

Inside: Greenwood sets levy... See /7 Local barkeep retiring... See /1B Too much noise outside... See /2B **Vermilion Powwow...**See /9B

IMBERIAY **VOL. 33, ISSUE 25**

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

July 1, 2022

\$1²⁰

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Swanson draws

tributes from

school board

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

Troy Swanson, of Tower, who died on Monday at the age of 55.

history of health struggles over the

years remained as

enthusiastic and

with Swanson.

The meeting opened with a moment silence for Swanson, who despite a long

Members tackle budget,

agenda with heavy hearts

VIRGINIA- While the ISD 2142 school board had a full agenda for Tuesday's meeting, they took some time at the beginning and end of the session to remember one of their own, board member

Troy Swanson

committed to his educational responsi-

bilities as he was when first elected to the

board in January 2011 as a strong critic of

the district's 2009 restructuring. Among

other things, that restructuring resulted

in the closure of the Tower-Soudan High

School, as well as K-12 schools in Cook

and Orr, which had all been sore points

period came around at the end of the

meeting, Manick offered the most effusive

praise for his fellow board member. He

said that he called Swanson's daughter

and was able to speak to him in the hours

before he passed. And reflective of the close and respectful relationship the pair had, Manick was able to bring some smiles and laughter to the room as he described

When the board member comment

Passing of

DISINFORMATION

A clash of viewpoints

Conservative candidates rally around fraud claims

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY- Two very different views of the 2020 election clashed at times on the sidewalks of downtown Ely this past Saturday morning, as about 150 area residents turned out for showings of the controversial film, "2000 Mules,"

EDITORIAL GOLUMN

▶2000 Mules a minefield of gaping holes. Page 4

at Ely's Historic State Theater.

A little over a dozen protestors gathered out front to state their opposition to the film and its suggestion that the 2020 presidential election was stolen by voter fraud perpetrated by shadowy nonprofit organizations.

According to the film, those groups, which were left mostly unnamed, deployed delivery people, or "mules" to bring ballots to drop boxes deployed in a number of states, including key

See...FILM pg. 15



Protestors gathered outside of Ely's Historic State Theater Saturday morning as the city's mayor, Roger Skraba, candidate for the Minnesota House 3A seat, made his way inside to view the controversial political film, "2000 Mules." photo by K. Vandervort



INDEPENDENCE DAY 2022

Ely 'Rocks the Park'

ELY - Ely's Fourth of July celebration looks to be a weekend affair this July celebration includes three days year with the addition of a new music of fun and special events. While the event to go along with all the traditional favorites as the community celebrates the 246th birthday of America.

Rock the Park will be held Saturday, July 2, in Whiteside Park. Two musical Ernster, will hopefully appeal to a broad audience, according to Ely Deputy Clerk Casey Velcheff, a member of the city's Fourth of July organizing committee.

'We hope to make this new entertainment an annual event," she told council

See...ELY pg. 14

3 days of fun in Tower

TOWER - This year's Fourth of pancake breakfast, 5K/10K Run, Parade, and Children's races are all set for Monday, July 4, there are special events starting on Saturday, July 2.

There will be a barbecue dinner acts, the Northwoods Band and Steve fundraiser for the Tower Ambulance Service on Saturday from 4-7 p.m. at the Tower/Herb Lamppa Civic Center. Fireworks will be shot off from the north hill in Tower later that evening, at dusk, or approximately 10 p.m.

Sunday, July 3 features the annual

Orr hosts Fun Day

ORR - For those who want a jump start on their Fourth of July festivities, head over to Orr on Sunday, July 3 for the annual July 3rd Fun Day.

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.

If you are not ready to start your

See...ORR pg. 14





part of what he said to Swanson. "He helped me with my failed county commissioner campaign. His daughter put me on speaker phone, and he could hear but he couldn't respond," Manick said. "So, of course, I had to give him some grief that

of him. He truly was a genius, you know. I'm going to miss Troy." Member Chet Larson lauded

I think the only reason I lost was because

Swanson's perseverance despite his health.

See...2142 pg. 10

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Community notices

The Ely Climate Change Group hosts joint presentation by local experts

ELY - The Ely Climate Change group welcomes speakers Valerie Myntti and Tom Omerza to speak on climate change action and the impact of local banking at the Grand Ely Lodge on Tuesday, July 5 at 10 a.m.

The event will cover ways citizens can take climate action by minimizing their carbon footprint, voting for climate activists for political office, and by joining the Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign. Valerie Myntti will give a presentation and lead discussion on Fossil Fuel Divestment. Myntti will also talk about the History of Divestment Movements, the Policy Objectives of Fossil Fuel Divestment, and the Nuts & Bolts of Personal Divestment. Local banker, Tom Omerza, will offer a perspective on community banking and investment policies. This event is free and open to the public.

Upcoming naturalist programs scheduled at McCarthy Beach State Park

SIDE LAKE - On Thursday, July 7 from 1-2 p.m. there will be a "Mussel Popup Table" located at the beachside picnic tables. The pop up will include a short chat about the Mussels of Minnesota. Visitors can learn about all these overlooked organisms have to offer and grab a free poster. Also on July 7 from 3-4 p.m. is "Art of the Catch" meeting at the McCarthy Beach Picnic Shelter. The "Art of the Catch" program will introduce attendees to "Gyotaku" an ancient Japanese art of making a print of fish on paper. Later, this method was used by catch and release anglers to document their catch before cameras. Attendees will get to make a fish print postcard to bring home. Reservations required. To sign up, email Laila at minnaqua.mccarthybeach@state.mn.us or call 218-247-7204 or come into the park office.

On Friday, July 8 from 9 – 10:30 a.m. "Lake Shore Trail Phenology Walk" meets at Sturgeon Lake parking lot. Phenology is the study of seasonal changes in the natural world. Join a naturalist for a 1.5 hour long guided hike to observe how nature changes throughout time and look at the plant growth, the constant erosion of the soil and the ways the trees are changed by their environment. Also on July 8, from 3-4 p.m. visitors to the park can attend, "Learn Your Lures" which meets at the McCarthy Beach Picnic Shelter. Attendees to this event will learn what makes fish bite, and attendees will make their own lures (out of non-sharp objects). All ages and abilities are welcome to come learn about lures. Reservations are required to sign up. Email Laila at minnaqua.mccarthybeach@state.mn.us or call 218-274-7204 or come into the office.

Saturday July 9 naturalist events include "Aquatic Food Webs Popup" from 10-11 a.m. meeting at the McCarthy Beach Visitor Center. Visitors can learn about the complex ways to get caught up in fishy food webs at this popup table. In the afternoon, from 2-4 p.m. "Macroinvertebrate Mayhem" meets at the McCarthy Beach picnic shelter. Attendees can learn about how naturalists around the world keep track of a lake's health. There will be games and getting a little dirty with collection, so be sure to bring muckers.

State Theater screens After Antactica Documentary July 8

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

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.

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.

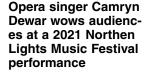
NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Northern Lights Music Festival kicks off season in July

REGIONAL - The Northern Lights Music (NLMF) Festival nounced its 19th season of bringing professional classical music to the Iron Range from July 1-24. Offerings in July will include Mozart's opera, The Magic Flute, in two versions: a full-length opera; and a one-hour adaptation for children.

The Northern Lights Music Festival opens on July 2, with a gala chamber music event featuring some of the star instrumentalists who will be performing throughout the season. More than 25 events will be produced and presented throughout the month, in: Aurora, Virginia's B'nai Abraham Cultural Center, Chisholm High School, Buhl Public Library, and Hibbing High School. Chamber Music, orchestral concerts and opera events will allow residents and visitors to enjoy sitting in some of the most beautiful venues in the world, including the recently renovated B'nai Abraham Synagogue; and, of course, the historic Iron Range school auditoriums in Hibbing, Chisholm and Aurora.

The NLMF Concerto Competition will be held at Mesabi East on July 3. The winners of this competition will perform with the NLMF Orchestra at Hibbing High School Auditorium on Friday, July 22 at 7 p.m. In addition to NLMF's Festive Fourth! concert, NLMF will also offer a series of lectures and concerts called Working the Range, which highlight the industries that helped to create the history of this fascinating region. To celebrate the Fourth of July, NLMF's traditional Festive Fourth! concert will be presented at Aurora's Mesabi East high school on Monday, July 4 at 4 p.m. For more event and schedule information, visit www.northernlightsmusic.org/2022-schedule.





DFL candidate Schultz to appear for meet-and-greet

COOK - Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, Jen Schultz, will be the featured guest at a meet and greet on Wednesday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cook Community Center located at 510 Gopher Drive in Cook. The meeting is open to the public.

Schultz is challenging incumbent Pete Stauber to represent Minnesota's 8th Congressional District. She is a professor of health care economics at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where she is the co-director of the Health Care Management Program. Schultz is currently

serving her fourth term in the Minnesota House and serves as Chair of House Human Services Finance & Policy Committee, where she has advanced measures to improve access to affordable healthcare and reduce prescription drug prices. She also serves on the Ways & Means, Taxes, Health Finance, and Redistricting Committees.

The July 6 program includes a talk by Representative Schultz, followed by a question and

answer period. Light refreshments will be served.

The meeting is sponsored by Northern Progressives, a citizens group that promotes civic engagement and social action in Northern St. Louis County. For more information about this event contact Leah Rogne at 612-570-0188 or leah. rogne@gmail.com.

Operation Round Up® gives more than \$57,000 to community programs

COHASSET-Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's members, participating the Operation Round Up® Electric Trust Board recently approved \$57,115 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 44 grant applications and distributed funds to 42 projects and programs this past quarter. Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$2.9 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs.

Most Recent Recipients in our area include: St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, funds for binoculars for incident response; Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (Camp Hiawatha), funds for septic field refunds for tents at Embarrass Region Fair; Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (Camp Vermilion), funds for EpiPens and first aid packs; Project Care Free Clinic, funds for basic healthcare for uninsured and underinsured; Northern Lights Music Festival, funds for the music festival season; Farmstead Artisans, funds to update the museum coffee center and visiting area; **Itasca County Family** YMCA, funds for youth

room; Washington Elementary School P.I.E., funds for eighth annual Light Up The Night run/ walk; Ely Folk School, funds for Kids Makers placement; Embarrass Mornings; Well Being Region Fair Association, Development/Northern Lights Clubhouse, funds for transportation, food support, technology access; Orr Volunteer Fire Department, funds for turnout gear for volunteer firefighters; Northern Lakes Arts Association, funds for children's theater accessible for all

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. Among Lake Country Power's 43,000 members, nearly 64 percent of all active electric accounts participate in the program through voluntary contributions. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up® program by calling the cooperative at 800-421-9959 or using an online form at lakecountrypower.coop. Applications are available online at www.lakecountrypower.coop/My Cooperative/Community/Operation Round Up®. The next application deadline is August 15.



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Federal EA released on mineral withdrawal

U.S. Forest Service now seeking public comment on environmental analysis

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL-The U.S. Forest Service is now seeking public comment on an environmental analysis of its proposed 20-year withdrawal of approximately 225,000 acres within the Superior National Forest from the federal mineral leasing program.

The analysis is just a step in the process of assessing the merits of the Forest Service's October 2021 request for the withdrawal, which encompasses a portion of the Rainy River watershed located near Ely, and upstream of the Boundary Waters. The final decision on the withdrawal is in the hands of the U.S. Department of the Interior and its Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the federal minerals leasing program. The withdrawal would not affect private or state-owned mineral rights in the affected area.

The Forest Service's EA is lengthy, encompassing hundreds of pages, 19 separate resource reports that encompass everything from impacts to the

cultural effects.

Such analyses are information-gathering tools and the document makes no clear recommendation. It is primarily a restatement of issues related to

Knowing we are one step closer to a 20-year moratorium on toxic mining is reason to celebrate.

Chris Knopf Friends of the Boundary Waters

the decision and a recitation of input from the various sides of the issue, including stakeholders and the public who are both for and against the proposed withdrawal. Much of the input came during the initial 90-day comment period initiated by the Forest Service's

environment to economic and withdrawal application, which included three public meetings and more than 200,000 individual comment letters.

> The analysis considers two alternatives, including the Action Alternative, which would move forward with the temporary withdrawal. The No Action Alternative would maintain the status quo, which would allow continued mineral exploration and possible mining in the area, although it seems unlikely mining would occur during the 20-year period. Antofagasta, which operates Twin Metals and is the only company that has brought forward a current mine plan for the site, no longer has active mineral leases within the proposed withdrawal area. Those leases were canceled by the Biden administration last year.

In terms of environmental and economic impacts, the analysis finds that the impact of the ultimate decision may be less than many in the public expect. The withdrawal would have little impact on mining jobs in the region, in part because "no economic activity from hardrock minerals development is currently occurring in the analysis area," notes the study's section on socioeconomic impacts. "As such, the current structure of local economies would remain unchanged, leaving existing economic trends to continue."

While the study notes that there is a general expectation that mining could be financially viable in the affected area, Antofagasta has not provided financial projections for the proposed operation, at least to date.

On the other hand, the analysis suggests that the region's amenity-based economy could benefit from a withdrawal. "The amenity-based economy could continue its current growth trend or accelerate due to certainty in recreation experience and environmental quality provided by the requested withdrawal for at least 20 years," states the report. "Consumer confidence in the amenity driven-real estate in St. Louis and Lake counties may improve due to beliefs that amenity values would remain intact over the time period of the requested withdrawal. This increased consumer confidence could continue to attract mobile entrepreneurs and professionals supporting a diversity of local economic sectors.'

Supporters of the withdrawal hailed the analysis as an important milestone in the process towards implementation of a mineral withdrawal in the area. "It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news out there," said Chris Knopf, director of the Friends of the Boundary Waters. "But knowing that we are one step closer to a 20-year moratorium on toxic mining on federal land surrounding the Boundary Waters is reason to both celebrate and believe that science, the law, and the popular will, can prevail."

Yet, critics of the proposal blastedtherelease of the document. Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber called the document "politicized" and accused the Biden administration of preferring that "foreign and child slave

See LEASING...pg. 7

EMERGENCY SERVICES

A new home for the Ely ambulance?

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY-City council members here last week agreed to support the Ely Ambulance Service in their efforts to find a new home through the purchase and renovation of an existing building in the downtown business district.

Along with the city of Ely, Morse Township, Fall Lake Township and the city of Winton have agreed to chip in the funds necessary to purchase the building at the corner of Central Ave. and Chapman St. that previously housed Kondos Outdoors.

The price to purchase and renovate the building is roughly estimated to be \$620,000. Renovations would be needed to the facility that would serve as

Right: The former Kondo's building may become the new home of the Ely Ambulance Service.

photo by K. Vandervort

a garage for emergency vehicles and living quarters for on-call emergency medical technicians.

The building would be purchased by the Ambulance Joint Powers Board and leased to the Ely Area Ambulance Service. The three principal governmental units would each pay \$200,000 toward the purchase. The city of Winton will reportedly add \$20,000 toward the purchase.

Council member Paul Kess attended a recent ambulance joint powers board meeting and updated Ely officials last week.

'The discussion was that the board found and located a build-



ing that would serve their needs and for considerably less money than building a new facility,"

A proposal for a new ambulance and public safety facility was estimated to cost more than \$3 million. Future expansion plans for the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital will displace the ambulance garage currently located on the southwest corner of the hospital campus.

Kess said the new arrangement would provide a central location for the ambulances and on-call employees that are now housed in rental properties provided by the ambulance service.

The purchase price for the building is \$460,000. Another \$160,000 is estimated for build-

See AMBULANCE...pg. 7

REAL ESTATE



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OPINION

ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Radical justices

"Conservative" is the wrong word for extremists on the U.S. Supreme Court

In the wake of two jaw-dropping, yet hardly unexpected, decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court in the past week, it is clearly time to remake the political lexicon in this country. For decades, the high court has been described by most political observers as "conservative," and for much of that time, such a description was relatively apt.

Not anymore. A conservative court is one that follows precedent and limits its rulings to the issues before it. A conservative court does not make sweeping pronouncements that adversely affect the lives of millions, undermining long-standing constitutional rights or public safety. That is the work of radicals.

The current Roberts' court, since the additions of Samuel Alito, Brett Kavanaugh, Neil Gorsuch, and Amy Coney Barrett, has flipped the script at the high court, having now become the most activist, purely partisan high court in American history. And there's a very real fear that this court will go much further in dismantling the America we have all come to know over the past century. That fear is legitimate because that has long been the goal of well-organized and well-funded entities on the radical right, such as the Federalist Society, which have helped to engineer the legal theories now being implemented by the Roberts' court, as well as advance the legal careers of judges willing to advocate for those unorthodox views.

The Federalist Society claims it is an organization of conservatives and libertarians, but their philosophy is really little more than a mishmash of conflicting ideas that align only in the sense that they always enhance the power of corporations and white Christian evangelists, which have been the primary funders of the organization for years.

In overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Judge Alito, writing for the majority, rejects the notion that Americans have a constitutional right to make decisions regarding reproduction in the privacy of their own homes or doctors' offices and argues that the issue is one that should be decided by the elected representatives of the people, as the founders intended.

Yet, the same court argues exactly the opposite whenever it fits their agenda to take America back to the 1800s.

It was the Roberts' court, after all, that issued the infamous Citizens United decision, in which the high court went far beyond the issue at hand to rule that money equals speech and that corporations could pour unlimited amounts of money into political campaigns. That

overturned decades of bipartisan legislation enacted by Congress in an effort to rein in the effects of big money on our political process. Apparently, the decisions of the elected representatives of the people didn't fit with their mission to increase corporate power, so enacted laws were simply cast aside.

This was the same high court, prevented only by the vote of Chief Justice Roberts himself, that was almost gleeful in trying to overturn the Affordable Care Act, another piece of legislation adopted by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. They've taken similar positions on a wide range of similar issues, from laws on affirmative action to voting rights, in which they're ready and eager to misuse their authority to overturn the will of elected lawmakers.

It was the same with the high court's ruling in the recent New York gun case, where for the first time in our nation's history, the high court determined that individuals have a right to carry guns anywhere they want, with just a few possible exceptions. It was another case where precedent and the right of elected representatives to enact laws to protect public safety, were simply wiped away to advance the court's far-right agenda.

And it won't stop there. This court is also expected to wipe away environmental, workplace safety, public health, and food safety laws by tearing the guts from the Administrative Procedures Act, a 1946 law that established, among other things, the process by which the laws enacted by Congress became regulations enforceable by government agencies.

All but gone with the opinion overturning Roe is the right to privacy that Americans have enjoyed for more than half a century. And in a concurring opinion, Clarence Thomas urges the court to revisit other cases that hinged on the right to privacy, including Griswold v. Connecticut, the 1965 case which overturned a Connecticut law banning the use of contraception. In addition, Thomas puts the right to same-sex marriage on the chopping block as well as the right of same-sex couples to engage in sexual relations.

This kind of legal retrenchment, which in some cases threatens to take the country back a century or more, is unprecedented in American history. A truly radical vision of America is being unleashed by the extremist majority on the Roberts' court and we will be living with the consequences for decades to come.



Letters from Readers

Save your money for factual information

Please be vigilant about our democracy and community. Please ask about motivations and a backstory anytime someone asks for your resources, your time, your money, your labor, your good word, and especially your vote.

Questioning this week why the Ely mayor and a sheriff candidate are hosting a fundraiser on top of a false movie "2000 Mules", which can be watched for free online. If you would like to question our definition of false (and you should as well as listening to the Jan. 6 hearings or the summaries on Minnesota Public Radio), Google the movie's director "Dinesh D'Souza". We can all enjoy fiction from time to time, especially on a Saturday morning. I'll keep my \$12 though for my monthly MPR contribution. Sincerely, concerned about the Information Age.

> Heather Hohenstein Pam Brunfelt Ely

Does the Supreme Court have Sympathy for the Devil?

Sympathy for the Devil was a great tune by the Rolling Stones but that's not what this is about.

Now that the Supreme Court has given the green light to prayer one can't help asking prayer to whom or what?

A god, which god? And what if that prayer is Satanic in nature?

Is the Supreme Court now cool with devil worship?

Will the court identify acceptable god heads?
Asking for a friend.

Asking for a friend **Jeff Wilfahrt Ely**

Court wades into a difficult and personal decision

Perhaps nothing is more complicated or controversial than the issue of abortion, and now the Supreme Court has

judged that the "right to abortion is not given in the constitution." It is up to the states to decide what is legal or not. Many would agree that abortion is a poor choice for contraception because other methods exist to prevent conception in the first place.

