



**Inside:**  
**Lots more Fourth of July fun inside**  
**Vermilion Run results... See /2B**  
**Voyageur pups on the screen... See /4B**  
**Tower's newest hiking trail... See /4B**

# the **TIMBERJAY**



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VOL. 33, ISSUE 26

July 8, 2022 \$1.00

## EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP

# Township votes to oppose ATV trail

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
 Managing Editor

## ATV club vows to continue permitting process

EAGLES NEST TWP— A simmering clash between township residents and advocates of increased ATV traffic came to a head at a special town board meeting here last week, as town supervisors voted 3-2 to oppose any designated ATV trail through the community.

The vote came after an overwhelming outpouring of opposition by residents of the township to the plan by the Prospector's

Loop ATV Club to construct the high-traffic ATV corridor, which would provide a shortcut for riders traveling between Ely

and Tower. Residents, one after another, spoke of their concerns about the noise and other environmental effects that the

ATV route would have on those living near the trail. More than 400 township property owners, or nearly three-quarters of the total, signed a petition opposing the trail, which was presented to the board last month.

The vote to oppose the trail could be largely symbolic as Prospector's trail coordinator

“Nobody walked away giving high fives. But we felt we did the right thing.

**Bud Van Deusen, resident who helped organize petition drive**

See...TRAIL pg. 9

## CORONAVIRUS

# Rise of B.5 creates more uncertainty

Dominance coincides with increased risk

by DAVID COLBURN  
 Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Don't look now, but community transmission of COVID-19 has reached a high level once again in St. Louis County, and the rate of spread is forecasted to remain high through much of the month.

It's a marked change from the conditions as recently as last month, when the Centers for Disease Control, reported that all 87 Minnesota counties were experiencing low transmission. Yet, as of June 30, St. Louis County was one of nine counties that had jumped back into the high transmission category, while 31 others were experiencing moderate levels of community transmission. Mayo Clinic projections through July 16 point to continued high levels of transmission in St. Louis County, and increasing levels of transmission in Koochiching, Carlton, and Cook counties.

See...COVID pg. 10

## ISD 696

# School board adopts budget

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
 Ely Editor

ELY – School board members here last week unanimously approved a balanced budget for 2022-23 that calls for \$8.2 million in revenues and expenditures.

Despite a noticeable drop in enrollment and corresponding reduction in student aid, ISD 696 remains solvent for the next year with the help of federal ESSER III stimulus funds made possible by the Biden administration.

The Ely school district will use more than \$270,000 of federal funding to balance the budget next year. Approximately \$356,500 in ESSER III funds will be available for future expenditures.

The adopted budget assumes an incoming Kindergarten class of 30 students this fall. Superintendent John Klarich also told school board members that total K-12

See...ELY pg. 11



INDEPENDENCE DAY 2022

# Patriotism on display



Troy Zupancich, top, at just seven weeks old, mostly napped through the Tower Fourth of July parade on Monday. Jimmy Zupancich, above, manager of Zup's Market in Ely, did his patriotic duty by giving away toilet paper during the Ely parade. Veteran Mike Pope, above right, saluted during the American flag raising ceremony Monday morning in Ely. "Uncle Sam," far right, passed out candy during the Orr parade on Sunday. Ariya and Raegan Nieuwenhuis, right, enjoyed the Tower parade. More coverage inside. Timberjay staff



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## Community notices



### KRILA celebrates thirty-year anniversary with concert at VCC

ELY - The Slovenian Union Branch 23 of Ely and the NLAA are sponsoring a night of Slovenian Music. The Slovenian group KRILA will perform at the Vermilion Community Fine Arts Theater on Friday, July 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets are five dollars.

Before the concert, a "picnic" will be held out at Creek Ridge Resort on White Iron Lake owned by local dentist Dr. Frank Udovich. There will be snacks and a cash bar, and music provided by Fred Godec and the Slovenian Invasion group.

Thirty years ago in Slovenia, a young group of thirteen friends began gathering to sing for their own enjoyment. These days that same group gets together in Smarto, a northern suburb of Ljubljana, to prepare for concerts. Amazingly, after 30 years, the group is almost entirely intact, a true testament to their friendship and their love of singing.

KRILA, the Slovenian word for wings, is an appropriate name for these singers. They love to travel and perform regularly throughout Slovenia and the neighboring countries. The group shares their passion for singing in concert halls and in support of worthy causes. They are particularly proud of their participation during Pope John Paul II's visit to Slovenia.

Come out and enjoy the concert on Friday, July 15 at the Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater at 7 p.m.



