed with the white kitchen décor. But, rather than replace it, my mother painted it white and opted to keep it, at least for now. I converted an older piece of cabinetry that came with the place into a center island to expand the amount of counter space, which was otherwise pretty limited. The rest of the kitchen cabinets—all white— we bought new.

We replaced the linoleum in the kitchen and the



See next page...



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FINAL...Continued from page 4C

bath/laundry area, as well as in the renovated mud room. I bolstered the supports for the mud room floor and leveled it before laying the new floor covering.

We replaced all the first-floor wiring and added an electric sub-panel in the basement to handle the upgrade.

Perhaps, the centerpiece of the first-floor renovation was the removal of most of the walls, including bearing walls, which we replaced with large headers, which I later faced with brushed red oak boards to look like real timbers. A very light oil stain and the result was as nice as we had hoped.

We added new lighting throughout and replaced everything with LEDs.

Throughout the house, we added 1x8 wood baseboard with a decorative top molding and incorporated crown molding at the top of the walls, which really dressed things up.

I struggled on how to heat the main floor. My mother obviously wasn't interested in burning wood and as oil prices jumped over the winter, running



The half-bath and laundry room are located just off the kitchen, eliminating the need to go into the home's basement for day-to-day needs.

the boiler with fuel oil became pretty onerous. By late winter, we let the fuel oil run out and she relied on a couple electric space heaters to keep things comfortable. In the end, I opted to rip out the remaining hot water baseboard on the main floor and replaced it with electric. My brother and I crunched the numbers and determined that heating with electric, particularly

with the greatly increased insulation in the house, wouldn't break the bank. In fact, it should come in considerably less than with fuel oil, and we won't have to keep tabs on the fuel tank level, which was just one of the many tasks I had taken on.

We hired out some of the work, including the attic insulating, a job which included spray foaming the

rim joists in the basement. We also hired a carpenter to install the second-floor windows, and an electrician to install the sub-panel. Floor to Ceiling installed new carpeting in two rooms and the main staircase. Other than that, it was a DIY project from start to finish.

I have to admit, there were times the project left me feeling overwhelmed. I've experienced that on

other DIY projects that become all-consuming and devoting so many hours to this project meant I fell behind on needed maintenance at home. It seems the more I work, the longer the to-do list grows. I think I need a clone, so I could, perhaps, get a day off.

In the end, of course, as the interior portion of the project neared completion, there was an enormous amount of satisfaction at the remarkable transfor-

mation in the house. The interior really is the house my mother always dreamed of owning and it meets my objective, of improving the local housing stock for the long-term. And, as I mentioned earlier, we might even be finished with the project by the end of summer. Then it will be time to start in on my father's house...

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KEEP IT LOOKING GREAT

Here’s how to maintain your hardwood floors

REGIONAL — Hardwood floors have long been sought after by home buyers. In its 2019 “Remodeling Impact Report,” the National Association of Realtors® revealed that new wood flooring was the fourth most popular project to attract buyers.

Of course, hardwood floors aren’t just for buyers. Homeowners who already have hardwood floors know just how impressive these floors can be, especially when they’re well maintained. Maintaining wood floors is not necessarily as straightforward as it may seem, and homeowners may benefit from a tutorial on how to keep the floors under their feet looking good.

To polish or not to polish?

Polishing floors is an inexpensive way to keep them looking good. But the home improvement experts at BobVila.com



note that not all floors can be polished, and determining which ones can depends on the finish. Floors with

waterproof barriers such as urethane will benefit from routine polishing. However, floors with pen-

etrating finishes like tung oil will need to be waxed rather than polished.

What finish is on the floor?

The Hardwood Distributor’s Association recommends a simple way for homeowners to determine which type of finish is on their hardwood floors. Homeowners are advised to rub a finger across the floor. If no smudge appears, then the floor is surface sealed. If a smudge is created, then the floor has been treated with a penetrating seal. The HDA also notes that recently installed wood floors are likely surface sealed.

How often should floors be polished or waxed?

Wood flooring professionals recommend polishing floors that can be polished once every few months. Waxing wood floors does not need to be done as frequently, and most can benefit from a fresh coat of wax every 12

to 18 months.

What can I do on a daily basis?

Some simple tricks and daily maintenance can help wood floors maintain their impressive look.

- Utilize floor mats. The HDA notes that floor mats near entryways can reduce the time it takes to clean hardwood floors and reduce the wear and tear they endure. For example, tiny particles like dirt can scratch the floor and contribute to the kind of minor damage that adds up to significant scarring over time. Floor mats near entryways ensures that most of that dirt never makes it to the wood floors.

- Vacuum without a beater bar. Some vacuums contain beater bars, which are designed to pick up human hair, dog hair and other things that conventional vacuums may not be able to pick up. The HDA advises vacuuming without the beater bar, as it can con-

tribute to small scratches in the floor. Sweeping with a high-quality broom or microfiber cloth is another way to pick up dirt without damaging floors.

- Use manufacturer-recommended cleaning products. Local home improvement stores sell a host of hardwood floor cleaning products, but the HDA notes that many flooring manufacturers now sell their own hardwood floor cleaners designed specifically for their floors. These products are likely homeowners’ best bets. Homeowners who can’t find them can seek recommendations from a local flooring retailer.

Hardwood floors are attractive for many reasons. And they look even more stunning, and last much longer, when homeowners make an effort to maintain them.

THINKING IT THROUGH

Are you really up for doing it yourself?

REGIONAL — A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired

many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Home improvement videos and television shows

have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it’s best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should

always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners are the same, but the following three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

1. Can I afford to DIY?

Professional home

improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to

purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes. Projects that are minor in scope and don’t require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

2. Do I have the time?

Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

3. Can I pull this off?

DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it’s imperative that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack of renovation experience does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals.

Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they’re ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.

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UPDATING

# Signs it’s time for a kitchen overhaul

REGIONAL — Remodeling a kitchen adds value to a home. *Remodeling* magazine’s “Cost vs. Value Report” indicates mid-range kitchen remodels cost about \$66,000, and homeowners can expect to recover about 60 to 80 percent of that cost at resale.

Homeowners may wonder if remodeling their kitchen is worth the investment. But homeowners should not just consider cost, but also the current conditions of their kitchen when deciding if a renovation project is the right move to make. These signs indicate it may be time to renovate a kitchen.

➤ Breakers are triggered: If the lights go dark from a tripped circuit breaker every time you try to microwave and run the toaster oven at the same time, your wiring is likely not up to the task



of handling the workload and could be out of date. A kitchen remodel will assess wiring load needs and an electric overhaul may be necessary.

➤ Lack of storage: One of the biggest hassles homeowners encounter in their kitchen is a lack of storage space. If making a meal involves a Jenga-like stacking and rearranging of kitchen tools, or if an

avalanche occurs whenever you search for an item, you might need more storage. A carefully planned redesign can achieve this, even in a smaller kitchen.

➤ Outdated appliances: Even if your appliances are not avocado green or mustard yellow relics of the 1970s, they might still need to be replaced. According to CRD Design, appliances are only expected to last

around 10 to 15 years. If appliances have become unsafe or energy hogs, it could be time for a remodel.

➤ Family is expanding (or shrinking): Kitchens often are the heart of a home. They need to meet the needs of the family that resides in that home. A remodel can add space as needed. On the flip side, when a couple becomes empty nesters, kitchens

can be redesigned and downsized to reflect their new needs and desires, such as the addition of a wine chiller or espresso station.

➤ Poor lighting: Task lighting is essential in a kitchen, but older homes may not be equipped with lighting where it’s most needed. A carefully designed remodel can improve lighting with under-cabinet lights, pen-

dants, overhead lighting and even natural light to make the space attractive and more functional.

➤ Frequent run-ins: The notion that you can have too many cooks in the kitchen refers to having too many people trying to pitch in or offer their opinions. However, it also can apply to when too many people are gathering in a small space. Redesigning a kitchen can improve the efficiency of a space and make the room feel larger.

➤ Aesthetic appeal: Many kitchen remodels have been inspired by unsightly kitchens. Cosmetic changes can lead to big improvements.

Kitchen renovations can add instant appeal and help address issues that tend to plague outdated rooms.

## Safety upgrades for seniors’ homes

REGIONAL — Many seniors want to spend as long as possible residing in the comforts of their own homes. According to AARP’s 2021 “Home and Community Preferences Survey,” more than three-quarters of U.S. adults age 50 and older prefer living at home. But getting older often comes with certain deficits that may not make current living situations the safest for seniors.

Retirement Living reports that an older person is treated in an emergency room for a fall-related injury nearly once every 10 seconds. Falls cause millions of injuries and 32,000 deaths a year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Seniors may be affected by low vision, mobility limitations, cognitive decline, balance issues, and loss of muscle strength. Certain adaptations may be necessary if seniors want to stay in their homes, particularly in older homes that have not recently been renovated.

**Change knobs to levers:** This is an easy modification. Levers are much easier for individuals with arthritis or persons who lack dexterity in their hands. Everything from doorknobs to faucet knobs can be replaced with levers.

**Create zero-threshold entryways:** Zero-threshold entryways, also known as flush entries, do not require crossing a lip or any raised barrier. They can appear on doorways and showers and make it easy for people who have mobility issues, as well as those using scooters, walkers and

wheelchairs, to move about unencumbered.

**Clear clutter/move obstructions:** One inexpensive modification is to remove extraneous furniture and accessories. Such a change widens walking spaces in a room and accommodates walkers and wheelchairs. In addition, furniture can be pushed to the room’s perimeter to make moving around easier. It’s also important to remove area rugs, as they’re often tripping hazards.

**Install grab rails :** Minimizing falls could come down to providing

support in key rooms of a home. Adding grab rails in the bathroom near the toilet and in the shower can help a person use those facilities without assistance. Install a grab rail close to seating in the kitchen to add support.

**Consider smart lighting:** Motion-activated or darkness-activated lighting switches and fixtures can automatically turn on lights, thereby improving visibility. Also, rocker light switches are easier to maneuver than standard toggles.



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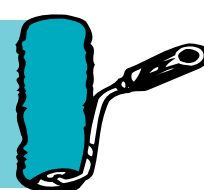
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\*Qualifying system purchase requires minimum \$599.99 equipment purchase, professional installation and applicable services agreement. DIY system purchases and reactivations of previously installed systems not eligible for offer. Offer not available in all states or provinces. Equipment purchase may be financed separately subject to an agreement with one of Vivint's third-party financing partners. Monthly \$14.98 cellular network maintenance fee applies. Taxes and local permit fees may apply. New Vivint Customers only. Financing eligibility and terms subject to credit approval by one of Vivint's third-party financing partners. Qualified customers may finance equipment purchase at 0% APR for up to 60 months. Month-to-month service agreement available when equipment is purchased upfront. System supports up to six cameras subject to sufficient WiFi speeds. Without a Vivint services plan, product and system functionality is limited (including loss of remote connectivity). Speak to a Vivint representative at the phone number in this offer for complete equipment, services, and package details, including pricing and financing details. Products and services in Louisiana provided by Vivint Louisiana Commercial Certificate #58260. See comprehensive Vivint license numbers on Vivint.com.



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