However, as we all know

However, as we all know too well, there are always extenuating circumstances in human activities. Always mentioned are "rape, incest, and the life of the mother", as exeptions allowing termination. It is not always so simple.

I have a relative who, with his wife, conceived a child that did not develop organs and brain tissue normally, and would not be viable outside the womb. The parents and their medical team made the very hard decision to terminate the pregnancy. It was not taken lightly by the parents or their other children. Such a procedure at the time was legal in the state they lived in, but if it hadn't been, they might have had to travel elsewhere, even to another country. Should they have had the child anyway and made the expensive decision to try to keep it on life support indefinitely? How would that have been paid for?

Although the U.S. Constitution does give the government the responsibility of the "general welfare" for the nation it is not really specific in this matter. There is no mention of helping factories, businesses or agriculture in the Constitution, or even starting or aiding state-run colleges and universities, but the government does all of that. Tax abatements, tariffs, agriculture crop price and insurance subsidies, and land grants are all ways the government has helped the nation and none of those are mentioned in the Constitution.

Perhaps the conservatives on the Court, in Congress, and in the media might have considered funding for those women who could be convinced to give birth to their babies, helping them with education, job skills, child care, and other needs until they might get on their feet financially. Again, the pressure and responsibility falls upon the woman. Sometimes contraception fails. Sometimes babies do

not form normally. Sometimes people (young and old) give in to passion. If society was more "baby friendly" fiscally and less judgemental, a less hostile environment might result.

I do not understand why the right wing thought leaders are so concerned about protecting the lives of the unborn but are very cavalier about the ease with which one can obtain a military grade weapon and wipe out kids in a school, mall or concert. These children have just started their lives, full of promise.

Conservatives desire "less government" about some things (like rules for obtaining guns, not wearing masks or not getting vaccinations), but then decide that it is going to be criminal to perform abortions, give a person a ride to an abortion, receive an abortion, or sell pharmaceuticals to terminate a pregnancy. That is real government overreach, and a confusing contradiction.

for, consider, and encourage the persons that have to bear the pressure of and results of pregnancy, always the women. No matter the situation, a little kindness and understanding would go a long way to help while undergoing a difficult time and decision.

Again, we must all pray

Mark Roalson Hoyt Lakes

Save the RINOs

The other day when my wife brought up the subject of RINOs, I thought we were getting into a discussion about conservation, the biodiversity crisis and humanity's escalating war on wildlife.

Instead, she was talking politics, and I learned that a RINO is a Republican who has the intelligence to recognize the "Big Lie" for what it is and the courage and integrity in the face of sometimes violent opposition not to perpetuate it or any of the other scandalous nonsense that is the bread and butter of "real" Republicans. On the basis of their rarity and the threats against them, I guess this makes RINOs an endangered species that deserve our protection.

David B. Stanton Cook

"2000 Mules" is a minefield of gaping holes

One of the first things to keep in mind when considering the credibility of the Dinesh D'Souza film, 2000 Mules, which made its way to Ely this past weekend, is that it makes no attempt to get at the truth of the claim that the 2020 election was stolen. It is not a documentary, nor does it qualify as

journalism, even though D'Souza



won't notice the difference.

I can speak from experience, since I attended the 8 a.m.

undoubtedly expects

most of his viewers

experience, since I attended the 8 a.m. showing of the film, along with about 60 others. Another 70 or so showed up for the second showing, at 10 a.m. I've also been a journalist for my entire adult life.

Viewers could, perhaps, be

excused for thinking they were watching something credible. The movie is slickly produced, as would be expected from a guy who has made millions over the years spewing conspiracy theories. It purports to be presenting evidence mined by the group, True the Vote, from a massive trove of geo-location data from cell phones in key swing states, like Georgia and Arizona, as well as millions of minutes of government security video shot in the vicinity of ballot drop boxes in major cities, mostly in Georgia.

They say the data proves an organized effort to stuff ballot drop boxes around the country, enough, they claim, to have tipped the election to Joe Biden.

The premise of the film was

The premise of the film was that thousands (at one point, they claim at least 54,000 people) were employed by unnamed nonprofit groups in key swing states to repeatedly ferry ballots to drop boxes, a process known as ballot harvesting. They claimed that each of these individuals, who D'Souza dubbed "mules," may have visited ten or more drop

boxes in a day and were paid \$10 for each delivery.

It was an interesting story.

The evidence, however, was sorely lacking. Take all those millions of minutes of video they claimed to review. During the course of the 90-minute film, they showed about a half dozen security video clips of supposed mules, dropping off an average of four or five ballots each. In each case, they claimed the individual was committing a crime. Turns out,

See MULES...pg. 5

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Letters from Readers

Stauber put Trump over his own credibility

My grade school teachers were nuns. During civics or history classes, it was common to hear that the U.S. was the greatest nation on earth. The fact that our nation had always had smooth transitions of power after elections was taught as a primary reason why we were the best. Sister Paul Therese's patriotic lessons had remained correct for decades, until now.

Many well-respected

Republicans from within the previous administration have now testified, under oath, to the January 6th Committee. The testimony of Rusty Bowers, Speaker of the Arizona House, should be required viewing in civics classes. His emotional testimony was that of a deeply conservative public servant, but from the era when "conservative" meant a person who was honest, ethical, and truthful in public service, regardless of how those principles affected political fortunes. Numerous other Republican insiders have also

revealed that Trump attempted to pressure leaders and officials to help spread his Big Lie about our 2020 election. His own Attorney General publicly called Trump's pile of lies, "BS". The election stability that has made our democratic experiment an imperfect but great success during the last couple of centuries is likely smashed. Trump's legacy will be about smashing things... from dishes to democracy. Those who blindly support Trump must share the blame.

Enter my representative in Congress, Pete Stauber. How has

he done regarding The Big Lie? Sad to say, he ignored facts and dumped his personal ethics and integrity by giving allegiance to Trump on bended knee. He exchanged his honor for Trump's endorsement. Please look it up. In December 2020, Stauber was one of 126 Republican House members to sign an amicus brief in support of Texas v. Pennsylvania, a Big Lie lawsuit contesting the results of the 2020 presidential election. It was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court without a hearing.

I respect Stauber for his

reputation as a good family man, law enforcement officer, and hockey player. But by supporting Trump's Big Lie, Stauber chose to kick truth out of politics for his personal short-term gain. Citizens of the Eighth District will soon be able to protect our precious democracy by casting their votes for the current four-term State Representative from Duluth, Jen Schultz.

Chuck Neil **Embarrass**

COMMENTARY

It's time for a special session to finish lawmakers' work

The Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) has been advocating for the communities of the Taconite Assistance Area (TAA) in northern Minnesota for over 80 years. Members include more than 60 public sector units of

government who take part in advocating for the citizens of the Iron Range. Our membership includes cities and townships from across Itasca, St. Louis, Aitkin, Lake, Cook and Crow Wing counties in addition to all the public schools in the TAA. We have a long history of advocating for local government aid, support for our mining and timber

industries, economic opportunities for our region, in addition to a strong and vibrant public education system for our citizens. Last week, we were disap-

pointed with the news that Senate Republican leadership decided it wasn't worth their time to return to St. Paul. RAMS recently sent a letter to Governor Walz and

our Minnesota elected officials calling on them to finish the work they started this session, including additional funding for our students and public schools, a tax bill that provides some of the largest relief ever to Minnesota taxpayers, and passing a much-needed capital investment, or

bonding bill.

Traditionally, the even year Legislative sessions are "bonding years" - a year when our state helps fund important capital improvement projects such as infrastructure and community needs. With the Legislature adjourning last month without a bonding bill, communities are left wondering how these

projects will get done without this important funding component. Here in northern Minnesota, important water infrastructure projects in Buhl, Gilbert, and Virginia are left wondering how they will pay for their projects without partnership from the state. In Hibbing, the fate of their new public safety building is in limbo without partnership from the state. Residents near the St. James and Canisteo pits are wondering how the state will deal with rising water levels without the investment by the state through a bonding bill.

There are too many projects to list here, but we know these bonding requests are all very important to the residents, counties, cities, and towns on the Range, and for that matter, across Minnesota. Crumbling infrastructure and the need for public investment does not have geographic boundaries. These problems exist across our state, regardless of whether the legislative district is blue or red. We call on legislators from both sides of the political aisle to go back to work and to pass a bonding bill that helps all of Minnesota.

The legislature also discussed a potential solution for the special education funding gap that our schools face. Currently, our schools must cover unfunded costs regarding special education services they provide to our students. The possible state solution that was discussed would have meant over \$800,000 more per year for the Hibbing District so they can help address the needs of all our students. Or, for the Grand Rapids school district, it would mean almost \$1.5 million per year to help pay for that programming. Those are just two examples of the tremendous impact this investment would have on our schools. We ask our legislators to come back to the table and approve this additional education funding so that every child, regardless of which town they live in, or what part of Minnesota they live in, can have access to a public school system that provides them with an education for their future.

Finally, the Legislature came so close to passing a tax bill that would have benefitted all Minnesotans. Here in northern Minnesota, we were lucky to have both Senator Tom Bakk and Representative Dave Lislegard on the Tax Conference Committee. There was a bipartisan agreement on tax relief, but for whatever reason, it did not cross the finish line. The compromise tax bill included significant increases for Local Government Aid (LGA) that helps towns keep providing necessary services without raising taxes on its citizens. There was an expansion of the child tax credit, helping families raising young children. And there was property tax relief for homeowners. There was help for our Iron Range schools. Furthermore, senior citizens on Social Security would have seen the elimination of the state taxes on those Social Security benefits. The tax bill was a good compromise between both parties and RAMS calls on the Legislature to go back to the table and pass the tax bill.

RAMS asks the residents of the Iron Range to stand with us and call upon all legislators to get the job done. Fund our schools. Increase Local Government Aid to cities. Pass a bonding bill. And pass a tax relief bill. Our communities in rural Minnesota deserve this. It's now up to Governor Walz, Leader Miller, Speaker Hortman and our elected state representatives and senators to get back to work and come through for the people of Minnesota.

Ida Rukavina is the executive director of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.

MULES...Continued from page 4

that's not at all clear. In fact, as Reuters has reported, law enforcement officials in Georgia were able to identify at least one of the supposed mules included in the movie because a license plate was visible on his car. When contacted. the individual said he was delivering ballots for his family members, which is perfectly legal in Georgia. When law enforcement contacted election officials, they were able to confirm that the ballots for that individual's family all showed up in the drop box in question on that date.

Far more troubling is the fact that, in all of that video footage, D'Souza's film can't show any individual at any drop box more than once. Remember, the claim is that these people were running back and forth ferrying ballots from unnamed nonprofit groups to drop boxes, multiple times a day. And, at least in Georgia, the drop boxes were all subject to video surveillance. So, why is there no footage of any one of their supposed mules at more than one drop box? Not one instance? It's a massive hole in their concocted theory, but D'Souza clearly hopes his viewers won't notice.

I could fill this entire page with similar examples, but let's also consider the distinction between D'Souza's film and actual journalism. It's worth noting that D'Souza includes no interviews with any election officials, who might have been able to provide context to the so-called "evidence" he provides in his film. Nor does he include interviews with anyone representing the unnamed nonprofits that supposedly engaged in the scheme.

Actual documentaries, even ones with a politi-

cal bent, always make a point of presenting other perspectives. I think of Michael Moore, who actually relishes the chance to interview those he doesn't agree with. In fact, it's part of his schtick.

Yet, D'Souza isn't a documentarian, like Moore. He's a propagandist and he knows that when you're leading people down yet another conspiracy theory rabbit hole, you can't provide them a lifeline back to reality. It's how people got sucked in by QAnon or Pizzagate. It's a kind of tunnel vision, and it's how D'Souza is able to work his sleight of hand on his viewers, so they don't even question any of the gaping evidentiary holes or unstated assumptions at work in his film.

One of the biggest of those assumptions is that even if the ballot harvesting occurred, as D'Souza claims, all of those votes were for Joe Biden. He simply relies on the biases of his viewers to make that preposterous leap.

Nor does D'Souza show that any of the ballots in question were manipulated— only that they might have been picked up and delivered by others. That could be a violation of ballot harvesting laws, depending on the state, but does it really constitute voter fraud if the voters in question were registered to vote, were qualified to vote, and filled out their ballots themselves? Should their vote be disqualified simply because someone else, a friend perhaps, delivered it? There are sound arguments that such votes should count in either case

Keep in mind, the checks in place surrounding absentee ballots are quite robust and each ballot has a unique bar code that must

and don't represent fraud.

match up with the application the voter submits to receive a ballot. D'Souza claims that mail-in ballots were sent out to millions of voters unsolicited. That's true, but only in states, or localities, where voting is routinely done by mail. Many residents of small or unorganized townships in St. Louis County, for example, are automatically sent their ballots by mail. That's not the case. however, in the swing states examined in "2000 Mules," so the opportunity to steal ballots would have been greatly reduced. In either case, signature verification is another check that makes it difficult to get stolen ballots to pass muster, even in those few instances where it might occur.

Ironically, D'Souza does provide actual evidence that ballot harvesting and ballot manipulation did occur—but not in the 2020 election. He highlights the case of Mark Harris, a North Carolina congressional candidate from a few years ago whose campaign was shown to have obtained several hundred unmarked ballots from unsuspecting voters during a Republican primary and then filled them out in Harris's favor. He won by a few hundred votes but as the scheme unraveled, a court threw out the election.

Harris's scheme involved only a handful of participants, yet people eventually spilled the beans. According to D'Souza, at least 54,000 people were involved in the 2020 election heist, but not one person has come forward or been prosecuted? Like that's going to happen. Yet, people want to

believe, which is why the film is packing in viewers all across the country.

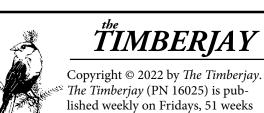
It's become a means for GOP candidates to rally

support from like-minded individuals and offer their own takes on the 2020 election. Attorney General candidate and My Pillow general counsel Doug Wardlow, who attended the movie's showing in Ely, is certainly hoping to use the election conspiracy theory to win votes in his primary challenge to the GOP's endorsed candidate. St. Louis County Sheriff's candidate Chad Walsh was also there to play to the crowd. One might have hoped that as a law enforcement officer, he would see through the obvious evidentiary holes in "2000 Mules," but he kept any such doubts to himself in his comments to the crowd of true believers on Saturday.

The film has one other significant purpose, of course. And that's raising millions for D'Souza and bringing attention, and no doubt money, to Texasbased True the Vote, which provided the so-called evidence for "2000 Mules."

Yet, if True the Vote actually has the goods to overturn the election, why haven't they filed lawsuits to present it or provided it to law enforcement? The Texas Tribune recently reported that one donor ponied up \$2.5 million to fund seven such lawsuits using the group's data. The group's law firm filed four suits, then voluntarily withdrew them a week later, and it's been crickets since. And they charged the donor legal fees that the unlucky rube in question described as "impossible."

The Texas Tribune suggested the group's evidence and claims were just another election-related grift intended to raise millions of dollars from desperate Trump supporters willing to throw money at anyone promising to have the secret sauce. Trump 6 hearings, the Big Lie was himself has raised more also a big rip-off. than \$200 million off the With "2000 Mules," election heist hokum and Dinesh D'Souza is simply he continues to spew his looking for his own piece misinformation even today. of the action.



As Rep. Zoe Lofgren stated

during one of the recent Jan.

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

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

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

Publisher General Manager Cook/Orr Editor Ely Editor Office Manager Office Staff Staff Writer Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports

Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Keith Vandervort Michelle Toutloff Sharon Legg Rachel Brophy Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

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

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

Subscriptions Available: St. Louis County: \$39 year Elsewhere: \$54

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On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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

Week of July 4

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.

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: John Zavodnik Eric & Carol Norberg Lee & Greta Tuominen Eddie Udovich Nelson family (In memory of Jim Nelson) Jeremiah & Pamela

Kearney Joseph & Janis Mesojedec James & Carol Chiabotti Richard & Kay Hanson Pamela Tezak Bill & Karen Majerle Beans & Judy Sunsdahl Timberjay EVFCŮ

Northern Lights Dental Care Pat & David Schmid Tim & Nancy Kotzian Corrine Hill Aronson Boat Works Lamppa Manufacturing Vermilion Land Office Barbara Thiede Peter & Colette Johnson Town of Kugler Dick & Peggy Peyla Lee & Corinne Bonicatto Sara & Bernie Pelstring Kern & Mary Walker Ricky & DeAnn Dahl Jen McDonough & family Mike & Bergetta Indihar J&P Auto David Joki Frandsen Bank & Trust Vermilion Fuel & Food Soudan Store

Vermilion Wilderness Fuel

Jim & Cathy Wright

Nordic Home North

Marjo Motel

TOWER FARMERS MARKET

TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS



Did you know the **Tower Farmers** Market is also a great place to find a variety of homemade baked goods? Cecelia Maierle, who was shopping with her grandmother Robin, certainly does.

Besides locallygrown fresh vegetables, meats, and canned goods, there are pies, cookies, bars, popcorn treats, scones, and more each week.

The market is open promptly at 4 p.m. on Fridays, at the Tower Depot/Train area, and runs until 6 p.m. photo by J. Summit

Herbicide applications to help reforestation efforts in the **Tower area**

TOWER- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin herbicide applications on select state lands in the Tower Forestry administrative area to prepare sites for reforestation. Applications on 98 acres across three sites have begun being treated and will continue through approximately July 30.

Herbicides are used in select locations to reduce vegetation that would compete with newly planted tree seedlings. This gives the tree seedlings a better chance to grow and sur-

Signs will be posted on all herbicide treatment sites. Adjacent landowners within an eighth of a mile of the treatment sites will be notified.

The DNR plants trees on state lands to reforest harvested areas, provide wildlife habitat, protect watersheds, provide wood and fiber for forest products, sequester carbon and maintain healthy state forests. Part of the reforestation process involves applying herbicides where needed prior to or following tree planting. DNR foresters determine the right tree species for the site and private contractors plant the trees.

More information about how the DNR manages Minnesota's forests can be found at mndnr.gov/forestry.



The Gundersen family still loves Tower...

TOWER- Elizabeth Johnson visited Tower last week. She is the granddaughter of Martin and Elizabeth Gundersen, who donated their large holding of forest land to the city of Tower, which were then turned into the Gundersen Trust. She and her Husband Mark live in Reno, Nev., but come back to visit every summer, a tradition started when she was a child. The Gundersen Trust

Fund, which now totals almost a million dollars, is in the process of being converted into a community trust fund, which will be able to supply the city with a steady stream of income into the future. The trust was set up to both benefit the city's general fund, as well as provide money for outdoor recreation and other community needs.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Flyover set for July 4 at the start of the parade

TOWER- The 148th Fighter Wing will be doing their fly-over on Monday, July 4 at approximately 11:03 a.m. the planes will be flying from west to east. They received a large number of fly over requests this year from diverse locations in Minnesota, Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. You can expect two F-16s to fly by in a single pass at approximately 1,000 feet, passing over Moose Lake, Cloquet, Hill City, Nashwauk, Tower, Ely, and Aurora, then on to Wisconsin.

Cultural Center hosting open house on July 4

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center Board invites July Fourth parade goers to stop at the LVCC on Main Street between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to see the first floor St. Mary's Hall, Halunen Lobby, and Abrahamson Gallery. They are staged for visitors and events and are in the process of being restored.

St. Martin's **Summer Salad Luncheon and Silent Auction**

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church is once again hosting a Summer Salad Luncheon with a bucket raffle on Wednesday, July 13. Doors will open at 11 a.m.; lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; bucket winners will be drawn at 12:30 p.m. The cost for the lunch is \$8. In addition to the luncheon and raffle, there will also be hand-crafted items available for purchase (sponsored by the Quilt Ministry).

This is a great opportunity to sit back and let someone else do the cooking, and a chance to visit with our neighbors and summer visitors. We hope that you will join us.

Powwow thanks businesses for donations

VERMILION RES-ERVATION- The Lake Vermilion Powwow Committee thanks these generous area businesses who donated items for the pick-your-own raffle.

➤ Pike River Products: Two handcrafted leather bags, a tote and a backpack and a Lake Vermilion t-shirt donated by owners Terry and Dianna Sunsdahl.