### Strikepoint to perform in Cook on Monday, July 11

COOK - Internationally-acclaimed hand bell ensemble, Strikepoint, will be performing at Trinity Lutheran Church (231 Second St. SE) in Cook on Monday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m. This performance is part of the ensemble's 2022 summer tour. 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."

Strikepoint is based at First United Methodist Church in Duluth, MN. The 11-member director-less ensemble is unique among touring hand bell groups as a combination community/professional/church group and an adult/youth group. Bill Alexander, a nationally known hand bell clinician and conductor, is the leader of the ensemble.

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!" Frequently heard after concerts: "If I'd known it was going to be this good, I would have brought all my friends."



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## LIVE THEATER

### Newcomers join Ely stage veterans for "Quiltmaker"

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - Veteran stars of the Ely stage for decades return for three shows under the lights with the repeat performance of "The Quiltmaker's Gift" July 15-17 at Ely's Historic State Theater, joined by several newcomers to the local music scene.

Vince O'Connor, the "Old Man" in 2019 and again in 2022, has been an actor since high school and has been part of and directed numerous productions for the Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA). He is also an award-winning poet with two published chapbooks and a playwright with one published play, "Nearly Departed."

O'Connor is often on stage alongside nine-year old Andy Weise, the "Child". Born in Ely, Andy will be a fourth grader this fall, and this is his first play. He loves playing video games with his friends, hanging out with his brother Olin, going swimming, and riding his bike and skateboard.

Andy's Mom, Emily Weise, a soldier/chorus member is in her second musical in Ely after a 20-

year hiatus from choirs and community theater in Minneapolis. She and her family live at Camp du Nord where she has served as Program Director for 10 years. She loves early morning saunas.

Jill Shaughnessy, another 2019 soldier/chorus member veteran and former Twin Cities girl active in performing and studying voice, moved to Ely six years ago and discovered a thriving artistic

Dance company Chorus and "Nature: A Walking Play," (both here in Ely at Hidden Valley and in Concord Mass. at the Ralph Waldo Emerson mansion). And, of course, Wigdahl played Ebenezer Scrooge in "Scrooge in Love".

Morgan Sauls, a chorus member/soldier 2019 veteran, has been in a variety of theatrical productions since age five. She

small performing groups and a United States figure skating judge. "This Quiltmaker Ensemble has been a delight," she said.

The King is new to this production but Ian Lah is not new to Ely stages. A graduate of Ely Memorial High School and veteran of countless school and NLAA plays, Ian has received numerous accolades and awards

for his work on the stage. During several years as a member of six different theater companies he received two nominations for BroadwayWorld Best Leading Actor and Best Supporting Actor. He is also the Executive Director of Northern Lakes Arts Association.

The Quiltmaker for the 2022 show is Lissa Miller who moved to Ely a few years ago after 20 years in Excelsior. Before

her move here, she sang in a Twin Cities' women's choir, Bella Lumina, for two years and spent many years taking her two now grown daughters to all their auditions and theater performances. She is excited to now be a part of Ely's theater community.



These three quilts, one a double, one a queen and one a king, were donated by Ely Quilter Dorothy Sand. Raffle tickets will be available before, during and after all shows of "The Quiltmaker's Gift," July 15-17 at Ely's Historic State Theater.

submitted photos



community here of which she's become a part.

A newcomer to this performance, David Wigdahl is no newcomer to Ely music lovers. He performed in a wide variety of shows including Christmas Cantatas, Patriotic Choir, Reflection

moved to Ely from Duluth five years ago to escape into the Northwoods.

Marcia Homer, a longtime resident, is a familiar figure on Ely stages. A mother of six and a retired music educator, she was also director of several community performances, a leader of

### Essentia Health offering new group for grief support

VIRGINIA - Essentia Health-Virginia is now making it easier for those who have lost a loved one to cope with the loss. A new grief support group will hold its first meeting Thursday, July 14 in the third-floor boardroom of Essentia Health-Virginia, located at 901 9th St. N

at 6:30 p.m. The session will be hosted by Linda Freeman, a chaplain with Essentia, and counselor Bryan Ridgeway. The schedule for future sessions will be determined, in part, by those in attendance on July 14.

The support group is open to anyone between

the ages of 18-95 who has experienced the death of a family member. A number of modalities will be used to help participants with their grieving process, including compassionate listening, talk and art therapy, music and more.

The sessions are free to attend and no regis-

tration is required. For more information, please call (218) 410-1768.

Participants are expected to adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols including masking and hand sanitizing.

### Paul Bunyan Communications returning over \$6.3 million to members

BEMIDJI- Paul Bunyan Communications is returning over \$6.3 million to its members in 2022, the cooperative announced today.