Greenhouse: Humming-

bird feeder, owl succulent

➤ The Dirt Lady

planter, and large garden signage. Y Store and Fortune Bay: Canoeing gift set with two life jackets

and two paddles. ➤ Indigenous First Gallery & Gifts, AIC-HO (Duluth): Indigenous First gift box with smoked salts, Lake Superior mug, Ojibwe corn, sauce.

➤ MN Indigenous Business Alliance (MNI-BA): Two "Buy Native" t-shirts with Ojibwe floral designs.

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 wel-

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

TOWERattending 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 vour 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 raf-

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



Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule

Every third Wednesday: July 6 and 27; Aug. 17; Sept. 7 and 28; Oct. 19; Nov. 9 and 30; Dec. 21

Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m. Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 11:30 a.m.

Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 – 1 p.m. Soudan (Post Office Vicinity): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 – 6 p.m.

You can see the full bookmobile schedule on the website. alslib.info/services/bookmobile. For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.



restoration project.

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 Wiirre at 218-969-6374

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Residents keep levy at \$150,000 for 2023

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOODTWP-Moving the Greenwood Township annual meeting

from March to June did nothing to boost attendance. Fewer than 15 township residents showed up for the June 23 reconvened annual meeting, down from almost 40 who attended the meeting on March 8.

At the March 8 meeting, residents voted 25-13 to recess the meeting and reconvene in June. "Many of our voters are gone," said Barb Lofquist at the March meeting. "It would be nice to have it in June.

In past years, attendance at a summer annual meeting has drawn a crowd,

	MARKET VALUE	LEVY	LEVY/MARKET VALUE
Greenwood	495,289,000	150,000	.00030
Breitung	140,532,000	616,000	.00438
Eagles Nest	109,167,000	217,603	. 00199
Tower	28,580,000	394,701	.01381
			•

Property taxes on comparable market value

- A \$426,200 home in Greenwood pays \$4,038
- A \$464,700 home in Breitung pays \$7,112
- A \$469,500 home in Tower pays \$9,424
- A \$391,800 home in Eagles Nest pays \$4,796

The data used in the market value is from 2018 from the Minn. Department of Revenue. Data used in comparable property values and taxes is from SLC Land Explorer and dated 2022. Data compiled by John Bassing as part of his budget presentation at the June 23 reconvened annual meeting

but apparently with little question about the annual levy, and with the changeover of the balance of power on the town board, there was no question the vote would be anticlimactic.

Those in the audience at Thursday's meeting were all of one mind, and the vote to set the levy at \$150,000 was unanimous on a voice

Jeff Maus was elected

moderator of the meeting.

Budget information presented by John Bassing showed projected township financial reserves dropping from \$592,030 at the end of 2022 to \$525,228

at the end of 2023. This includes two restricted funds, the Isle of Pines bridge fund, which is paid for by island residents for future bridge replacement costs, and the trail fund, for which the township levies \$2,000 a year. This leaves an unrestricted projected balance of \$471,730, still higher than the project township budget spending of \$360,785 in 2023. (See chart on tax comparison.) Bassing also did

research on the tax levy impact on Greenwood residents, which showed it to be significantly lower than Breitung, Eagles Nest, and Tower.

The residents had a discussion about ambulance service and the wish of many residents to have

paramedic-staffed rigs serving the area. The town board has called for proposals for a study to see if such a service would be feasible and will be discussing the proposals at their regular meeting on July 12.

The residents set the 2023 annual meeting for June 22 at 6 p.m. on a voice vote with one resident, Supervisor Paul Skubic, voting against. He noted that the meeting would still need to be opened on the regular annual meeting date in March, which is also township election day. Chairman Sue Drobac noted that meeting often goes very late, and the town board needs to meet afterwards to pay bills and canvass votes.

AMBULANCE...Continued from page 3

ing renovations including adding an office, and showers and bathrooms. Area governmental entities would continue to fund ambulance service operations with annual payments on a per capita basis.

Minnesota U.S. Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar continue to lobby for ambulance service funding of as much as \$3.5 million for the Ely area. The local ambulance

joint powers board will also be applying to the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) for funding.

"If it ever changes and money rains from the sky and we can build a new building, we can dispose of the building at that time," Kess said. "This seems to be a very good solution to a very difficult problem."

Al Forsman agreed.

"On the surface it looks like a good move, and I hope this does work out for them," he said.

"I am very happy that the townships agreed with this as well," Mayor Roger Skraba added. "This comes down to either you are a partner or you are not."

The proposal was agreed to unanimously by the city council.

Other business

In other business at

their June 21 meeting, the council:

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Ely Utility Commission to purchase power poles from Bell Lumber and Pole Co. for \$30,896, reflecting a price increase from \$346 to \$800 per pole.

>Accepted the resignation of Ely Police Department officer Joe Olufson who will be joining the Lake County Sheriff's

Department.

➤ Approved a note and mortgage for a Residential Rehab Loan for Madalynne Reese and Kathy Quigley, 1139 E. Washington St., for a new propane furnace for \$6,000.

➤ Approved a note and mortgage for a Residential Reb Loan for John Bowe and Rosemary Shepard, 246 N 5th Ave E for roof repair and replacement for \$10,000.

➤ Approved a temporary liquor license for the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation for an event on Aug. 17-18 at the Dorothy Molter Museum, and for an event on Sept. 23-24 at Whiteside Park for the Ely Marathon.

➤ Approved a resolution establishing an absentee ballot board for the 2022 election.

LEASING...Continued from page 3

labor produce minerals instead of American union miners..."

Stauber also highlighted his discovery that the 20-year withdrawal would include mineral leasing for taconite. "This is a new

low, even for this administration. Under this action by Biden, we would not be able to develop taconite in the withdrawal region of the Superior National Forest, like northern Minnesotans have been doing safely

for the last 130 years." In fact, maps produced by the Iron Mining Association of Minnesota show no known iron or taconite formations within the proposed withdrawal area.

Comments on the anal-

ysis can be submitted via webform by selecting the "Comment/Object to Project" link on the project page at go.usa.gov/xtaCw. Electronic comments are preferred, but written comments will also be accepted.

Written comments should be sent to:

Re: Minerals Withdrawal 8901 Grand Ave. Place **Duluth, MN 55808**

Please note that comments received, including names and addresses, will

ROOFING

become part of the project record and will be available for public inspection. For more information on the project, visit the withdrawal project page at www. fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60916.



8 July 1, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY



Ludlow's Island Resort

1-877-583-5697

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO THE COOK AND LAKE VERMILION COMMUNITIES FOR COMING TO OUR RESCUE

We could not believe the response from the members of this community who came in droves to help us clean up after the intense storm on Monday, June 20.

The Ludlow team, headed up by Paul and Kelly Ludlow, Lori, Michael, Erin, Mike, Mick, Charlie, Sean, and all of our housekeeping staff, put out a call for help early Tuesday morning, and by 10 am there were three barges with equipment headed to the Island and over 25 people working with chainsaws to clean up the storm damage. Without this response we would not be open today.

It was truly a heartwarming experience, and a powerful reminder of why we love our community so much. They did not stop until everything was cleaned up and repaired.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who was involved with the clean-up effort:

NWC (Northern Waters Company) -

Brandon McCormick, Brandon Mihm, Scott Phillips, Gunnar Nelson, Joe Intveld, Justin Adamietz Chad Stone - self-employed

Dump Truck Drivers-Jerry Ohotto, Brad Simpson, Chad Buchanan

Eagle Dock Crew-Eric Olson, Brian Stark, Dustyn Hadersbeck, Ron Childs, Gunnar Olson, Finn Olson, Cody Fallstrom (replaced and repaired all docks)

Steve Bodri Construction-assisted by his son, Michael

Lakeside Homes LLC-Joe Quick

Joe and Levi Shermer-Property Management

Vermilion Design and Build Co.-Andrew Murray with Dominic, Josh and Austin

Manick Tree Service-Sandra and David Manick, Rick Manick, David Lenich Vermilion Barge and Gravel-Blaine Olson

McCarty Construction (roofing): Mike McCarty-with Jeff and Tyler

Lake Country Power Crew

Neighbors, Friends and Guests
Steve and Nancy Andrews
Steve Anderson
Nate, Ashley, Bryce and Ellie Bashkirew
Jason Freed
Sandy Jackson and Bryce
Randy Love
Steve and Sarah Wheat

Camp Vermilion - 10 people
Jackson Utermarck
Alex Guyer and Jade Hamman
Amy Tellor
The Davis Family
Zane Colvin
Brooks and Auggie Hamman

Ludlow's Staff: Michael, Rebecca, Tyler, Eva, Lisa, Selina, Lisa, John, Jade, Darius











CD-8 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Jennifer Schultz looks to replace Stauber in Washington

ELY - "Our freedoms are under attack and those attacks have only grown over time.'

Those words, surprisingly, are not from a MAGA Republican, but from Jennifer Schultz, a DFL candidate looking to unseat Pete Stauber in the U.S. House District 8 race this year.

Schultz spoke to standing-room-only crowd here this week at a Tuesday Group gathering. She is a four-term state representative, with a day job of teaching economics at the University of Minnesota-Duluth since 2004. She had no plan to make a run for Congress when she announced earlier this year she would not seek another term in the Minnesota Legislature.

"I've been working on healthcare reform for the past 20 years," she said. "That's how I became engaged in politics. I never thought I would be a full-time politician. It was never on my bucket list. But things happen and people asked me to do that.'

Schultz earned a Ph.D. in health economics, while working jobs that paid her less than a minimum wage, by competing for scholarships, and taking out student loans. She rose through her field to become a professor at UMD.

Today she lives in Duluth with her husband and two sons, and said she knows firsthand the everyday concerns of the people in her district after four terms in the state legislature. She serves as chair of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee, where she has advanced measures to improve access to affordable healthcare and reduce prescription drug prices.

by Keith Vandervort CD-8 candidate campaigned in Ely this week



She also serves on Ways and Means, Taxes, Health Finance and Redistricting Committees.

"Nobody would run against Pete Stauber," she said. "I'm a data nerd. I looked at the data from 2018 and the votes that Gov. Tim Walz got here. and the redistricting, and I decided that I can beat Pete Stauber. I don't need that many more votes than Walz got. This district has been DFL for the last 70 out of 76 years. We can flip it from red to blue

She continued her attack on Stauber.

"I am tired of political extremists like Pete Stauber," she said. "I am tired of the disinformation and lies that are coming from the Republican party. I am tired of the divide in our communities and the divide in our families. People want to be able to trust their elected official. They don't want to hear more lies. They want people who represent them and their values to go and do their job and get things done."

Schultz talked about the political pendulum that continues to "swing way left and way right with nothing in the middle." She touted her record of getting things done in the divided Minnesota legislature.

"I'm not just talking about all the bonding projects and local development projects that I've gotten funded, but solving problems. I like to fix things that are broken. I know how to work, not just with Republicans, but with our 'new' Republicans, those Independents, in our legislature."

Schultz said she is looking to do the same thing in Washington, D.C.

"We can show D.C. how to get things done if we can get people elected with that as our goal of solving problems," she

"Pete Stauber is very ineffective. He has taken some terrible votes for our region. His biggest no vote was on the infrastructure bill which was \$7 billion of investment in Minnesota. That means no to jobs, no to funding roads, bridges, and our port that helps our entire state. Broadband funding was in that bill. He took credit for it but he voted no. He voted no on basic things like affordable insulin. He voted no on solving the shortage of baby formula. He voted no to helping our restaurants and small businesses recover from COVID," Schutz said. She added, "He is

completely bought by corporate interests. He voted against the recent gun safety legislation. Twice. He gets hundreds of thousands of dollars from the NRA. And the worst one is, he voted no on voting rights legislation, and he signed the Texas lawsuit to invalidate President Biden's election. He has bought Trump's Big Lie and that is a huge threat to our democracy. He has to go. He does not represent the interests of his district."

The mining auestion

The first question Schultz received from the Ely audience was, of course, about the mining.

"One hundred percent I support our miners and our mining industry," she responded. "We have been doing taconite mining here for a long time, and we know how it can benefit our communities."

She continued, "What you need to know is that I support safe and clean mining. I support significant financial assurance so taxpayers aren't paying for any potential clean-up. I support science. I believe in science and we have to follow science."

She noted that Stauber "has done nothing" for mining. "We have

mines idling and people laid off. There have been no investments in mining. Cliff's is going to Ohio and building furnaces down there. We should be leveraging the Defense Production Act to look at water and sulfate filtering. We should be producing steel on the Range," Schultz said.

"Why has Stauber done nothing for mining?" she asked. "He doesn't want President Biden to get credit for it. He is playing politics over the best interests of the region and the people who live here.'

Schultz said wants to "be the bridge" between mining and the environment.

"I want to help solve that problem. I've been endorsed by both labor groups that have historically supported Stauber. I've been endorsed by the DFL environmental caucus and other pro-environmental groups. That's rare, but that's a good thing. We need to figure out, when we do any kind of mining, that it doesn't pollute our ground water or our surface water. When that happens our property values will plummet. It is hard to clean up water that has been polluted."

Schultz's statement that she believes Rep. Betty McCollum's anti-copper nickel mining legislation will pass before she would take office in January drew big applause from the partisan crowd.

"The Duluth Complex is really large and there is a lot of exploration for many minerals, but the concentration is not high enough to be profitable,' she said. "Right now it is cheaper to recycle. In terms of jobs, relying on one industry is not smart. It is smart to have diversification."

She called for more manufacturing in the North Country.

"We need to be making things again in the United States. We need good union jobs with good benefits.'

Schultz will be in Cook on Wednesday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cook Community Center located at 510 Gopher Drive in Cook. The meeting is open to the public.



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- Enjoy our rustic yet elegant dining room. Enjoy home cooked cuisine with salads and vegetables fresh from our own garden.
 - · Breads and desserts are baked daily.

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COVID shots for youngest kids rolling out slowly Accessing shots through primary providers may take some time

Health Commissioner Jan **REGIONAL- Parents** Malcolm. "We know that of children under five years of age who have been trying to shield their kids from the effects of a coronavirus infection got the news they've long been waiting for recently when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control approved the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children down to six

'This is an important and exciting time for many families as our youngest Minnesotans can now receive important protection against COVID-19 through vaccination," said Minnesota

months of age, effective

even young children can get very sick from this virus, and that's why it's important for all of us to continue doing everything we can to protect our loved ones and our communities from COVID-19. Now is a great time to make sure the entire family is up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines." More than 300 pro-

viders statewide, including primary care providers, community health clinics, and tribal health offices have reported that they will be offering vaccinations for kids in this youngest age group. However, while the

Minnesota Department of

Health anticipates demand will initially be high, experience with older children and certain logistical factors suggest this rollout will take awhile to make much of an impact. Children ages five to

11 became eligible for vaccinations last November at a time when the Delta variant was fueling a sharp increase in cases that would peak in December. With COVID running rampant and most children back to in-person learning and presumably having greater possibility of exposure, the initial uptake in both Minnesota and the country was strong.

But Delta and the massive Omicron wave that arrived in its wake apparently weren't persuasive enough for parents who wanted to wait and see before making a decision, or those who had already decided they would not get their children vaccinated. Nationwide, the Kaiser Family Foundation reports that vaccination rates in this age group dropped significantly after the first two weeks of eligibility, and as of June 16 only 29.5 percent had been fully vaccinated, compared to 75 percent of those ages 12 and above.

In the short time that vaccinations for the youngest Minnesotans have been available, MDH reports that 3,291 children have received their first vaccine

dose, representing less than one percent of the estimated 346,000 children four and under in the state. Less than one in five parents of children in this age group who were surveyed said that they would definitely have their child vaccinated.

At this point, that's not surprising, as vaccine availability is still spotty in many areas. A greater number of parents of young children also are expected to seek vaccinations through their primary health care provider or pediatrician, as opposed to taking their children to a family or a larger vaccination center, which means making scheduled appointments. MDH warned that it could

"Families wishing to get the vaccine in a specific location - such as through their family pediatrician may need to wait several weeks until appointments are available," an MDH news release last week said.

Minnesota has done better than the nation with full vaccinations for the 5-11 group, now at 39 percent, yet only 12 percent have received a recommended booster thus far. For those children ages 12 and above, the state lags the nation, with about 70 percent being fully vaccinated and around 28 percent who are up to date.

The MDH release also referred parents to the state's Vaccine Locator

See...COVID pg. 13

2142 . . . Continued from page 1 -

"He fought with it all the years I knew him," Larson said.

"And he'd never come here and (gripe) about it," Manick added.

Concession stand

Swanson likely would have sounded off on one of the ongoing legacies of the restructuring and some of the questionable construction methods used on new facilities built as part of the plan. The board, after years spent looking for solutions, approved the lone bid of \$300,697 from Max Gray Construction for repairs to the North Woods School sports concessions stand, which has experienced a wide range of structural issues since its construction ten years ago. The repairs will require extensive excavation to redo the building's foundation, as well as concrete, plumbing, and electrical work to make the building's restrooms and food service areas fully functional again.

MGC's latest bid was higher than the \$265,396 the company had bid last November, which the board had rejected. At that time the board wanted to explore the possibility of repairing only the bathrooms and using a food truck to provide concessions. However, the board readily approved the higher bid this time, with several members commenting that construction costs would only continue to escalate.

New budget

District Finance Director Kim Johnson reviewed the proposed 2022-23 budget for the board, echoing messages she offered at the June 14 working session that decreased enrollment and inflation are going to put a squeeze on the budget both this year and the next. The impact is most

significant in the general fund, which is where all of the revenue and expenses tied directly to instructional costs are calculated. Projected expenditures of \$36,290,316 exceed projected revenue of \$35,039,025, a differ-

ence of \$1,251,291. To

balance the difference, the district will need to draw from the overall general fund balance carryover of \$3,561,098.

Johnson highlighted the unassigned general fund line item, where around \$900,000 would be used to cover the revenue shortfall, leaving the district with a projected balance of only \$476.994 at the end of the year. That fund balance on June 30, 2021, the end of the 2020-21 school year, was \$3,325,226.

"You may have heard that that is the rainy-day fund. That couldn't be farther from the truth," Johnson said. "Our unassigned fund balance helps the district cover its monthly expenditures."

As the budget represents a plan reflecting projected expenses, it is subject to revision along the way as the district gets more accurate information from the state about revenue after classes are back in session and gets a better handle on possible expenses. Johnson told the

board she was committed to finding ways to avoid as much of the drawdown as possible.

"We're going to be working hard this year to make sure that that doesn't happen," she said. "We'll be coming back in January once we know what's happening in the fuel market and what's happening in healthcare as well, and by that time we'll have solid numbers for our beginning fund balances based on fiscal year 2022."

Johnson said vehicle purchases are one item where the district could consider cutting back. With more than a dozen vehicles on backorder with a total cost of around \$800,000, some of those orders could be canceled, she said.

"We're going to be talking about some of those in more depth to make sure we can make the changes that are needed so that fund balance doesn't go down that far," she said.

School meals

During the past two school years, all ISD 2142 students received free meals because of funding and waivers provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a result federal COVID-19 pandemic legislation. However, funding for the program was not included in the \$1.5 trillion spending bill passed in March.

Without the additional funding, board members approved reinstituting breakfast and lunch charges for the upcoming school year. Breakfasts will cost \$1.85 for both elementary and high school students. Lunch will cost \$2.45 for elementary students and

The prices reflect a ten-cent increase over pre-pandemic prices. Free or reduced-cost

\$2.80 for high schoolers.

meals will be available for income-eligible children, and all Kindergarten students qualify to receive free breakfast.

Spectator fees

Board members also approved reinstating extracurricular activity spectator fees, which had been waived the past two years during the COVID pandemic. ISD 2142 students, staff, coaches, and board members will be admitted free of charge, as will children ages five and under and seniors 65 and older with a lifetime sports pass or with an ID with proof of age.

Adults will pay \$5 per game and non-ISD 2142 students will pay \$3. It was noted that the impact to ISD 2142 families will be minimal, given the student and age exemptions. Spectator fees generated around \$45,000 in annual revenue to support extracurricular activities before they were suspend-

Other business

In other business, the

➤ Approved a twoyear labor agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local #70 covering the district's site and district office secretaries, as well as accounts payable specialist. The contract provides an average hourly wage increase of \$2.31 over 2021-2022.

➤ Approved full-time teaching contracts for the 2022-23 school year at North Woods for Paige Stanislawski, instrumental music; Shayla Zaverl, special education; Andrew Jugovich, science; Joshua Walls, PE/health; Matthew Koch, social studies, long-term substitute; and Mackenzie Sokoloski, ele-➤ Approved hiring

Gwyneth Schrecengost as Site Secretary II at North Woods.

➤ Approved eliminating the Site Secretary III position at North Woods held by Connie Harju, while preserving hours devoted to working with the community education program and as a teacher's aide. The move will bring North Woods School in line with other district schools in having only two secretarial positions.

➤ Approved termination of Marcy McGleno, probationary paraprofessional, teacher aide, and library assistant at Tower-Soudan Elementary, due to a shortage of students.

➤ Approved DeeAnn Sandberg as part-time continuing education coordinator at North Woods.

➤ Approved hiring John Faust as a bus driver at North Woods.

> Accepted an informal offer from Pete Niska to purchase the Cotton bus garage and access parcels for \$25,000, which is \$8,700 less than the estimated market value. Similar to the sale of the Orr bus barn to the city of Orr, the board approved the sale amount based on the stipulation that Niska continue to provide housing for a district bus until such time as it is no longer needed.

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 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 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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Monday, July 4 • Tower

Main Street/LV Cultural Center 10K Run - 8 a.m.
 5K Run/Walk - 8:05 a.m. 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

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

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

Free T-Shirt (while supplies last) for all participants. Race course is slightly modified this year due to planned construction on the Mesabi Trail!

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

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

OUR COMMUNITY

Boundary Waters Care Center honored for quality care

ELY-Boundary Waters Care Center (BWCC) has been recognized as a 2022 recipient of the Bronze -Commitment to Quality Award by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) for its commitment to improving the lives of residents through quality care.

This distinction is the first of three progressive award levels through the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program. The program honors providers across the country that have demonstrated their commitment to improving quality of care for our nation's seniors and people with disabilities.

"We are overjoyed to receive the Commitment to Quality Award from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living. It is very gratifying that this honor is in recognition of the compassionate, person-centered care our team is passionate about providing to our residents,"

said BWCC's Executive Director Adam Masloski.

"Boundary Waters Care Center is dedicated to helping older adults and their families live enriched, healthy lives. We do not serve our residents to receive awards, but it is truly wonderful to be recognized for quality of our work," he added.

The care community in Ely serves residents and their families with shortterm rehabilitation services and long-term care designed to ensure residents may safely lead a lifestyle with as much independence as possible. "BWCC is a vibrant care community where team members are focused on upholding the well-being, dignity, and individual capabilities of each resident," Masloski said.

BWCC is managed by Minneapolis-based Health Dimensions Group (HDG). The values-driven organization provides management and oversight for 47 senior living and care communities in seven states, serving more than 2,500 residents and

2,000 team members.

HDG has a long tradition of serving senior communities in the state of Minnesota, including Frazee Care Community in Frazee, Vergas Assisted Living in Vergas, as well as Traverse Care Center and Prairieview Place in Wheaton.

"On behalf of HDG. I congratulate the team at Boundary Waters Care Center for completing the first step in AHCA/NCAL's National Quality Award Program. We are very proud of their commitment to enhancing the lives or their residents with the very best in senior care and services," said HDG's Executive Vice President of Operations Sharon Thole. "HDG looks forward to partnering with the team at BWCC to achieve the Silver Award—the next level in this progressive program."

Created by AHCA/ NCAL in 1996, the National Quality Award Program is a rigorous, three-level process that is reviewed and judged by trained experts

ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY

EGG DROP SCIENCE Young engineers gathered at the Ely Public Library last week to test their skills on providing a safe landing for a raw egg dropped from the height of a bucket truck. The object of the event was to build a capsule to keep the egg from breaking

upon landing back on earth. The young scientists used a

At right, Nola Wohnsen and

Emily Dunn, both 7, show off

their egg capsule. Their drop

was successful. Top left, EUC

bucket truck operator Chad

Gregorson drops a payload.

Bottom left, a cracked egg. photos by K. Vandervort

variety of materials to cushion their delicate cargo. Some were successful, some cracked under the pressure.

against a set of nationally recognized standards for organizational excellence. These standards, known as the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, help organizations achieve superior performance that improves the quality of life and care of long-term care residents and team members.

Providers begin the quality improvement process at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile with essential performance elements such as vision, mission statement, and key strengths and challenges. Bronze applicants must also demonstrate their ability to implement a sustainable performance improvement system. Trained examiners review each application to determine if the center has met the demands of the

As a recipient of the Bronze - Commitment to Quality award, Boundary Waters Care Center may now move forward in developing approaches and

achieving advanced levels of performance that meet the Silver - Achievement in Quality award criteria.

"Quality care is always top of mind for providers, and this achievement celebrates the commitment and fortitude of Boundary Waters Care Center to find ways to enhance the lives of its patients and residents," said the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Board of Overseers Chair Tammy Kelly. "I hope Boundary Waters Care Center serves as a model for other centers to begin a formal process to continually reflect on and improve its delivery of quality care to staff, seniors, and individuals with disabilities."

The awards will be celebrated during AHCA/ NCAL's 73rd Convention and Expo in Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 9-12, 2022.

For additional information about Boundary Waters Care Center, visit boundarywaterscc.com, or call 218-365-8043.

In Brief

Tuesday Group

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

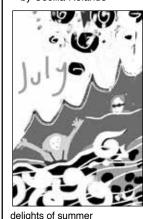
➤ July 5: YMCA of the North Taking S.T.E.P.S. (Supporting the Transformation of Equity and Power in outdoor Spaces).

➤ July 12: An update on the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

➤ July 19: PolyMet update by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



gardens, swimming, berries too

flowers on the porch

∟ibraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

10 am-6 pm 10 am-6 pm Friday Phone: 218-827-3345

Ely Police Department Activity June 1-15, 2022 Case is under investiga-

Arrests/Citations

Domestic Assault-Individual arrested for Kidnapping, 3rd degree Assault, Threats of Violence and Domestic Assault.

Assault-Individual arrested for Second Degree Assault and Threats of Violence.

Complaints

Assist other Agency-Assisted a neighboring agency with a suspicious activity call.

Blight- Officers received a complaint about garbage in a yard. Letter sent to the property

Theft- Officers took a report of a theft of several items. This case is under investigation.

Theft- Officers received a report of a theft. Items were later located.

Public Assist-Individuals were brought back to their residence. Child Custody-

Officers were called to a child custody issue. Officers mediated the sit-Check Hazard-

removing a piece of loose soffit that was dangling from an apartment build-

Suicide Threats-Officers were dispatched to an individual threatening suicide. The individual was brought to the

Threats- Officers

hospital.

received a threat report.

Unknown Trouble-Officers received report

of a 911 hang up. Officers arrived on scene and determined 911 was dialed by mistake. Public Assist-

Application for permit to Damage to Property-

Officers took a report of damage to picnic tables at Semers Beach. Case is under investigation Unwanted Person-

Officers assisted the Hospital with a patient that could possibly become aggressive. The patient did not cause any problems. Order Violation-

Officers answered questions regarding a restraining order. Theft- Officers took

a report about a theft of several items. Unwanted Person-

Officers took a report involving an unwanted person at an apartment. The individual was removed. Assist other Agency-

Assisted a neighboring agency with an assault. Suspicious Activity-

Officers were called about a suspicious vehicle. The owner of the business was contacted and told officers the car was OK to be

parked there. Assault- Officers were called about a possible assault that occurred.

Unwanted Person-

It was determined no assault took place.

Ely Police warns of rental scam

ELY - With rental properties being in high demand, it has created another scam opportunity Ely residents people should be aware of, according to the Ely Police Department.

The scammers are using web pages like Craigslist to create ads for rental properties in Ely (and other area communities), the law enforcement agency posted on the Facebook page.

They appear to be using realtor photos from houses that are for sale to make their ads appear legitimate. When the victim of these scams contacts them about the property, they will then attempt to get a security deposit or other personal information from them before ever seeing the property. The scammer will then set up a time to show the house but then cancels shortly before, leaving the person scammed out of their deposit. Use extra caution when responding to these ads,

police said. Search the address to see if it comes up on any realtor web pages or verify owner information using public web sites like St. Louis County Land Explorer. For more information, call the police department

at 218-365-3224.

an intoxicated person in someone's front yard. The individual was taken to the hospital. Extra Patrol- Officers received an extra patrol

Officers were called for

request. Medical- Officers assisted Ely Ambulance

with a medical. Harassment- Officers took a complaint from

individual reporting harassing text messages. No Pay- Officers were called for a gas

drive off. The individual was contacted and the gas was paid for. Check Welfare-Officers were contacted

by the Hospital reporting

a patient who didn't show

Officers were able to make contact with the individual, who thought the appointment was scheduled for the next day Disturbance-Officers

up for their appointment.

took a report of two people yelling at each other. Officers searched the area and were unable to locate the individuals. Motor Vehicle Crash-

Officers took a report of a vehicle that hit a deer.

report involving someone

siphoning gas from a

Found Property- A backpack was found at Whiteside Park. The

backpack is pending pickup. Theft- Officers took a other. The two individuals

vehicle. The case is under investigation.

Suspicious Activity-Officers were called for a suspicious person. Officers were unable to locate the individual.

Call Back- Officers called an individual who had a question regarding a towed vehicle.

Extra Patrol- Officers received an extra patrol

Medical- Officers assisted Ely Ambulance with a medical. Hit and Run- Officers

were called to a hit and run. The individual was identified and paid for damages. Assist other Agency-

Officers were called to assist with a patient that was out of control. Officers were able to calm the patient down. Loud Music- Officers

were called for a report of loud music. Officers were unable to locate the music. Information- Tobacco compliance checks com-

pleted. Unwanted Person-Officers were called for

an unwanted person at an apartment. The individual was gone by the time officers arrived. Missing Person-Officers took a report of

a possible missing person from California. Officers did not locate the person. Disturbance- Officers were called for two people yelling at each

were separated.

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 pretest available. Call 218-

365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711. **CAREGIVER**

SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of

Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of

Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital.

Officers assisted in

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

Arts group casts hometown focus for July exhibition

COOK- The world close at hand as seen through the creative vision of two Cook natives will be on display in "Hometown Focused," the exhibition for the month of July at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery

A kickoff exhibition reception for photographer Connie Stone and multimedia artist and photographer Laura Pajari will be on Thursday, July 7 from 5-7 p.m., with an invitation extended to the general public and the artists' neighbors and friends. The exhibit will run through July 30.

Stone has a creative passion for shaping light, whether natural light or controlled studio lighting complemented with themed backdrops and styled mini-sessions, to capture images of seniors, families, and children. Sports photography gives Stone opportunities for taking action shots capturing athletes' facial expressions and love of the game that she uses to create enhanced graphic arts photos for the athletes. She also enjoys capturing landscape and

subjects of personal interest when time allows. "I knew I always

wanted to live and work here in the area. I moved back after college, married my high school sweetheart, and we have lived and raised our two adult children here," Stone said. "Both my family and my husband's family are from the area, and I love that we were able to make a living here, raise our kids here and be close to family. The support from my community here is overwhelming and I am grateful to be "Hometown Focused" capturing so many families, seniors and the beautiful landscape of our area."

"Spiritually artful" is an apt descriptor of the essence that connects Pajari's diverse avenues of expression as she uses her art as a tool, she says, "to battle my demons of depression and PTSD."

"From sun catchers to silverware art, bird feeders to blogging, candle making to canning, and tarot to talismans, I'm always searching for new tools to balance the darkness and the light,"

Pajari during June's Spring Art Expo. "I strive to create sacred spaces in which to meditate, create and learn. I'm inspired by these great north woods, Halloween, the moon, and sunshine. I hope you find hope, humor, and honesty here. Thank you for supporting my madness!"

NWFA has benefited from Pajari's participation and volunteerism. Her unique displays at the gallery always inspire others. In March 2020 she and Kris Musto presented "Sunlight and Shadow," featuring three dimensional art.

View "Hometown Focused" at the NWFA Gallery during the hours of 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. The gallery is located behind the DreamWeaver Salon and Day Spa at 210 S River St. in Cook.

More information about current and upcoming NWFA activities is available at www.nwfamn.org, on Facebook, by emailing nwfamn. org@gmail.com, or by calling 218-780-7130.



Cook's Annual Timber Days committee and Cook VFW members look on as Carrolle Wood presents a \$2,000 donation to Cathy Miller, representing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, on Saturday in Chisholm. submitted

Vietnam veterans honored with Timber Days donation

CHISHOLM- A contingent from Cook traveled to Chisholm last Saturday to make a large donation in support of "The Wall That Heals" Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica that was on display there June 23-25.

Every year the Cook's Annual Timber Days committee designates a portion of their raffle ticket sales for a charitable cause, and this year's designee was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), the national organization that sponsors the traveling version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Members of the 2022 Timber Days committee were accompanied by members of the Cook VFW Post 1757 Honor Guard as they presented a check for \$2,000 to VVMF Outreach Project Manager Cathy Miller. The group then toured the Wall and visited with staff at the Education Center trailer.

Saturday's Honor Ceremony at Joel Maturi Field featured local Vietnam veterans reading the names of 105 local soliders whose names are on the memorial wall, and also appearances by the Bois Forte Black Eagle Drum and Mid Range Honor Guard.

This was the first of three Minnesota appearances for three-quarter-size memorial replica this summer. The Wall that Heals will be in Eagan on July 21-24 and in Winstead on July 28-31.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Clay for kids coming up **Monday at NWFA** Gallery

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

As a former North Woods School art teacher, Reed knows all the tricks of the trade for making this an enjoyable and educational class for students as she works with them to create bowls with airdried clay based on tracings of their own hands. The class is for children seven years old and up.

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

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

The Divas return to **Music in the Park** on Wednesday

COOK- The always popular musical trio "The Divas" will perform for Cook's Music in the Park summer series at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 6.

Come enjoy the captivating harmonies of Shannon, Sharon and Rosie, as they perform selections from their expansive musical repertoire, featuring Shannon on keyboards, Sharon with her guitar and drums, and Rosie with various rhythmic instruments. Each of the Divas has performed and practiced music since they were teenagers. These ladies are "three of the hardest working musicians" you will encoun-

ter, sharing in their love for performance. Enjoy food and refreshments provided by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church. In case of rain, the concert will be

moved to the Cook VFW.

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

Duluth bell choir to perform July 11 at Trinity Lutheran

COOK- Strikepoint, an internationally claimed handbell ensemble, is bringing its summer tour to Cook on Monday, July 11 where they will play a 7 p.m. concert at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 Second

Strikepoint is based at First United Methodist Church in Duluth. The 11-member directorless ensemble is a unique combination of professionals and community and church members both young and older. Bill Alexander, a nationally known handbell clinician and conductor, is the leader of the ensemble.

Strikepoint is noted for capturing the enthusiasm of audiences with its dynamic style and accessible music. Concert selections range from a 1940s Glenn Miller ballad to Lady Gaga to a bluesy spiritual and include both familiar and new music. Concert reviews have praised their "athleticism and showmanship," "rhythmic precision, musical nuance and technical confidence," with an "exceptionally creative bent!" People are frequently heard to say after concerts that, "If I'd known it was going to be this good, I would have brought all my friends."

Admission is free but a \$15 donation is suggested. Strikepoint will share 20 percent of the freewill donation with Trinity Lutheran's bell program, "Grace Notes."

Rolando features O'Keeffe for NWFA

July 15 workshop COOK- Learn about well-known artist Geor-

gia O'Keeffe, her life and

art, and then do a 'hands on' piece while reflecting on her painting and interest in flowers in a Northwoods Friends of the Arts workshop from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, July 15 at the NWFA Gallery in Cook.

One of the most significant modern artists of the 20th century, O'Keeffe was born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Ely artist Cecilia Rolando, who works in a variety of mediums, including acrylics, will lead the workshop. As a teacher, Rolando allows students to express their own creativity and reactions to the subject while learning technique under her advisement.

Register for this Curious and Creative Class in person at the NWFA Gallery, calling Alberta at 218-666-2153, or emailing nwfamn.org@gmail.

NWFA Gallery hours are 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. The gallery is located behind the DreamWeaver Salon and Day Spa at 210 S River St. in Cook.

NWFA Upcoming workshops include Paint a Barn Quilt on Monday, July 11 and Create a Tumbling Block Quilt on July 20. More information about NWFA activities is available at www.nwfamn.org, on Facebook, by emailing nwfamn. org@gmail.com, or by calling 218-780-7130.

TIME FOR BEARS





These bears at Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary appear to have opposing views of how to best spend their time last Saturday -- roughousing in the trees or relaxing in the grass. The sanctuary will be open this weekend on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets can be purchased on site or online.



Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th

Ely school project up against hard rock as completion deadline looms

Ely Editor

ELY - The scheduled completion of the \$21.5 million school building and renovation project at ISD 696 is just weeks away and workers are literally up against hard rock as they struggle to meet the hard deadline of the first day of school on Tuesday Sept 6.

Construction officials updated the Ely school board this week and indicated that the project is 87 percent complete. As water line construction from Pattison Street, that goes north across the west edge of the football field to a new fire hydrant on the south side of the new building continues, time-consuming but required rock drilling is slowing progress, according to Todd Erickson of Kraus-Anderson.

"I realize there is some negative impact on the (construction) timeline, but I want to know to what extent that is," asked board member Rochelle Sjoberg. She also wondered when water main and sewer replacement work will begin on the north side of the campus. "I'm worried about the occupancy certificate for the building with school starting. I want to know where we are at because, obviously, that is a top priority."

Erickson admitted, 'There is an impact financially and on the schedule. Our job is to document what we run into out there. Rachel's (Contracting) team has been documenting it. And the surveyor for the project is here documenting

Progress slows as new water line installed through ledge rock



Cast concrete storm sewer pipes sit outside the new front entrance this week at the Ely school renovation project. photo by K. Vandervort

mencing on the north side

"We think we can make

good progress taking out

that (existing) water line

that was installed in 1905.

We assume all that rock

was blasted, and we will

use the existing trench.

That is going to be super

important," Sjoberg said.

"I know some of this, like

the rock, is beyond you.

There has been some dis-

appointment through parts

of this project, and there

have been some obstacles.

I really don't want to add

to that compounding as

we start the school year. I

want this to be a new year

with a fresh start and new

phase. That is something

I will be monitoring very

closely. Just so you know."

Erickson also updated

the work. We have to be very transparent about what we are doing.'

Sjoberg pressed the issue. "Is there a ballpark timeline on this?"

"They were all here late last week and I haven't had a chance to follow up with them," Erickson said. "There are a lot of pieces to it. What we could come back to you with is work to date. What we don't know is the future. They are across the football field and today they were working near the football stadium and working in the area where the fire hydrant

A drill rig remains on site to locate the areas of hard rock that must be removed to install the water line. "Where they do find rock, the plan is to pre-drill it to assist the back hoe," Erickson said. "This is very hard rock."

As far as work com-

of campus to install new in building material delivwater and sewer lines, a second construction crew will begin right after the Fourth of July holiday, according to Erickson.

"We still have some issues with the cabinets for the offices. We ordered them last fall and haven't seen them yet. They are supposed to be here this week. We have been micromanaging where they can start making cabinets for the district offices and the principals' offices. We divided the building into multiple sections, so we can focus on a specific area," he said.

board members on delays

The kitchen area also has some issues with custom fabrication com-

"We have a delivery date now of July 18," he said. "After that we have to get the plumbing hooked up in there. It is a complex plumbing plan."

In the new gymnasium, work is delayed on installing the wood floor because of the moisture dissipation in the concrete

"We poured the floor on Feb. 19 and it was supposed to be ready (for the wood floor) in 60 days," Erickson said. "We measure the moisture in there at least twice a week and we have a company rep up here working with us."

He noted that a drying agent product can be applied to the concrete to speed the drying process.

In the renovation of the Washington building, HVAC system work continues, Erickson said.

"The air handling units were ordered in January and are scheduled to arrive by the end of July. Again, we are going to have to micromanage that sched-

In the Memorial building, "We don't even have delivery dates scheduled for some of the tile work, and we can't finish the showers until that is in," he said. "Those might not be delivered until September. Again, the supply chain is a real deal."

He admitted that the showers may not be completed by the start of the school year.

Board member Tony Colarich related concerns from a community member about the loss of trees on the north side of the campus along Harvey Street. "They were concerned

that the trees would not survive this project," he

"This is pretty much a complete redevelopment of the front of the campus," said Karl Larson of Architectural Resources Inc. "Anything north of the building, you will lose the

He noted that some trees may be spared on the northwest part of the campus near the elementary playground area.