Paul Bunyan Communications is a not-for-profit company that strives to provide the highest quality service at the most affordable rates. As a cooperative, membership in Paul Bunyan Communications includes the opportunity to share in the financial success of the company. When profits are earned, they are allocated to the members based on their

proportional share of the allocable revenues. These allocations may then be returned to the individual members through capital credit retirements.

Current members with a distribution amount of \$100 or less, will see a credit applied to their July bill. Checks have been mailed out for distributions of more than \$100.

"The state of our cooperative is very strong with over 28,000 active members throughout our 6,000 square mile service territory. We have been very busy building one of

the largest all-fiber optic rural Gigabit networks in the country, the Giga-Zone, which is revolutionizing the way members live, work, and play. It is rewarding to see all those efforts continue to pay off and return these profits to our membership" said Gary Johnson, Paul Bunyan Communications CEO/General Manager.

"For over 70 years, we have been providing the latest in technology at cost. There is no membership fee to join Paul Bunyan Communications, and there are no

annual membership dues. All you need to do is subscribe to either one line of local phone or Broadband Internet service, and you become a member. You get the latest in technology backed up by our talented team of over 150 local employees that all live and work here" added Dave Schultz, Paul Bunyan Communications Chief Financial Officer.

"In a highly competitive industry with national competitors our cooperative has been successful because we put our region and our members first. We don't have to worry about customers all over the place like in Sioux Falls, Fargo, Minneapolis, or anywhere else. Our investments go here, back into our network, our services, and our communities," added Brian Bissonette, Paul Bunyan Communications Marketing Supervisor.

If you were a member of the cooperative in 2003 and/or 2021 and accrued more than \$10 in total capital credit allocations, but do not receive the credit on your account or a check by July 22, please contact Paul Bunyan Communications at (218) 444-1234 or (218) 999-1234.

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OOPS!

# Tower man plows car into Island Lake eatery

36-year-old driver fell asleep while driving to work in Duluth

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL- A popular Island Lake restaurant and bar celebrated Independence Day and a bit more on Monday, reopening for the holiday weekend after a vehicle driven by a Tower man crashed into the building last week.

Jens Hort, 36, of Tower, was driving to work in Duluth at about 7 a.m. Wednesday, June 29 when he reported falling asleep at the wheel, leaving Rice Lake Rd. and plowing into the Island Lake Inn, according to a St. Louis County Sheriff's Office press release. Hort and a cleaning woman inside the building at the time escaped serious injury.

The cleaning woman called Island Lake Inn co-owner Sam Spears within minutes of the incident.

"Thank goodness she was



Left: Debris from the crash is scattered throughout the bar, which reopened a couple of days later. The vehicle can still be seen in right side of the photo.

photo courtesy Island Lake Inn

it down and completely redo it." The challenge was to get the restaurant up and running again before the Fourth of July weekend, what Spears said is "always our busiest weekend of the summer, no question about it."

And for that, he had plenty of help.

"There were people here before I was able to get here," Spears said. "We had employees who showed up early to help out and couple of contractors are regulars themselves and they were here right away."

With all of the help, Island Lake Inn reopened for business that Friday afternoon, although there's still plenty of work to do to finish repairs.

"This is the fourth time this building has been hit by a car, and this was the worst one," Spears

See CRASH...pg. 5

not in that part of the building at the time," Spears said. "She hit the alarm right away and then gave us a call. When I heard our bar got hit by a car, I'm like it can't be actually that much. I did not expect to see a car in our building."

Hort was wearing a seat belt and his airbags deployed, and he did not require any medical treat-

ment, according to the sheriff's office report.

"I was told he just had minor bruises," Spears said.

The restaurant sits just off the road on a sharp curve just before it crosses Island Lake, and Hort's vehicle failed to make the curve, driving straight into the building's north side, leaving a gaping hole.

"It's a pretty harsh turn and

the barriers aren't enough with what they've got," Spears said. "The county came out that day and the told us they're going to put up a larger, stronger barrier."

"Most of the damage was to our bathrooms," Spears continued, although debris was scattered throughout the bar. "The sink was sheared off and a bunch of piping was bent up. We've had to strip

## MOOD ALTERING

# THC edibles and beverages now legal in state

New law, passed this session, appears to have caught many GOP legislators unaware

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- You can't smoke it, but you don't need to in order to get a marijuana-like buzz from edibles and beverages laced with hemp-derived Delta-9 THC, which became legal to sell in Minnesota last Friday.