The new school bus and student drop-off traffic loops and parking areas will result in the loss of existing trees. Board members discussed and approved a final plan for the redesigned parking areas and student drop-off areas.

Ely police chief Chad Houde and K-5 Principal Anne Oelke will produce an educational video for parents and the community explaining the substantial changes in traffic and parking that will be implemented for the 2022-23 school year.

"The big thing for safety is that on Harvey Street there will be no parking (during the school day),"Superintendent John Klarich said. "That is a big deal for after school.'

The public will still be allowed to park on the north side of Harvey Street and on side streets.

"We have limited where people can go," he said. "The drop-off loops will be one-way in and out. For the parking lots, there will be one way in and one way out. We will have signs indicating all of this. We have put a lot of work into this plan."

COVID ... Continued from page 10 –

map, but as with the initial rollout of the tool last year, testing performed by the Timberjay on Tuesday found the site of limited use in the North Country. For example, among the various scenarios tested, selecting Tower for the location for a three-yearold to be vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine, no locations came up on the map that were within 100 miles. However, that Tower parent does have options

The Moderna vaccine is available now by appointment at the Scenic Rivers Health Services offices in Cook and Bigfork and the clinic plans to roll out the vaccine at other locations soon. Essentia Health also announced that they would be starting vaccinations for kids under five years and will be using the three-shot Pfizer vaccine.

State Department of Health guidance for vaccinations are as follows:

➤ Children ages 6 months to five years should get either the Pfizer vaccine or Moderna vaccine for this age group.

➤ The vaccines for this age group are a smaller dose than the vaccines for older children and adults. ➤ The vaccines for

these children are packaged differently, so you will need to go to a location that has the vaccine that is right for your child based on their age.

➤ Your child will need multiple doses of this vaccine — this is called the primary vaccine series.

➤ The Pfizer vaccine for this age group is three doses. You can get the second dose 3-8 weeks after the first dose and your third dose eight weeks after the second dose. Your provider can help you schedule your second and third shot while getting vour first.

➤ The Moderna vaccine for this age group is two doses. You can get the second dose 4-8 weeks after the first dose. Your provider can help you schedule your second shot while getting your first.

➤ Talk to your provid er if you have questions about either type of vaccine or which vaccine is right for your child.

The Department of Health has set up a webpage dedicated to vaccine information for all children ages 17 and under at https:// mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/ vaxforkids/.

Case information

COVID cases in the state have been trending downward but appear to have leveled off somewhat. Case counts of around 1,500 per day or lower have been the norm for the past couple of weeks, about a thousand less per day than just three weeks ago.

The seven-day case average in St. Louis County reflects a similar flattening of the trend, holding around 50-55 since June 10.

However, the news could be better for the North Country, as all six zip codes monitored by the Timberjay have reported increased cases over the past three weeks. Ely tops the list with 28, followed by Cook with 20. Orr reported ten new cases, while Tower reported nine, Embarrass six, and Soudan three. No new cases have been reported for Bois Forte during the same period.

Looking to the future

The more highly contagious Omicron variants B.4 and B.5 have continued to gain ground and now represent 52 percent of new cases nationwide, with the regions including Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa trending higher still at 56 percent.

The Mayo Clinic's COVID tracker 14-day projections on Tuesday showed that another wave of increasing cases is likely headed in this direction, although judging from the speed of the progression it would likely be late July before the effects are felt in St. Louis County. While all of Minnesota was in the CDC's low community risk category last week,

the Mayo's projections show heightened levels of COVID cases starting primarily in the southwest corner of the state and progressing toward the northeast. Southeast Minnesota and the Twin Cities will also start seeing more COVID cases, according to the projections.

B.4 and B.5 have been found to have mutations that allow them to more easily circumvent both vaccine-based and COVID-induced immunity, although data is still clearly demonstrating the health advantages of vaccinations in terms of less serious illness, fewer hospitalizations, and fewer deaths. The variant subtypes are more frequently presenting with milder symptoms than previous variants like Delta.

BORDER LAKES

Kabetogama and Crane Lake flooding could be gone by mid-July

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL-Monday's Rainy River Basin flood update from the Duluth National Weather Service office was one residents in affected areas were likely to be less enthusiastic about than some, as the forecast through next Wednesday was summed up in one distasteful word:

NWS forecasters indicated the chances for intermittent showers and thunderstorms was high, and multiple online weather sites indicated the likelihood of at least some rain every day from the Fourth of July through next Friday.

But there was also plenty of good news overall, and in particular for the Namakan Lake chain, including Kabetogama and Crane Lakes.

Barring any additional heavy rainfall, the lake level for Namakan, which had already dropped below the 2014 peak, was expected to fall another 12-15 inches by this Sunday. That would put the drop since the May 1 crest at about four feet. It's possible the Namakan chain of lakes will reach normal levels by mid-July.

Rainy Lake crested much later, on June 15, and the waters have receded nine inches since then. The NWS forecast projects the lake will drop another seven to nine inches by Sunday. The inflow and outflow levels are still very close, which could lead to a slowing or pause in the drop in the case of heavy precipitation. Even at the current rate, Rainy Lake isn't expected to reach normal levels until mid-tolate August.

However, those tentative predictions have replaced the once all-too-familiar caution that flood conditions would likely persist for the foreseeable future. An end to the flooding is now in sight.

The conversations in social media groups for the Kabetogama and Crane Lake communities reflect the positive changes, as the flooding is rarely mentioned in conversation now and often referred to in past tense. What has remained constant are the posts of

wayward items washed away by the floods that have been found and are looking for owners.

And as a final indicator that the region is well on the downside of this historic flood event, NWS has discontinued its Thursday teleconference updates regarding the flood.



Ely Community Health Center

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

Hu<u>m</u>anities Retirement Party

Gardner

for Keiko Williams

Keiko has served the Ely Arts community as **Executive Director of the Gardner Humanities Trust** for 22 years.

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U.S. Steel to build new production facility on Iron Range

<u>by Marshall He</u>lmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL- The U.S. Steel Corporation announced this week that it plans to break ground this fall on a new \$150 million direct reduced iron (DRI) production facility on Minnesota's Iron Range. The company has yet to decide the location for the facility but indicated it would be associated with either its Minntac taconite processing plant in Mt. Iron

or its Keetac facility near

This will enable one of the company's existing taconite pelletizing plants the option to produce DR-grade pellets while maintaining the option to continue production of blast furnace-grade pellets. In doing so, the decision will help the company supply domestic feedstock to its growing fleet of electric arc furnaces, which utilize DRI or scrap metal.

Both types of pellets

would be produced from existing taconite reserves, but the DRI pellets have a much higher iron count, about 95 percent, compared to roughly 65 percent for taconite pellets. That allows them to be used as direct feed for electric arc furnaces. Taconite pellets need to be further refined in a blast furnace before they can be converted to steel products.

The company noted that it will also have the ability to sell its direct reduced iron pellets to other

steel producers. While the DRI grade pellets would represent a new product line for U.S. Steel, it would not be the first company to produce DRI on the Iron Range. Cleveland Cliffs completed construction of a DRI plant at its Silver Bay processing facility in 2019, although the company recently announced that the company's DRI will be produced at its Minorca Mine in the future. Mesabi Nugget, which built the region's first DRI plant in Hoyt Lakes

ELY-The annual Ely 4 on the 4th run/

On-site registration will be available

Participants will choose to run in three

Water bottles and wrapped snacks

walk will be held on Monday at Trezona

from 6:40-7:40 a.m. on race day. Early

online registration is recommended at the

waves: fast runners, general runners, and

will be available at the end of the race.

walkers and kids 12 and under.

Participants will receive a t-shirt.

back in the late 2000s, shut down after several years of operation.

U.S. Steel officials say their planned investment reflects the company's commitment to enhancing domestic steel production. "Our conviction remains that steel mined, melted, and made in America is vital to our national and economic security," said David B. Burritt, President and CEO of U.S. Steel. "We are strategically investing in our raw materials that will

Ely runs the Trezona on the Fourth

feed the advanced steel mills of today and tomorrow, making us increasingly self-sufficient. It's another way that we're supporting domestic manufacturing, simplifying complex global supply chains, addressing the sustainability demands of our customers, and ultimately creating profitable steel solutions for people and the planet.'

U.S. Steel's proposed plant is still subject to regulatory approval and permitting.

Medals will be awarded for the top

three male and top three female partic-

ipants in the following categories: all

runners, walkers, and kids 12 and under.

Race officials will notify award winners

a drawing for prizes and gift certificates. Must be present to win. Drawing will be

available on the Janet Gensler Memorial

Ely 4 on the 4th page on Facebook.

done near the end of the race.

All participants will be entered into

The link for online registration is



ELY...Continued from page 1

members last week.

The event will run from 5-11 p.m. Beverages will be sold by the Ely Fire Relief Association, and some regional food trucks will set up in or around the park for the public event, Velcheff said. Admission requires the purchase of an Ely Fourth of July button.

Also on Saturday, the public is invited to join Boundary Waters Connect for a barbecue at the Chapman Street

Commons, the new pocket park across from Wells Fargo Bank, from 4-6 p.m. They will have burgers, brats, vegan alternatives, classic barbecue fixings, beverages, live music and yard games.

Boundary Waters Connect, the economic and community development program of Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, encouraged option online registration at https://secure.everyaction.com/dhzfU5BX-P0eOo-XuMCJKBA2.

Ely's Fourth of July parade begins at 1 p.m. on Monday. Lineup starts at 10 a.m. on Fourth Ave. from Harvey and Boundary streets on the west side of the ISD 696 campus.

The parade will follow the traditional route through the city: west on Harvey St. to Second Ave., then north to Sheridan St., then east through the city's downtown district, past Whiteside Park, to Eighth

Trail, beginning at 8 a.m.

link listed below.

The city-wide celebration will also include the following events: ➤ Raising of the American Flag at the

Veterans Memorial (Trezona Trail parking lot), 7 a.m. ➤ Janet Gensler Memorial Ely 4 on the 4th

Run and Walk on Trezona Trail, 8 a.m. (see sidebar) ➤ Picnic and family games in Whiteside Park,

with lunch in the pavilion, sponsored by Young Life, 11a.m.-4 p.m. Needle in a Haystack starts at 11:30 a.m. Mattress races start at noon. Activities resume after the parade from 2-4 p.m. Family Fun Races start at 2:30 p.m.

➤ A Family-friendly music event begins at 3 p.m. at Semer's Park, featuring Waffle House Melee, Close Enough for Country, Van and the Free Candies, Simple Recipe, and Finn

Hill. Bring your own chair and beverages.

➤ Fireworks, shot over Miners Lake, will put a patriotic cap on the day

To contribute to Ely's Fourth of July efforts, please contact the Ely Events Committee at ElyEventsCommittee@ gmail.com or mail a donation to Ely Events Committee, PO Box 231, Ely MN 55731.

ORR...Continued from page 1 -

day running, check out 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 organizers have proclaimed, "If you think it's cool and it has wheels, bring it! We want to see all your cool

The always high-

ly-anticipated dren'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.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

popcorn, and root beer floats. There will also be outdoor games and water play for the kids, so bring swimsuits if it's warm enough. The winners of the Fourth of July raffle will be drawn at the picnic.

The 39th Annual Vermilion Walk and Run begins at 8 a.m. Registration on race day is from 6:30-7:45 a.m. sharp. Race start is by the Lake Vermilion Cultural Cen-

and a one-mile kids run. Email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org for a registration form or pick one up prior to the race. The cost is \$20 per person on race day. Children 12 and under run free with a paid adult. The kids run is free. There is a \$40 family rate for the 10K. There are free t-shirts (first come, first served) for all participants, and all finishers will receive a Vermilion Run vinyl sticker com-

Breitung Community Pic- ter, across the street from memorating the race. The nic from noon-3 p.m. This the civic center. There is route this year has been free picnic includes hot a 5K run/walk, a 10K run, changed due to planned construction on the Mesabi Trail, and it will be well marked. The race will start and finish at the same spot this year, by the intersection of North Second and Pine St.

> The pancake breakfast takes place at the Tower/ Herb Lamppa Civic Center from 8-10:30 a.m. with pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. This event is sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club.

There is a flag rais-

ing and the singing of the national anthem and other patriotic songs at 10:30 a.m. outside of Tower City Hall.

The parade starts at 11 a.m. There will be a flyover from the 148th Fighter Wing at approximately 11:03 a.m.

The kiddie parade will lead off the event. Children should line up at the intersection of Main St. and Birch St. by Ubetcha Antiques. All children are welcome to march, decorations are encouraged but not required. All children will receive \$5, a flag, and a lanyard. Children need to be lined up by 10:45 a.m.

Parade floats need to line up in the Civic Center parking lot by 10 a.m. for judging. You can pre-register your float by calling Julie Johnson at 218-750-7242, or email tseventsboard@gmail.com.

There are cash prizes

iving well

for best of show, first, second, and third places, best family float, most patriotic float, and best business/ commercial float.

This year's honored citizen will be a remembrance of the late Phyllis Burgess, longtime editor from the Tower News.

There will be free hot dogs for children at the old Legion Building on Main St. after the parade. The building is now the home of Pins 'n' Needles, a new business that will be celebrating their grand opening on July 4 with a free pig roast (while it lasts), and other events.

There is a beer garden and food at D'Erick's Tower Liquors, and outdoor drinks and food specials at Benchwarmer Grille. There will be food booths on Main Street. Sulu's will be selling hot dogs and brats outdoors.

The children's sawdust scramble starts at 12:30 p.m. at the school football field, followed by children's races with cash prizes, and a few adult races once the children's

races are done.

The Tower-Soudan Fourth of July celebration is organized and funded by the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board. Donations are still needed; it costs as much as \$30,000 to put on the event each year. After two years of reduced fundraising opportunities during the pandemic, donations are needed more than ever.

Please support, and encourage others to support this, as well as other events, by sending your tax-deductible gift to: Tower/Soudan/Lake Vermilion Events Board (TSLVEB), PO Box 461, Tower MN 55790.

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DRY NEEDLING

TIMBERJAY Newspapers

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FILM...Continued from page 1

swing states.

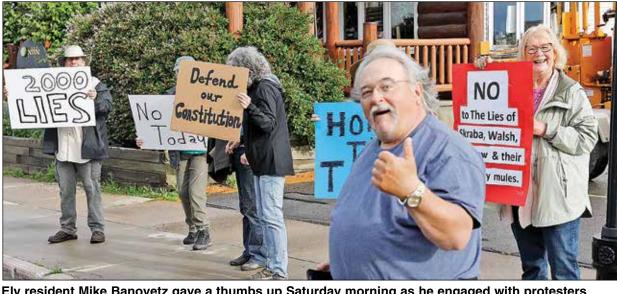
That was the story inside the theater. Out on the sidewalks in front of the building, protestors held signs like "2000 lies," or "Honor the Truth" to make their case debunking the film. Those two sides interacted at times, engaging in sometimes heated discussion, but mostly seeming to talk past each other.

The film was produced by longtime political provocateur Dinesh D'Souza, an Indian-American who has made millions of dollars generating similar controversies throughout his career as a right-wing provocateur and conspiracy theorist. D'Souza comes with a somewhat checkered past, having been convicted of campaign finance fraud in 2012. In the same year, he was fired from his position as president of Kings College, a New York Christian college, over allegations of deception and adultery. Those who turned out

for the film, which aired at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., represented a political cross-section, although a large majority appeared more than willing to accept D'Souza's claims that organized voter fraud, perpetrated by Democrats, was sufficient to tip the scales in key swing states, effectively handing the White House to Joe Biden.

For some area politicians, it was an opportunity to show sympathy for a view held by many Republicans, namely that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump. "There's no voter fraud, right?" said Chad Walsh sarcastically during a brief break in the first showing of the film due to a temporary power outage. "And if you believe there is, there's something wrong with you, right?"

Walsh, who is one of several candidates running for St. Louis County Sheriff,



Ely resident Mike Banovetz gave a thumbs up Saturday morning as he engaged with protesters across the street from Ely's Historic State Theater prior to the showing of "2000 Mules," a film purporting to document claims of voter fraud during the 2020 election. photo by K. Vandervort

joined Ely Mayor Roger Skraba, who is seeking the GOP nomination for the 3A House seat currently held by Rob Ecklund, and Doug Wardlow, who is seeking the GOP nod to challenge current Attorney General Keith Ellison, at the event. Wardlow, who lost to

Ellison in the 2018 general election, comes to the race as a true believer in election fraud. "The 2020 election was stolen. The 2018 election was stolen as well," said Wardlow, an attorney who serves as chief legal counsel for MyPillow and its founder Mike Lindell, who has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars promoting his stolen election theories in support of former President Donald Trump. "We have voter fraud going on in Minnesota," said Wardlow, without citing his evidence. Wardlow said confidence needs to be restored in elections or the public stands to lose faith in both elections and their elected leaders. "Then, law and order breaks down in general," he said.

Wardlow could have cited the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol as an example of that breakdown,

except that's not how the events of Jan. 6 are viewed by many on the political right. "January 6th was not an insurrection," stated D'Souza at one point in his film. "It was a primal scream."

That scream was, in D'Souza's telling, a response to widespread election fraud. To back up his claims, D'Souza cites cell phone geolocation data obtained by the conservative organization known as True the Vote and its president Catherine Engelbrecht. Shortly after the 2020 election, Engelbrecht claimed to have evidence of widespread voter fraud, and raised millions of dollars off those claims, promising to release the evidence.

Yet, according to the *Texas Tribune*, in a June 14, 2022 report titled "She helped create the Big Lie. Records suggest she turned it into a big grift," Englebrecht's group never followed through on its promises.

The *Tribune*, after reviewing public tax records, reported that Engelbrechthad used donations given ostensibly to expose voter fraud, to

make personal loans to Engelbrecht, large payments to a firm owned by her romantic partner, along with payments to a law firm that failed to file lawsuits it promised large donors it would undertake in hopes of overturning the 2020 election results.

Yet, Englebrecht's evidence, which purportedly included vast amounts of cellular tracking data obtained from private companies, as well as four million minutes of government security video obtained through public records requests, became the basis for D'Souza's arguments about a stolen election. They claim the data provides evidence of not just 2,000 so-called "mules" but actually 54,000 that participated in the scheme to harvest votes, at least to some extent.

In other words, 54,000 people, none of whom have apparently spilled the beans.

While True the Vote did apparently provide some of the evidence they say proves their claims to law enforcement officials in Georgia, officials with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation reported that the geolocation data was not precise enough to form the foundation for an investigation. In some cases, according to a fact check of the film by the Reuters news service, Georgia officials were able to identify some of the individuals presented as "mules" in the film, and that subsequent investigation cleared them of wrong-doing.

While some might describe D'Souza's film as a documentary, it makes no pretense of the fairness that is normally a part of a journalistic work. The film interviews no elections officials about their processes and checks and balances that are designed to prevent the casting of fraudulent votes. It interviews no law enforcement officials about the standards of evidence required for an investigation. It interviews none of the purported "mules," nor does it name or interview anyone from any of the non-profit organizations it claims were involved in the vote harvesting schemes.

Even if one accepts the evidence presented as factual, it's unclear that it represents voter fraud. D'Souza's film purports to show what is known as

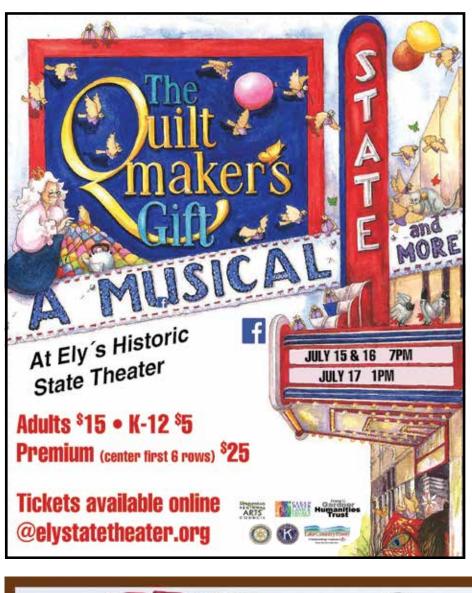
"ballot harvesting," which is when individuals collect and deliver absentee ballots for others. D'Souza's film presents no evidence that suggests that any of the ballots delivered were cast by voters who were not qualified to do so.

Rules on ballot harvesting vary from state-tostate, and the practice is not illegal in every state, according to numerous media reports.

D'Souza's film, given its many shortcomings. has been widely dismissed as propaganda by most of the media. Even the conservative cable outlet, Fox News, has refused to air the film for that reason. But the film is making the rounds of theaters across the country, raking in millions for D'Souza and serving as a political rallying point for Republican candidates playing off the unwillingness of so much of their party's base to accept the results of the 2020 election.

Republican candidates, like Wardlow, Skraba, and Third District Senate candidate Andrea Zupancich, all were present or had literature available at the event. Walsh noted that the sheriff's job is officially non-partisan, but he left little doubt that his view of the election was in line with many who viewed D'Souza's film on Saturday, or his eagerness to pursue voter fraud in St. Louis County. "I can tell you right now, if I get elected and we get wind of voter fraud, we will investigate it," he said.

And Saturday's showing won't be the last in Ely. GOP organizers announced they'll have regular showings of the film once they open their planned new office in Ely in the coming days. They promised more details on that soon.





APPROPRIATION FROM THE ARTS AND



16 July 1, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY



This Tower-Soudan Fourth of July schedule of events has been brought to you by these communityminded 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

Spend 4th of July in Tower-Soudan

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

<u>Parade – July 4th</u>

<mark>Judging be</mark>gin<mark>s</mark> 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.

148th Fighter Wing Fly-Over at 11:03 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 Daguiris, 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 sam<mark>e</mark> sp<mark>o</mark>t!

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 fie<mark>ld (west end)</mark>

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

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 Draw<mark>ing</mark> will <mark>b</mark>e hel<mark>d</mark>

July 1, 2022 1B THE TIMBERJAY

North Country

Serving northern St. Louis County since 1989

THE LEGISLATURE

Bear sanctuary working through staffing crisis

Lack of workers, interns prompt limited hours

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Former Vince Shute

Wildlife Sanctuary Executive Director Steph Horner said 'so long' to the popular black bear attraction at the end of last year's season, but she never could say goodbye to the organization or the

animals she deeply loves.

To make sure the transition to new leadership went well, Horner decided to take a job at a nearby resort this summer to be available to help out if needed.

"When I left, I said, 'Look, if things get rough, I'm just a call away," Horner said. "I'm committed to this other job, but if things get bad, I will drop everything, and we'll come.'

Things did indeed get bad, as the new director suddenly flew the coop after a delayed season-opening weekend, Horner found herself back at Vince Shute full-time, smack dab in the middle of a

See SHUTE...pg. 4B



A black bear playfully chews on bark from a tree at the Vince Shute Sanctuary. While the sanctuary staff wrestle with HR issues, it's business as usual for the bears. photo by D. Colburn



TRANSITIONS

Goodbye to a 'good ol' guy

Good 'Ol Days has new owners, which means a well-earned rest for Randy Semo

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Twenty years ago Randy and Carol Semo opened a 1950s-themed bar and grill with a décor that echoed both their love of that era and a healthy dose of Green Bay Packers fandom.

Good Ol' Days Bar and Grill's interior still showcases Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, and John F. Kennedy. A large-scale model train choo-choos its way on tracks that wind through the bar's interior. It was also a place that honored veterans, with photos of area veterans who had passed away and a special table in honor of "The Fallen Soldier", an empty place setting to honor those who had served, were away from home, and those who had not come home.

On July 1, ownership of the business passes to Dan and Greta Burandt, who live in Eagles Nest Township.

Customers can rest assured that almost everything, except the Green Bay Packer memorabilia, is remaining, including all the current employees. There will be some changes in the menu, of course,

as the new owners put their own touches on the business. "I am going to miss my help the most," Randy said. "The people who work for me are invaluable. I couldn't have run the business

Second-most, he will miss his regular customers, many of whom have become close friends over the years.

without them.'



Top: Randy and Carol Semo were on hand for last week's customer appreciation day at Good Ol' Days. The couple has owned the popular bar and restaurant in Tower for 20 years, with Randy handling much of the dayto-day operations. Ownership was to formally change hands to Dan and Greta Burandt, on July 1.

Above and right: Customers line the bar and nearby tables, while an Elvis statue strikes a pose. photos by J. Summit

The business has established a statewide reputation, especially for its award-winning Bloody Mary's, concocted with a house-made mix and too many toppings to count.

'We would sell 500 on the

See GOOD 'OL...pg. 4B



HONORS



Linda Fryer's sisters, Suzanne Fryer and Gloria Marion remove the cover from the new street sign, highlighting Linda Fryer Way, in Ely.

photos by K. Vandervort

Linda Fryer Way dedicated in Ely

Portion of Seventh Ave. named for longtime Chamber president

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY - A new street name, Linda Fryer Way, was dedicated last week for the longtime Chamber of Commerce leader whose efforts went a long way to put this community on the map.

Family, friends, Ely civic and tourism leaders, and business owners gathered at Whiteside Park last Thursday for the formal unveiling of the new street name for Fryer who passed away earlier this year. Linda Fryer Way runs for one block along the west side of Whiteside Park.

Fryer led the local Chamber of Commerce for nearly a quarter of a century. She retired in 2013.

Longtime local business owner Kerry Davis admitted that Fryer "would have hated this" as supporters honored her at the brief ceremony.

"She would never have allowed this," he added. "She was never one to blow her own horn."

Fryer developed Ely's two popular festivals, Blueberry Arts and Harvest Moon, and was instrumental in developing the popular Aprils Fool's marketing campaign that put Ely on the tourist map across the state and Midwest.

Ely Tourism Board leader Cindy Smyka said, "Her love of community shows in everything she did."

Mayor Roger Skraba looked back to the first time he was elected to the city's top leadership position.

"I went to visit Linda and she told me, 'Just so you understand, don't come down here thinking you can tell us what to do.' She was a big promoter of Ely, but she was a defender of Ely, too," he said.

Chamber of Commerce Vice President Dave Sebesta highlighted Fryer's passion for the region. "She loved the woods. She loved everything about this town and the area," he said.

See FRYER WAY ...pg. 4B

2B July 1, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

DNR's draft wolf plan up for public comment

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL - TheDepartment of Natural Resources is accepting comments through Aug. 8 on a draft of Minnesota's updated wolf management plan.

The gray wolf is currently under federal protection in Minnesota, so the state's management plan does not call for a hunting or trapping season, which would violate those

federal protections.

In the event the federal protections are lifted, the updated plan states that any wolf hunting or trapping would need to meet the state's conservation objectives. "For example, possible objectives could include managing wolf-livestock conflicts, aiding ungulate population recovery, reducing wolf disease outbreaks, or providing regulated hunting and trapping opportunities," states the report. "With proper harvest and population monitoring, the effects high priority for the DNR and of hunting and trapping on a wolf population can be evaluated, informing adjustments to seasons to ensure wolf conservation goals are supported."

The plan makes note of the diverse views of Minnesotans regarding wolves and how to manage them, although the agency stated that a large majority of Minnesotans appear to support maintaining a healthy and viable wolf population.

"Wolf conservation is a

we expect this updated plan to help ensure Minnesota's wolf population remains healthy," said Dr. Kelly Straka, wildlife section manager. "Thank you to those who have already contributed to the extensive public and tribal engagement that helped create this draft. We are now asking folks to review the draft and share their thoughts with us."

See PLAN...pg. 3B









PERCEPTIONS

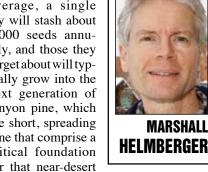
Obliterating the sound of silence

We are only beginning to understand how our noise and light affects other creatures

ne of the things that science is beginning to slowly teach us humans is the way in which we are impacting the lives of other species and the very environment in ways most of us would never imagine. Take, for example, a study of scrub jays in New Mexico. Like most jays, scrub jays cache food for the winter and in much of

New Mexico that means they stash lots of seeds from the pinyon pine. On average, a single jay will stash about 4,000 seeds annually, and those they forget about will typically grow into the next generation of pinyon pine, which are short, spreading pine that comprise a critical foundation for that near-desert

ecosystem.



But researchers found that

in areas near oil and gas rigs,

where the sounds of those rigs

were a constant presence, scrub

jays spent less time and buried

fewer pine seeds. In fact, they buried only about a quarter

as many pinyon pine seeds as

in quieter places. That means

fewer pinyon pines, the kind

of change to an ecosystem that

can have any number of desta-

ways that humans are affecting

the natural environment without

some awareness of the concept

of habitat. In the usual telling,

it's an assemblage of plants and

animals that provide for the life

It is just one of a myriad of

Most of us probably have

bilizing effects.

even realizing it.

and the broader environment. book explores the different ways that animals perceive the world around them. Because we're human, and therefore arrogant about our place in

From bats and owls, to birds

providing a glimpse of how the

and ampibians, and even

insects, recent studies are

noise and light produced by

humans is impacting wildlife

the world, it's easy for us to forget that we've become the 900-pound gorillas here on Planet Earth, stomping around in ever growing numbers and with ever greater impact on, well, everything.

Because we don't see well in the dark, we see darkness as something to be avoided, which means we light up

our environment to an astonishing degree. We've only recently begun to pay attention to light pollution, yet it's mostly in the context of how it affects our lives— as in we can't see the

We have distracted species from what they actually need to sense, drowned out the cues they depend upon, and lured them into sensory traps.

northern lights or the Milky Way in most of the country.

Yet all that light and sound that we humans generate on a nearly constant basis has a profound impact on many species, notes Yong. It impacts their ability to find food, to find a mate, avoid predators, or to find their way during migration.

There are creatures, like bats,

owls, and night-flying moths,





that have adapted to darkness, and their lives are impacted by the encroachment of our lights. And many species rely on calls, songs, and even vibrations to communicate, and that becomes increasingly difficult if not impossible, as the sounds of human activity spread to nearly every corner of the globe.

"We have distracted them from what they actually need to sense, drowned out the cues they depend upon, and lured them into sensory traps. All of this is capable of doing catastrophic damage," Yong writes.

As the human population has grown and we've spread our sensory pollution to the far-flung reaches of the planet, those places truly free from the light and sound that makes up the world of human activities are increasingly rare.

As I read Jong's story, I couldn't help but make some connections locally. Just last week, I attended a meeting at Eagles Nest Township to report on local concerns about the designation of a new ATV trail. It appeared residents were upset



about the noise and disruption a steady stream of ATVs could have on their neighborhoods. They, of course, had the ability to come and speak up for their interests. But as this winding network of ATV trails, estimated to eventually reach 1,000 miles here in northeastern Minnesota alone, brings noise to many places along those routes where humans rarely ventured in the past, how will it impact the wildlife along the way? That's a question that isn't asked, even in those instances when environmental review is undertaken for a project.

And I wonder about the impact on wildlife from major sources of light pollution, which in our area would include Fortune Bay Resort Casino. The lighting from that operation now fills the night sky across much of Lake Vermilion and has virtually ended true night on the Vermilion Reservation. We know how that impacts our view of the night sky, but how does it impact many other

See BUBBLE...pg. 3B

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower TALLBUTTERCUP



There are more than a dozen species of buttercups in Minnesota and most are native, and relatively uncommon in our area. The Tall **Buttercup,** Ranunculus acris is one of the non-natives, but it is also one of the North Country's most common wildflowers in June and early July, at least in disturbed areas, like roadsides and fields.

It's native to Europe, Asia, Greenland, and Alaska, although it is thoroughly naturalized here in Minnesota. While not native, it's hard to resist the perky, five-petaled, yellow flowers that wave in the breeze on their tall, slender

The leaves of this plant are deeply divided, which can be another field mark to help with identification.

This plant frequently grows in pastures and it can be a problem for some livestock. Horses, in particular, are known to be sensitive to the plant, which is toxic to them if eaten fresh.

Fishing reports

Elv area

Walleye anglers had mixed results this last week as mayflies have begun hatching on many area lakes. While the hatch hasn't been heavy yet, it has been enough to slow the bite. Anglers continue to find walleyes both in shallow water, six-to-nine feet with slip bobbers and a leech, or out on sunken islands in 15-25 feet of water, pulling lindy rigs tipped with a crawler.

Smallmouth bass fishing has been outstanding for just about everyone targeting them this last week. Smallies have been crushing topwater lures like whopper ploppers, torpedoes and pop-r's. Soft plastics are also worth noting. Wacky rigging and Ned rigging have been outstanding!

Rainbow trout and brown trout have been active this last week. Anglers have been catching both on crawlers floated off the bottom or fished 10-15 feet under a bobber. With the mayfly hatch going on, dry flies in the evening has also been very effective on rainbows in particular.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

as well. It's a point made eloquently

needs of any particular species. But as we've learned more in recent years, we've come to understand that the impact that humans are having on species goes well beyond the destruction or fragmentation of such habitat. It turns out that other things, like the noise and light that seem to go hand-in-hand with the presence of humans, are having significant impacts

in *The Atlantic* this month, by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Ed Yong, whose most recent

THE TIMBERJAY

July 1, 2022 **3B**

from NOAA weather

Make your yard bear-smart this summer

Outdoors briefly

REGIONAL-Is your yard or campsite attractive to bears? In the absence of human-created attractions, bears rely on small, scattered patches of natural foods: specific types of young green vegetation in spring, certain species of ants and ant pupae in June, berries in summer, and nuts in fall. But if bears can get access to concentrated, high-calorie, easily accessible foods around people's homes and campsites, they are quickly enticed away from their natural food sources.

It is important to secure anything that a bear would consider food. Don't condition bears to associate your home or campsite with an easy meal by leaving out unsecured garbage, birdseed or pet food.

Get your fishing questions answered on DNR website

REGIONAL -Anglers with fishing questions can find answers on the Department of Natural Resources' fishing page. The page answers questions like: For which species can I fish? What kind of bait is legal? What kind of fish can I keep? It also is a mobile-friendly destination for information on when, where and how to fish. Users will find links to LakeFinder, which provides maps and detailed

Artist Submissions Requested!

upcoming Math in Motion show

Aug. 11-14. Please email a photo or

description of the artwork to

molson727@gmail.com. **DEADLINE July 29 for submissions.**

Reflections Dance Company is seeking artwork related to the theme "Math in Motion" for the

information on lakes throughout the state, and the new StreamFinder tool that provides a description,

Learn about alternatives to lead tackle in **DNR** webinar

Ely

06/20

06/25

YTD Total

species list, regulations and access information for trout streams throughout Minnesota.

The Department of Natural Resources invites Minnesotans interested in fishing, wildlife and outdoor skills to tune into an upcoming webinar on alternatives to lead fishing tackle. The webinar is set for noon Wednesday, July 6.

Kelly Amoth and Steven Yang, program coordinators at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Get the Lead Out program, will share information about lead-free tackle alternatives on the market and success stories of fishing with lead-free tackle.

The webinars are part of the DNR's Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series, which aims to give participants quick, relevant information on upcoming seasons and events, as well as skills to enjoy these opportunities. The webinars are free, but registration is required. More information, including registration information for webinars and recordings of past webinars, is available on the outdoor skills and stewardship page of the DNR website.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

Saturday **Friday**



Lo Prec. Sn.

0.59

90 63 0.01

93 81

06/23 76 53 0.00 06/24 87 60 0.00

87 62 75 51

Emb.	Н	Lo	Prec.	
06/20	90	68	0.00	
06/21	94	66	0.78	
06/22	80	52	0.00	
06/23	75	52	0.00	
06/24	87	61	0.00	
06/25	85	61	0.75	
06/26	74	51	0.08	
VTD To	to!		10 17	

Sunday

Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.
06/20	92	59	0.03
06/21	95	67	0.24
06/22	80	60	0.00
06/23	76	60	0.00
06/24	88	64	0.00
06/25	84	61	0.51
06/26	73	50	0.15
YTD To	tal		12.69

Monday

Tuesday

Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr Hi Lo Prec. Sn. 06/20 90 63 0.00 66 0.00 06/20 93 06/21 79 52 52 75 52 06/23 75 06/24 87 58 0.00 06/24 81 63 0.00 06/25 85 06/26 7 YTD Total

BUBBLE...Continued from page 2B

creatures that require the darkness? We don't really know, because these are questions that largely remain unexplored.

We tend to view the impacts of noise and light pollution only in the sense of how they affect us. Yet, as Yong notes, what we might find acceptable or insignificant can be devastating to other species. "Every animal is enclosed within its own sensory bubble, perceiving but a tiny sliver of an immense world," he writes. To a wood tick, the world is sensed in terms of body heat or the touch of hair. "It doesn't care about other stimuli and probably doesn't even know that they exist."

Jong uses a word, "umwelt" coined in 1909 by a German zoologist, to describe these sensory bubbles. Each umwelt, including our own, is very limited, even though

it doesn't seem that way to us who live within it. "Our umwelt is all we know and, and so we can easily mistake it for all there is to know. This is an illusion that every creature shares," he writes.

Yet, slowly, humans are perhaps the one species here on Earth that is beginning to understand how other organisms perceive the world. And that could, if we so desired, give us the ability to take steps to reduce our many and myriad intrusions into the worlds of other creatures.

And there are steps that can be taken. For example, converting the bright white light produced by sodium bulbs, which are commonly used in parking lots, with red bulbs. the impact to the night sky and those creatures that depend on darkness is significantly reduced- yet we humans can still see what we need

to see just fine.

If I was an ATV manufacturer, I'd be looking for ways to reduce the sound footprint of the machines I produce for market. Even if it's just to head off the growing complaints from residents near heavily trafficked trails, there's the related benefit of reducing the noise pollution affecting the wildlife that many riders hope to see when they're out on the trail.

While there are many environmental issues that are complicated and costly to address, the issues of sensory pollution doesn't have to be, since there are ways we can help to alleviate the harm. It just requires us to step outside our sensory bubbles and try to understand the world from the perspectives of our fellow creatures.





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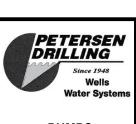
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Good Ol' Days, is looking

forward to having more

time for fishing, and for

GOOD 'OL...Continued from page 1B

Fourth of July," said Randy. The bar set up a Bloody Mary take-out window in the adjacent laundromat to efficiently assemble and sell that many in one day.

But the bar also sells between 300 and 400 in an average month.

The bar won a statewide contest for the best Bloody Mary sponsored by Absolut Vodka and the Food Network in 2017, after placing second in the contest the three previous

"We were one of the smallest businesses competing," said Randy.

The bar and grill offers a classic selection of breakfast, lunch and dinner items cooked to order in a kitchen so small it only comfortably fits a single person.

The most asked for item, Randy said, is Lila's Italian Sub, a holdover recipe from Lila Carlon's Sportsman's Bar and Grill,

which pre-dated Good Ol' Days and was located in the adjacent building. Good Ol' Days sits in the building that housed Skala's Bar, which first opened back in 1984. The Tiny Bubbles Laundromat shares space on the ground floor, and upstairs has apartments.

The most popular beer on tap is Hamm's, a Minnesota main stay.

"The whole reason to be in this business is to please people," said Randy, who was always happy to honor special requests with a smile.

But he says the reason the business became successful was on account of his staff.

"They all deserve kudos," he said.

Randy and Carol's generosity to the community was also important. They were often the first in line to help with fundraisers, especially for anything that benefited youth or the

"It's the right thing to do," he said. "That's all."

Carol echoed Randy's fondness for the staff and customers.

"I love meeting all the great people who come in," she said, "and my employees are my friends." Carol got her start in the restaurant business working at the Goal Post (now Benchwarmer's) with Gary Mellesmoen when she was in high school. The restaurant was

buzzing on Saturday morning. It had been busy since they opened at 6 a.m. Randy was somehow cooking what looked to be eight breakfasts all at once, with eggs, hashbrowns, bacon, and veggies all on the grill. Carol was busy bringing up food from the basement coolers and freezers, as well as keeping up with the dishes, and two other staff were waiting tables.

Long-time customer John Mroszak Jr. was getting his usual hot breakfast in anticipation of his wedding later in the afternoon. He first met Randy when he was in elementary school and Randy was his Little League coach. He noted that his wedding anniversary was going to be the same day as Randy's and Carol's, who are celebrating their 23rd year of marriage by attending John and Jolene's wedding later that day.

"Randy will never be able to forget his anniversary, because I will always be reminding him," said John.

Carol said she didn't mind spending the morning of their anniversary working together, something they truly do enjoy. The bar was closing in the afternoon so they could attend the wedding, another perfect way to celebrate their anniversary, she said.

John said he attended the grand opening of Good Ol' Days 20 years ago.

"It's like an interesting show to watch," he said, "and that show just gets better and better."

Casey Sundahl was eating breakfast with fellow fishing enthusiast Dennis Highby, retired CEO of Cabela's. It was too windy to be out on the lake fishing, so the two were doing their second favorite thing, eating a delicious breakfast. They both are regulars.

"It's good food and good coffee," said Highby, who added there were also good pictures in the bathroom (enough said about that, you will have to visit to check them out).

morning if it's raining," Highby said. Randy, who worked as a contractor before opening

"I come here every

using the couple's RV for camping trips. He is also looking forward to playing pool on the Good Ol' Days team, now that he has the free time. The couple lives in Tower, only a block away from the bar and grill, so they will certainly be frequent guests, but not workers, in the future. Carol, who works parttime at the bar and also has

a full-time job at Minntac in the agglomerator building is not ready to retire from Minntac just yet.

Good Ol' Days will be closed a few days during the ownership transition, but should be up and running under new ownership by the Fourth of July.

SHUTE...Continued from page 1B -

staffing crisis that initially shut down the sanctuary to the public. They reopened for one day, Saturday, last weekend, and will be open again both Saturday and Sunday over Fourth of July weekend from 5-8 p.m.

And after that? Check their website or Facebook page frequently if you want to visit, because Horner is still deeply entrenched in trying to figure out how to salvage as much of the summer schedule as possible.

In past summers, the sanctuary and visitor center on the highway into Orr was staffed by four paid positions and between 10-15 interns who received a small stipend in exchange for their labor and the chance of a lifetime.

When they opened on Saturday, Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary had just two paid personnel and two interns, and some volunteers Horner had rounded up.

"Typically, we have about 20 people," Horner said. "In the last three or four days I sent out an SOS to past interns, past bosses, volunteers, past board members, and the community and people are really stepping up. Tonight, there are nine of us."

Horner said she's also

found people for the other two paid positions.

The staffing issues, Horner believes, are likely a sign of the times.

"Everybody is hiring and offering sign-on bonuses, and people are paying more, so that's made it really difficult to get people here," she said. "The internships here are unpaid, it's just a small stipend, so that makes it hard, so we are just short."

Bears are fine

And as for the bears, well, they've been oblivious to the sanctuary's HR problems. Like every year since Vince Shute first started feeding them, the bears' only concern is getting fat and happy, and they've been doing both.

"I've already gotten calls from people, 'Are you not going to be feeding the bears?'The bears are going to be fed no matter what. They're going to be fed the entire season and they're going to be fed the same amount,"Horner said. "The reason why we're closing to the public is so we can do that properly, because we have to do it with a certain amount of people. But I want to make it clear that (feeding the bears) is not going to be a concern."

sanctuary has also been

perhaps the best time for receiving donations of money and food for the bears. People shouldn't be concerned about the food situation because they see Horner requesting such donations in the midst of the staffing problems because that's just business as usual as it has been in the past.

"We're asking in all our communications for dried fruits, nuts, seed, apples and watermelon, and we don't want anything else," Horner said. "That's specifically what we feed. Or people can just make (monetary) donations that can be put toward bear

What is a concern is the potential loss of revenue from the general public from only being open a limited number of days and finding an answer for that also falls to Horner as the new president of the board of the American Bear Association, the sanctuary's governing board. There's been no time with all of the fires Horner's been putting out for her to take a deep dive into the financials yet, but her goal is to limit any losses by finding a way to return to their regular schedule of open days.

"It's still early in the season. I have high hopes we'll have a full team again and we'll be back to our normal hours," Horner said. "I mean, I've got to be hopeful, you know."

It's a tall task, but one Horner hopes to accomplish with the help of even more volunteers.

"We have the best volunteers, people that come from all over the country, year after year, typically a lot of retired people," Horner said. "I'm looking for people now who have extended periods of time, like retired people who may have a month or more. I have a lot of people that are going to come a week here, a week there, and we're going to be kind of crazy with that. I'm looking for people who can stay a little longer.'

The visitor center in Orr will remain closed this summer, Horner said, but there's still plenty of merchandise available at the gift shop on the viewing platform. There was a constant steady line of people at the shop's cash register from right after the first bus pulled up to the platform on Saturday until the next to last bus drove away at 7:45 p.m., just 15 minutes before the end of the viewing session.

Horner left the sancthat maybe by mid-July tuary last year with the

idea that life would be taking her and her husband, Ryan, in a new direction. Ryan's nearby, working for the same resort Steph was before she came back to Vince Shute. And it looks like that change in direction turned out to be a circle, because it appears the Horners just can't bear

"Ryan's staying with the resort because I had to step away, but I think he's going to be part of the team again next year," Horner said. "I'm not going anywhere. They voted me in as president, so I'm not going love it up here. We're not going anywhere. We just need to find a house now." And while that news

anywhere for a while. We

won't make the bears fat, it may well make them very. very happy.

Check the website at www.americanbear org or the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary page on Facebook for the latest updates on what days the sanctuary will be open or to find out how to donate food or money to the sanctuary. Or call 218-757-0172 to listen to the recording and/ or to leave a message.

Thank You Dr. Erin Bremner

Thank you to Dr. Erin Bremner and all the kind, caring, efficient and professional staff at the Ely Vision Center. When I came in with my eye injury, you all acted immediately to get me into the finest group of eye surgeons in Minnesota. You truly saved my eyesight! Through my five eye surgeries, you made yourself and all the resources of your practice available to me 24/7.

We are extremely fortunate to have you. your staff, and your vision center in Elv. I don't think the outcome would have been the same if I trusted my sight to a Big Box stores' optometry department.

> Sincerely, Terry Peterson, Ely

VA TA

Ely-Winton Historical Society

Summer History Nights Programs

History Nights are held in Vermilion Community College Classroom 104. All programs are on Wednesdays and begin at 7 p.m. While FREE of charge, donations are always gratefully accepted.

July 6: Nick Wognum will speak about the history of the Ely Echo newspaper at this year's third Ely-Winton Historical Society History Night. The Echo was founded in 1972 and since 1977 has been run by the Wognum family after it was passed to Anne Wognum Swenson. Join us to learn how the Echo got started, how it has changed over the years, and how it has contributed to the Ely community.

July 20: Curtis Laine on the Carl Gawboy murals.

August 3: Reed Petersen on the history of Ely High School sports.

FRYER WAY...Continued from page 1B

Earlier last week, Skraba and the Ely city council declared Linda Fryer Day. The proclama-

tion read:

"Whereas, Linda Fryer had served the Ely area and the city of Ely as the administrative director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce for 25 years, and was an

involved, dedicated citizen for all of those many long vears and more; and

Whereas, with marketing awards and accomplishments too numerous to list, Linda promoted the Ely area in ways that few thought possible. She made Ely a household name and a destination for tens of

St. Louis County

Area site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station

9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt

Summer Hours

Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm

Tue: 9:30am-3pm

Wed: noon-6pm

County 77 Canister Site

2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp

Summer Hours

Tues: 1-6pm Thurs: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm

Sun: noon-6pm

Embarrass Canister Site

7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass

Hours

Sat: 12:30-4:30pm

Thu: 10am-5pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

Hours

Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Solid Waste Facility

thousands of additional people and by doing so has enriched the lives of so many of us who live and

work in the Ely area; and Whereas, Linda's impact on the Ely community will benefit our citizens and visitors for years to come. Linda was a pillar of the community

Cook Transfer Station

2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook

Hours

Mon: 10am-6pm

Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

Soudan Canister Site

5160 Hwy 169, Soudan

Hours

Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:

8am-5pm

Aurora Transfer Station

5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora

Hours

Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm

Tue, Wed:10am-4pm

Sat: 8am-noon

Regional Landfill

that will be greatly missed, thus establishing one more way that Ely stands out as an exceptional community.

Now therefore, I, Roger Skraba, mayor of the city of Ely, Minnesota, do herby proclaim June 23, 2022 as Linda Fryer Day in the city of Ely.'

REAL

the Timberjay!

Capture Ely Photo Contest

Grab your camera or phone and start snapping photos! We have four categories including Outdoor Recreation, Family Fun, Nature, and Shopping. Chamber Buck prizes awarded for each category. Total prize amount \$1500.00!

Your photo may end up in the Ely Business & Visitor Guide, on the Ely.org website, social media posts, or other publications promoting Ely.

For more details stop by the Ely Chamber of Commerce



Photo by Les Conrad

Deadline to enter is August 20, 2022 by 5 p.m.



office, or visit Ely.org/capture-ely-photo-contest/.

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

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

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th



THE TIMBERJAY

July 1, 2022 5B

Obituaries and Death Notices



Nancy A. Yapel

Nancy Ann Yapel, 76, of Tower, passed away on Monday, June 20, 2022. At her request, no funeral is planned. Instead, the immediate family will attend a private burial service in Tower and a celebration of life party will be hosted in her honor later this summer, with dates to be determined. Knowing that Nancy will be missed by all who knew her, her family requests that family and friends visit her online memorial at https:// www.mykeeper.com/profile/ NancyYapel/ to offer condolences, share stories and photos of her (or yourselves in the dresses she made for you), and donate to a charity that will benefit kids in need. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in

Virginia.

Nancy was born in Virginia on July 19, 1945, to Linden and Lorraine (Semon) Burgess and enjoyed her childhood growing up in Tower with her beloved siblings, Judy (Len) Tomsich, Barb (Bill) Durbin and Gary (Robin) Burgess. On

Aug. 22, 1964, she married Peter Yapel of Soudan and the couple resided in Hoyt Lakes for 25 years, before returning to Tower. Nancy and Peter had two children, Mark (Nichole) Yapel of Esko and Deanna (Frank) Ziemba of Eden Prairie. They were also blessed with one grandson, Sam Yapel of St. Paul.

Nancy was an incredible and loving mom to her kids. Whether she was teaching them life skills with a sense of humor, whipping up one of their favorite desserts, or helping them entertain friends, Nancy filled their lives with joy and mischief. Summers were spent at their family cabin on Lake Vermilion, where Nancy often delighted friends and family with made-from-scratch culinary delights and ice cream socials.

For more than 50 years. Nancy worked as an incredibly talented seamstress. It was not uncommon for her to design and sew a wedding dress and then make dresses for the entire bridal party. Nancy made hundreds of prom dresses and worked on well over a thousand wedding dresses throughout her career. She loved to sew so much, she finished working on her final bridesmaid dresses while in the ICU shortly before her passing, to the shock of hospital staff, but it was no shock to those who knew her well.

Nancy had boundless energy, so if she wasn't sewing for someone, she was cooking or baking for them. Widely known for her desserts, she was also known for cooking seven-course Chinese dinners for family, complete with domed dishes. She insisted on making everything from scratch and rarely needed to consult a recipe.

Since accepting Christ as her Savior at the tender age of twelve, Nancy's faith was central to how she lived. She believed we should live our lives in service to others and she was always looking for ways to help people. She worked as a Sunday school teacher at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower for more than 10 years and her eyes would light up when she talked about how much she loved those kids. Vacation Bible School (VBS) was an annual highlight for her when she would plan activities and cook the lunches and treats for all the kids and VBS volunteers. Her love for the kids inspired her daughter, Deanna, to author a series of children's books, Angel Hearts for Jesus, where Miss Nancy was a central character who taught Sunday school. Nancy's favorite Bible verse was Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all vour wavs acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Gerald K. Storm

Gerald K. "Jerry" Storm, 72, of Cook, died on Thursday, June 16, 2022, while in Montana on a rafting and fly-fishing trip. Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 7 at Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Cook.

Bruce B. Von Wald

Bruce Benjamin Von Wald, 81, of Foley, formerly of Ely and Babbitt, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, after battling Parkinson's. Funeral services were held at New Life Church of Foley on Monday, June 27 with Rev. Roger Stacy officiating. There will also be a public graveside memorial service at Argo Cemetery in Babbitt on Saturday, July 23, followed by a luncheon at the Babbitt Assembly of God Church. Family services are provided by Foley Funeral Home.

He is survived by his wife, Judith Aho Von Wald of Foley; sons, Brandon (Lori) of Puyallup, Wash., Rev. James (Tina) of Rice, Rian (Jeanene) and Ron (Darla), both of Blaine; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister, Irene "Dolly" (Mitch) Cole of Warroad; lifelong friend and hockey coaching buddy, Ron Castellano of Sauk Rapids; and extended family, Loretta Trovick, Janet Stellmach, Bev Nihart and JoAnne Hardy.

advertising opportunities, receive aggregate news and more.

ROAD SAFETY

Road Weather Information Systems being installed in area

REGIONAL - Motorists traveling in NE Minnesota can expect short-term lane closures as Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) stations are installed at ten locations, according to the MnDOT. The new RWIS locations will be in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Lake, and St. Louis counties, at:

Hwy. 61 near Grand Marais at Milepost (MP) 110.8

Hwy. 38 near Marcell at MP 27.5 Hwy. 210 near Tamarack at MP 186.3 I-35 near Moose Lake at MP 216.0 Hwy. 2 near Gowan at MP 225.1

Hwy. 2 near Cohasset at MP 174.3 Hwy. 53 near Cook at MP 97.5 Hwy. 61 near Schroeder at MP 78.9 Hwy. 65 near Buck Lake at MP 192.9

Hwy. 1 near Stony River at MP 311.0

No detours are required for this project. Work will be completed under traffic with flagging operations when lane closures are required. RWIS is an environmental sensor station in the field that is used to collect weather data such as atmospheric parameters, pavement conditions, and visibility. MnDOT uses the information gathered as well as the camera images for maintenance decision support.

The information is also sent to the National Weather Service as well as Minnesota's 511 traveler information system. There are currently 139 RWIS systems throughout Minnesota, with an additional 19 systems to be added throughout the state by late October 2022.

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The Ely Chamber of Commerce Invites You to be an Active Part of Your Business Community



2021-2022 Chamber Membership Role

What is the Ely Chamber of Commerce's purpose? The Ely Chamber of Commerce leads a thriving, sustainable economic community through leadership and advocacy, strategic partnerships, career development of its workforce, and business diversity and education.

Why should I join/maintain a chamber membership? As a chamber member, you can develop through networking, education and advocacy, and directly impact the success of the business community. Full membership enables you to vote on the direction of business and economic development opportunities, participate in those opportunities, enjoy business referrals and

How is the Chamber funded? The chamber is funded through its membership dues and funds raised through the three chamber sponsored events. We are not funded by lodging, city, county or other tax dollars. To learn more visit Ely.org/membership or call 218-365-6123.

A Stay Inn Ely	Ely Golf Club	LaTourell's Resort & Outfitters	Rock Wood Eatery
Adventure Inn	Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club	Linda Fryer	Schulze Excavating
All Phase Construction	Ely License Bureau, Inc.	Listening Point Foundation	Shagawa Inn Resort & Motels on the Lake
Arrowhead Outdoors	Ely Log Cabin *	Log Cabin Hideaways *	Silver Rapids Lodge, Lakeside Suites & Campground
Art & Soul Gallery & Gift House	Ely Outfitting Company +	Lossing's Powersports *	Sisu Designs Yarn Shop
Bear Head Lake State Park Campground	Ely Rotary Club	Lucky Boy Services	Snowbank Lodge and Outfitters
Bear Island Land Co., Inc.	Ely Shopper	Lucky Seven General Store	Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters & Store
Big Lake Wilderness Lodge & Outfitters	Ely State Farm Keen Insurance *	Margaret Wood	Steger Mukluks ++++
Boathouse Brewpub & Restaurant	Ely Steak House +	Mary's Spinning Wheel ++	Studio North - Dance & Fitness Center
Boundary Cabin Getaway *+	Ely Subway, Inc.	Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop	Sundell Eye Associates
Boundary Waters Bank +	Ely Surplus & Outdoor	Merhar's Ace Hardware	Sundog Sport *
Boundary Waters Care Center *	Ely Timberjay +	Midcontinent Communications	Superior Fuel Oil/Starkman Oil
Boundary Waters Guide Service +	Ely Up North Retreat *	Mike's Liquors +	The Art Corner
Boundary Waters Journal ++++	Ely Vision-Optometry Center, PC+	Motel Ely	The Cabin
Boundary Waters Outfitters ^	Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital ++	NAPA Parts Center ++	The Chocolate Moose
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Brandenburg Gallery	Ely's Historic State Theater +	Norshor Agency, Inc.	Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats
Camp Van Vac LLC	Ely's Old-Fashioned Candy	North American Bear Center +	Timber Trail Lodge & Motels ^
Camp Voyageur	ElyWear	North Country Canoe Outfitters	Tisovich Excavating *
Canadian Waters	Ely Sportswear Inc.	Northeast Title Company	Tofte Lake Center *
Canoe Country Outfitters, Cabins & Campgrounds ++++		Northern Grounds	Tony's Towing/Mather Recycling *
Carefree Living Ely	End of the Road Yoga *	Northern Lakes Arts Association	Trembath's Machine & Welding +
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Chilly Dogs Sled Dog Trips	Excel Business Systems	Northwind Lodge	Veterans on the Lake Resort
City of Babbitt	Fall Lake Campground - Recreation Res Mgmt	Northwoods Collision & Auto Sales	Voltz Technologies
City of Ely	Fenske Lake Cabins	Northwoods Inn & Suites	Voyageur North Outfitters
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CTC	Front Porch Coffee and Tea Company	OUT Mobile Escape Rooms	Wells Fargo +++
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Outchman Tree Service LLC	Hauling Dogs, LLC	Pine Point Lodge	Zone 3 Gardens
cho Shores Resort	Healthy Families Chiropractic	Piragis Northwoods Co. & Outfitters ^	Zupancich Trucking Inc.
cho Trail Outfitters		· I	
dward Jones, Jeffrey K. Sundell, Jr.	Holden Duluth Insurance Agency	Portage North * R & R Transfer	Zup's Food Market ++
	Insula Restaurant	- +	Na. Marshan *
dwards Oil and Propane	International Wolf Center +	Range Cenex Ely	New Members * Bronze President's Circle +
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ly Area Senior Citizens	Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation	Range Reliable Agency, Inc.	Silver President's Circle ++
Ely D.Q. Grill and Chill	J & L Hardware Hank/Ben Franklin & Rental	Raven Words Press	Gold President's Circle +++
Ely Echo +	Joe's Marine & Repair +	Razor Edge Systems, Inc.	Platinum President's Circle ++++
Ely Family Dental	Kiwanis Club of Ely	River Point Resort & Outfitting Co.	Greenstone President's Circle ^
	IZI I F:		
Ely Fishing Guide Company LLC Ely Flower and Seed and Greenhouse	Klun Law Firm Kovall Construction +	River Point Villas & Chalets On The Lake Riverside Resort & Island Campsites	Total Members - 206

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

Building Maintenance Worker- Public Works \$24.23-\$29.27 Hourly

Apply by 07/15/2022

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\$25.78-\$31.32 Hourly

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www.stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-726-2422

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 7/1



Position Announcement: Theater Manager

Ely's Historic State Theater, Ely, Minn., seeks a highly skilled, experienced individual to serve as Theater Manager. The open position is part-time, year-round, with potential to become full-time.

Responsibilities: Oversee all theater activities, including: · financial sustainability

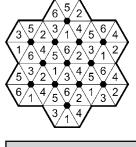
- - booking/calendar management
 - · facilities management personnel management
- public relations
- reporting to board of directors

Minimum qualifications:

- 3+ years work experience supervisory experience
- business management experience
- experience in marketing, event planning and/or fundraising

For more information and to apply: elystatetheater.org/jobs

Applications accepted until position is filled; preference to those received by July 15.





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Ely Public Schools Assistant Hockey Coach

POSITION OPENING

Elv Public Schools is looking for an Assistant Hockey Coach for the 2022-2023 winter season. 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

Stipend: \$3,920

Deadline to apply: July 8, 2022; open until

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Assistant Cross Country Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Assistant Cross Country Coach for the 2022 fall season. Background check required.

Qualifications include: Bachelor's Degree preferred:

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

Application and full job description is available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us/job-openings completé 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

Stipend: \$2,422

Deadline to apply: July 8, 2022; open until

Published in the Timberjay, July 1, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the

> **Kugler Town Hall** 9072 MN-135 Tower, MN 55790

For the purpose of discussing the Mesabi Trail proposed alignment from Benson Road to the West Two River.

For further information contact:

Sarah Ciochetto, Deputy Director St. Louis Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (218) 744-6150 or toll free (877) 637-2241

Published in the Timberjay, July 1, 8, & 15, 2022

KUGLER TOWNSHIP **NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING** The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular

monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 1, 2022

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.

N HSRE JLJYTDENQW KQ DEJ

WJQDAJ BTBAJ. ND'R RK FPBE

FKYJ EPFSQJ. - PQUQKHQ

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Γ Dietary Aide/Cook (Wage starting at \$14.18/hr.) <u>aboratory</u> T 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)

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

15

25

30

33

42

48

book

50 Valentine

flower

53 Faction

51 Curvy letter

52 Yuletide tune

22 23

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

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PT Adult Day Services Assistant

www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

More Info? Contact Human Resources 218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefit

19

24

26 27

44

16 Stitch

20 Not neg.

rds.

22 Deserve

23 Restricted

zones

26 Shopper's

deliaht

to a texter

21 Numbered

43

49

King Crossword

- **ACROSS** 1 Chantilly, e.g.
- Chicken -
- Leg, in slang 12 Mr. Stravinsky
- 13 Sparkling Italian wine
- 14 Have bills
- 15 Bouncing toy 17 Retrieve
- 18 Ruby and Sandra
- 19 Apple products
- 21 Buy more Time?
- 24 Handle 25 New Mexico
- resort 26 Monotonous
- 30 Work unit 31 Chair design-
- er Charles 32 Odometer
- start 33 Winter road clearer
- 35 Remain 36 Church area
- 37 Buckwheat porridge
- 38 Physicist
- Enrico 40 Slightly
- 42 White House nickname
- 43 Company emblems
- 48 Grazing land
- **DOWN** Back talk
- 4 Wears away
- "Titanic" 6 Egyptian deity 27 "As I see it,"

- 49 Scott Turow
- 2 In the past
- 3 Gear tooth
- 5 Winslet of

- 7 List-ending
- abbr.
- 8 Minnesota

footballers 29 Maja painter 9 '60s footwear 31 Delta follower

50

35

10 Dumbstruck 34 Typing speed

45 | 46

- 11 Citi Field team stat
 - 35 Nymph pur-
 - suers 37 Tool set
 - 38 Dossier
 - 39 Stretches (out)
 - 40 Baseball's
 - Tommie
- 24 Recognized 41 Weevil's target
 - 44 Music's Yoko
 - 45 "Ulalume" writer
 - 46 Computer key
- 28 Ancient mari- 47 Filming site

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ◆◆

♦♦ HOO BOY!

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◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

218-666-2276

Boats C MERCURY

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WEERES



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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.

the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary

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

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 and Central Drive in

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 vourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. non-profit organization.)

HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Bural AIDS Action Network, tollfree 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 I wash everything on the

gentle cycle. It's so much more humane. — Unknown

— **King** Crossword *—* **Answers** Solution time: 23 mins.



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Farm Yoga – Thursdays 6pm to 7pm June, July & August – Cook's Country Connection

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FLOATING KEY FOB WITH Landing/Bradley Rd. area. Call the Timberjay, 218-753-2950 to describe and claim. 7/8nc

FOR SALE

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

MARINE

MERGURY OUTBOARDS **MARINE**

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FURNALDE ADLARKAAFT G GODEREY Sales · Service

> Rentals **General Store** 218-993-2214

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WE ARE HIRING!!! Nall Technicians, Full or Part Time Massage Therapist, Aesthecian, Full or Part Time Boutique Sales Associate, Nail Technicians, Full or Part Time Casual. Apply by sending your cover letter and resume to PO Box 896 Tower, MN, or email to harborviews-pa@gmail.com. Not qualified but interested? Call 218-343-9563 for details! 7/1

MOCCASIN POINT

4655 Moccasin Point Rd Lake Vermilion 218-753-3319 Storage, Boat Rentals.

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59 Light hit

62 Bride in

60 Berg material

"My Big

Fat Greek

Wedding"

Basketball

64 Floats in the

breeze

genetic

67 Make a

Hall of Fame

replica of the

star of "The

Wolf Man"?

70 Jules Verne

captain

73 Dawn

72 According to

goddess

74 Boxer Frazier

75 Muscle jerks

76 Mistreat the

director of

63 Hank in the

Marina • Mechanic on Duty



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42 Piaf of song

maybe

43 Phone game,

44 Another time

45 Phone game,

Super Crossword 41 Glass edge

super-fun

instruction

file, often

3 Like houses

roofs

7 Yearly

records

an RBI

with pitched

4 Hoops' Shaq

5 Roman 950

6 Chou En- -

8 Hit resulting

9 Absolut rival,

10 Sushi roll fish

for short

11 Forest lairs

disturb

13 Resident of

"la-la land"

14 Batik worker

12 Do not

15 Gilbert

of "The

16 Soho setting

in an out and

2 Software

THREE-TO-FIVE FIRST NAMES

91 Acorn

89 Pickle or cure

sources

92 Be inclined

95 Levied, as a

98 Droopy-eared

hound

99 Diminutive

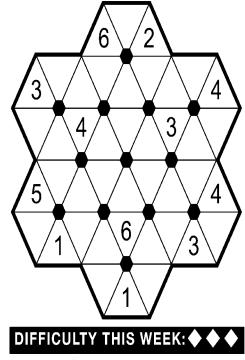
93 Finished

tax

NOMELTARE(

by Japheth Light

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



◆ Medium ◆ ◆ ◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

53 Didn't include **96** "— so sorry!" **97** "— so sorry!" 58 Gate joint 1 Something

98 Extort money

star of "The

Europeans"?

from the

105 Prefix related

to birds

108 Helps out

109 Whirlpool

site

110 Spill hot

114 Kidnap

coffee on

baseball's

the star of

Secretary"?

"Madam

118 Mil. jets' site

(hospital

helpers)

the inventor

of the cotton

121 Contradict

119 Indistinct

120 Candy -

"Iron Man"?

103 Rational

ACROSS

- 1 Jason's ship 5 Categorized
- 12 Schoolboys 16 Actor Ayres
- 19 Coffee bit
- 20 Sea cow 21 "Orinoco
- Flow" singer **22** Yes, to
- Yvette 23 Pigeonhole the 16th
- president? 25 Toy-package
- span 27 1950s politico
- Stevenson 28 — -CIO
- 29 Cut all ties with the star of "Our Miss
- Brooks"? 31 Sniff the
- singer of "Coca Cola Cowboy"?
- 35 Barber's stuff 36 Color shade
- 37 Senator Cruz 38 — -bitsv

- star of

19

23

27

31

37

58

63

70

76

82

87

108

114

120

125

129

99

100 101

109

115 116

126

130

- 47 Bathe the
- 43 Barber's stuff 45 Positive vote
- 39 Investigate the director of "Stand by Me"?
- 46 Writer Blyton
- "Caroline in the City"?
- "Splash"? 81 Holy Fr. woman 82 Broadcaster
- 83 Rumpus 84 Stable feed

- **85** Pungent
 - pizza topping 87 Quaint street
- lighter
 - 90 Trample the
 - playwright of 'Travesties"? 94 "Me neither"

20

- - 131 Halter's cousin 132 Former
- 130 Mimicked

times

shape

shape 126 Provided **127** Retired

125 Certain pipe

- 17 Actor Levy 18 Hot dog
- 24 Mae West's academics 128 Ladder rung
- "Diamond —" 26 Intro painting 129 Certain pipe

 - 30 Self-love

 - course, say

 - **34** 1974 CIA spoof flick
 - 32 Be inclined 33 Tingly feeling

40 Lubes again

12 13

21

103 104

- maybe 47 Gab,
- informally

51 Moms

52 Sgt., say

54 Flawlessly

61 Delights in

waitress

67 Cape —

68 Era upon

69 Capital of

Canada?

beginner

literature

77 Marvelous

79 Electric jolt

86 "Says You!"

broadcaster

(Chick-Fil-A

15

slogan)

14

80 Dimwit

era

66 "Alice"

55 African land

- 48 African land 49 Infatuates
- 100 Channel 50 Capital of Canada
 - swimmer Gertrude
 - 101 Morales of film and TV
- 102 McKellen of movies 56 Ballot caster **103** "On 57 Bedtime hour
- Language" columnist 65 Relief sound William
 - 104 Even though 105 A lot like 106 Wood
 - overlay 107 Composed and ready for
 - printing 111 "The Alienist"
- novelist Carr 73 Like amatory 112 "As - care!" 113 Crooner Cline
- 115 Women's **78** Radio spots
 - Open org 116 Hurdle
- 84 "Let's see ..." 117 "Yeah, right" 122 Tall bird
- 123 164-nation 88 "Eat - Chikin" commerce
 - 124 Au courant 17 16

105 106 107

119

128

132

123 | 124

25 126 28 29 30 32 33 38 41 42 39 40 50 53 56 59 60 62 68 65 72 75 71 73 83 84 85 89 90 93 95

110 111

121

131

118

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Are you

B8 July 1, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY



RATE INCREASE NOTICE

AN ALLETE COMPANY

June 2022

Minnesota Power has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for permission to increase its electric rates by approximately 17.58% or \$108.3 million overall. Depending on customer class and usage, the actual percent will vary based upon final approval by the MPUC. The MPUC will make its decision regarding final rates in early 2023.

Public Hearings

Administrative Law Judge James R. Mortenson has scheduled public hearings to give customers an opportunity to present their views regarding Minnesota Power's request to increase electric rates (MPUC Docket No. E-015/GR-21-335 and OAH Docket No. 5-2500-38008). Any Minnesota Power customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings. You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of Minnesota Power's service, the level of rates or other related matters. You do not need to be represented by an attorney.

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 2:00 pm Virtual Hearing via Webex

Link: https://bit.ly/39HSQxS

Meeting Number / Access Code: 2494 908 2474

Password: MnPUC!

By Phone: +1-415-655-0003 United States Toll 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 6:00 pm Virtual Hearing via Webex

Link: https://bit.ly/3M9EogF

Meeting Number / Access Code: 2485 423 5016

Password: MnPUC!

By Phone: +1-415-655-0003 United States Toll 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm In-person and Virtual Hearing via Webex

AAD Shrine Meeting & Event Center 5152 Miller Trunk Hwy

Hermantown, MN 55811 Link: https://bit.ly/3swOdgB

Meeting Number / Access Code: 2481 071 8645

Password: MnPUC!

By Phone: +1-415-655-0003 United States Toll 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm In-person and Virtual Hearing via Webex

AAD Shrine Meeting & Event Center

5152 Miller Trunk Hwy Hermantown, MN 55811 Link: https://bit.ly/38i1gfi

Meeting Number / Access Code: 2493 356 5880

Password: MnPUC!

By Phone: +1-415-655-0003 United States Toll 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free

Bad weather? To find out if a meeting is canceled, call 651-201-2213 or (toll-free) 1-855-731-6028, or visit www.mn.gov/puc.

The MPUC welcomes comments from customers. There are several ways to participate:

Online: www.mn.gov/puc/get-involved (for convenience, a link to a comment form is provided on this page)

Email: www.consumer.puc@state.mn.us
US mail: 121 7th Place East, Suite #350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Fax: 651-297-7073

Comments must be received by August 1, 2022. Be sure to include docket number 21-335.

Important: Comments can be viewed by the public on the MPUC website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

For questions or help with the public comment process, contact the MPUC at: 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782.

Accommodations

If you need any reasonable accommodation to enable you to fully participate in these public hearings (i.e., sign language or foreign language interpreter, wheelchair accessiblity, or large-print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7834 at least one week in advance of the meeting. **Customers with hearing or speech disabilities may call through Minnesota Relay 1-800-627-3529 or 7-1-1.**

Evidentiary Hearings

Formal evidentiary hearings on Minnesota Power's proposal are scheduled to start on June 13, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., in the Large Hearing Room, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN. The purpose of the evidentiary hearings is to allow Minnesota Power, the Minnesota Department of Commerce—Division of Energy Resources, the Office of Attorney General—Residential Utilities and Antitrust Division and others to present testimony and to cross-examine each other's witnesses on the proposed rate increase.

Anyone who wishes to formally intervene in this case should contact the Administrative Law Judge, James R. Mortenson, at the Office of Administrative Hearings, PO Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164 or by email to oah.webmaster@state.mn.us.

Effect of Rate Changes

Below are examples of the effect of the proprosed increase on typical bills of Minnesota Power's customer. Individual changes may be higher or lower depending on actual electricity usage.

Customer Classification	Avg. monthly kWh usage	Previous monthly cost	Interim monthly increase	Proposed final monthly in- crease*
Residential	701	\$82.76	\$5.89	\$15.08
Residential Dual Fuel	1,013	\$94.04	\$13.38	-\$0.42
General Service	2,581	\$301.93	\$42.96	\$55.09
Commercial & Industrial Dual Fuel	3,654	\$324.01	\$46.11	\$1.85
Large Light & Power	247,815	\$21,772.72	\$3,098.26	\$3,938.50
Large Power	51,654,952	\$3,635,297.83	\$517,302.88	\$558,488.32
Street & Area Lighting	224	\$60.95	\$8.67	\$11.11

^{*}Monthly increases include all line items on bills except sales taxes and municipal franchise fees, and may vary by customer based on usage.

The rate changes described in this notice have been requested by Minnesota Power. The MPUC may either grant or deny the requested changes, in whole of in part, and may grant a lesser or greater increase than that requested for any class or classes or service.

For More Information

You may examine our current and proposed rate schedules and our request for new rates by visiting our website at www.mnpower.com/RateReview, or you may contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce–Energy Division at 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, MN 55101, Phone: 651-539-1500.

Web: mn.gov/puc (select eDockets to search by docket number: select 21 in the year field, enter 335 in the number field, click on search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page).

July 1, 2022 **9B** THE TIMBERJAY

LAKE VERMILION TRADITIONAL POWWOW

Weekend showers didn't dampen spirits at the Lake **Vermilion Traditional** Powwow last weekend. Pictured clockwise from right: Ann Gawboy, flag bearers during the Grand Entry, Cairo Littlewind, Kyra Chosa, Char Lewis and her neice Miiskogihmiiwan Poupart-Chapman, dancers in the rain, and Muriel Deegan adjusts the jingle dress for her granddaughter Lola. photos by J. Summit















BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Storm damage in Soudan being assessed; costs still being tallied

by RACHEL BROPHY Staff Writer

SOUDAN - Recent storm damage was the main topic of conversation at the Breitung Township regular board meeting held on Thursday, June 23. Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma reported that in addition to the eight or nine larger trees that went down in Monday night's storm, the Soudan entrance sign on west end of town also was blown down. The board had previously been looking for grant funding to replace the sign, so in light of the recent damage that process may be expedited. Two light poles at skating rink also snapped off in Monday's storm. The poles that snapped off were the ones with the electrical outlets, so alternate ways to access electric during the upcoming Fourth of July festivities was discussed including

possibly having to run extension cords.

Chuck Supervisor Tekautz was confident a solution to the immediate plug-in problem would be available, "We'll find a way around it." Overall cost of recent damage was unavailable at this time. Gorsma told the board the insurance adjuster was scheduled to come Monday, June 27. "We'll know more when the adjuster comes up, but the good thing is no one was hurt. Picnic tables and lighting can be replaced." Gorsma also mentioned that with the continued heavy rains this spring some roads keep washing out. "We had numerous roads that washed out (in Monday's storm). We have numerous roads that continue to wash out every rain we get. We don't need any more storms."

A housing forum was held at Breitung Community Center June 15 by

Senator Tina Smith's Outreach Directors. Attendees voiced concerns about lack of senior housing, affordable housing and blight issues and were assured that these concerns would be taken to Senator Smith. The forum also included several housing success stories from communities around the area that included city financial incentives for improvement of rental properties to community members taking an active role in attending Blandin Leadership programs. The Vermilion Housing Authority voiced concern with the USDA 515 program and its inefficiency in getting things done. The roundtable discussion centered on lack of interest and involvement to help get things done. Also mentioned was the short supply of contractors and developers coupled with the high price of materials.

The board voted to

approve extra work done on Fifth Ave. to dig up and replace the water line to a resident's house with water and sewer lines that freeze every year. A contractor who is already doing work in Soudan gave a quote of \$7,000. Gorsma said initial testing indicated that the water line may have been buried too shallow. "If we find that the water line is only at a 4'6" depth we'll have to bury it deeper. If it's already at the depth it should be, we'll only have to insulate which would be significantly cheaper." This is a project paid for by the water board, and Gorsma stated, "This is not to set a precedent for people dealing with frozen water

Police report

Police Chief Dan Reing reported that May was extremely busy. There were 134 calls with Memorial Day weekend comprising nearly half of the month's total number of calls. Reing discussed cost of onsite staff training and is working on setting up joint training sessions with Babbitt and Ely. Reing said "We want to send one staff to taser training, so he can train our officers (and Babbitt and Ely), and then they can train us on other things." Reing also discussed placement of automated external defibrillators (AED) around the community and possible grant funding for additional unit(s). Chief Reing and the board also discussed importance of CPR training. There was continued discussion on whether to pursue G.R.E.A.T. training or DARE or both. Costs and timing of each training are being considered.

Other business

In other business, the

➤ Heard that the 2021

population estimate by Minnesota state demographer was 525 with 263 households. ➤ Did not receive the DNR recreation grant funding intended for improvements at the hockey rink. Plan is to follow up

and pursue other funding ➤ Heard that spraying for bugs at ballfield and park and dust control

is underway.

 Discussed property donation by Casey Sunsdahl for a designated sliding hill. Will pursue broader definition to include other recreation uses of the donated prop-

Accepted donations from Northeast Range baseball for field improvements and Broten Constructions towards police cameras.

➤ The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 28 at noon.

Minnesota announces first case of monkeypox

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesota joined the world in another health scare this week, announcing on Monday the state's first case of monkeypox.

As of Tuesday, 4,769 cases of monkeypox have been reported in 49 countries, with the United Kingdom registering the highest number of cases with 1,076.

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox is in the same virus family as smallpox and cowpox, but is not related to chickenpox. The most recognizable symptom, which can be extremely painful, is a rash that can look like pimples or blisters that appears on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, and anus. The rash goes through different stages during the two-to-four-week course of the infection and can leave permanent scarring.

Other generalized symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle and back pain, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaus-

This particular monkeypox virus strain, the West African version, is fatal in less than one percent of cases.

"This is the first case of monkeypox in Minnesota during this particular outbreak, which began in May of this year," Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm said in a Monday press conference. "Monkeypox is a rare disease in the United States. The virus is spread by close contact, typically skin-to-skin contact with the rash or bodily fluids. To put it into context, it's important to know that monkeypox is less infectious that COVID-19. measles, chickenpox, and influenza."

State epidemiologist Ruth Lynfield provided one piece of information about the Minnesota case.

"I can share that the person had traveled to Europe," she said. "There

is currently a global outbreak of monkeypox occurring and there are many cases occurring in

Europe." reconfirming After details presented by Malcolm, Lynfied said that she believes the general public is not in danger at this time.

"We don't think there are any high-risk contacts in Minnesota," she said.

During his regular podcast last Friday, infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm noted that of 430 monkeypox cases identified in Europe, 99.4 percent were male, almost half were in their thirties, and 98 percent identified as men who have sex with men, something Malcolm addressed in her comments on Mon-

"Some of the monkeypox cases in and around the world and in the United States that have self-reported that they identify as gay or bisexual men," Malcolm said. "But monkeypox does not just affect this population. Anyone can get monkeypox. Monkeypox does not discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation, where you come from, or anything else."

Malcom went on to say that the Department of Health condemn all forms of discrimination and violence toward others and encouraged people who become aware of such to call the Department of Human Rights discrimination hotline.

"One of the key messages we want to leave with Minnesotans is that the risk remains low," Malcolm said.

But while the risk is statistically low, health officials around the world don't yet have a handle on

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this new outbreak, Oster-

holm said. We don't have this outbreak under control at all," he said. "We need to figure out the best way to go about vaccinating and controlling the outbreak. I worry that people think well, this outbreak will just kind of eventually diminish itself and be extin-

guished." Osterholm for identifying high-risk groups, such as men who have had sex with multiple anonymous male partners, and providing them with vaccines.

As of Tuesday, only 305 cases of monkeypox had been diagnosed in the

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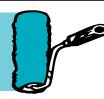
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