The new law allowing edibles to contain the same psychoactive compound as marijuana sailed under the radar as part of a larger health and human services bill passed by the Minnesota Legislature at the end of the 2022 session. The proposal, intended ostensibly to standardize state regulations regarding THC in



edibles, apparently caught some Republicans who voted for the measure by surprise, as House DFL members who crafted the

measure stayed mum about it. "It was done publicly. We just didn't promote it because sometimes having more public

Left: A customer shows the products she bought from Nothing But Hemp in St. Paul. Some of the products contain THC, which became legal under 5 milligrams per serving in Minnesota on Friday.

photo courtesy Minnesota Public Radio

attention amps up the level of political pressure that certain people in the other party may feel," said House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler during a Tuesday press conference. "Just because we did it in the public eye doesn't mean that everybody was paying attention or tracking it."

That apparently included

Republican Senators Michelle Benson, of Ham Lake, and Jim Abeler, of Anoka, who both helped craft the overall health and human services bill in the Senate. Abeler said last week that he didn't realize the law would legalize THC edibles, while Benson initially denied the change.

"Do you think we make gummies legal? Obviously, someone isn't reading the law," Benson was quoted as saying.

But edibles, including gummies that have previously contained only the non-psychoactive cannabis element CBD,

See EDIBLES...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### The right to quietude

The public should have a stronger voice when it comes to ATV trails

Do Minnesotans have a right to quietude?

It's a question that is at the heart of the current conflict between residents of Eagles Nest Township and the Prospector's Trail ATV Club, which wants to construct a designated ATV corridor somewhere through this lake community, located between Tower and Ely.

It's all part of a region-wide effort to create a sprawling network of ATV trails and associated amenities, like campgrounds, designed to make the North Country a national destination for ATV riders. It has the potential to be an economic windfall for those businesses that cater to visitors, since it creates an entirely new potential clientele.

At the same time, residents in places like Eagles Nest Township, worry they're going to be forced to live with the noise, dust, and other impacts from that steady stream of riders that will be passing through their normally quiet community. Folks in Eagles Nest aren't the only ones to complain—they're just the most organized in our region. Residents in the tip of the Arrowhead have already effectively kept new trails out of Cook County.

Those opposed to these new trails are usually quick to point out they fully support the use of ATVs by their neighbors, which typically involves occasional use at most. They're opposed, however, to the prospect of large numbers of outside visitors, who may not have the same appreciation for the land or the rights of those living near the trails to the quiet enjoyment of their property.

It's a quandary for the politicians, who don't want to rock the boat with the well-connected and organized ATV clubs, nor with the increasingly organized opponents of the plans to ramp up ATV tourism. While the economic impacts of increased ridership to businesses in Tower and Ely are real, there is the risk of killing the economic Golden Goose in the neighboring townships, residents of which fuel much of the economy in Tower and Ely. As dozens and dozens of Eagles Nest residents told the town board recently, they moved to the area on the assumption of peace and quiet. One resident recounted that she and her husband had moved to the township from the Brainerd lakes area to escape the increasing noise and other activity there. If the qualities that brought people to the area are diminished, undoubtedly some of our res-

idents will pick up and leave. Others won't come in the first place. That will have its own economic impacts.

Some argue that the battle is hopeless, and that the political forces backing the ATV clubs are so powerful in St. Paul and in St. Louis County that resistance is futile. Yet, at least in Eagles Nest, residents aren't willing to throw in the towel without a fight. They argue that peace and quiet is an important part of their way of life in Eagles Nest, and they believe they have a right to it.

In Minnesota, that could actually be true. Back in the 1970s, when concern for the environment was more popular than it is today, the Legislature enacted a law, Minn. Stat. 116B, which is still on the books, that states that “each person is entitled by right to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of air, water, land, and other natural resources located within the state...” That law subsequently defines “natural resources” as “all mineral, animal, botanical, air, water, land, timber, soil, quietude, recreational and historical resources.”

In other words, Minnesotans do have a statutory right to quietude, defined by Oxford as “a state of stillness, calmness, and quiet in a person or place.” It's a right we suspect is not granted in most other states.

It's a right that public land managers should consider as they move forward with their plans to facilitate increased ATV riding in the state. Much of the early decision-making that cleared the way for a major expansion in the state's ATV trail network occurred with little public notice or involvement, driven by public agencies and ATV clubs. That's starting to change, as Minnesotans are beginning to recognize the trade-offs this latest form of motorized recreation can create, and are increasingly speaking up about it.

That's not to suggest that new ATV trails aren't worthwhile. If trails can help concentrate use and provide the kind of hardening that's necessary to mitigate the damage that unregulated ATV use can cause to wetlands, forests, and sensitive soils, they can be part of the solution.

But land managers have to recognize that high traffic trails are an imposition for many landowners and that they are likely to face increasing pushback around the state. At a minimum, the broader public needs to have a stronger voice moving forward. They have a right to it.



## Letters from Readers

### Better to read the Bible than thump it on Fox News

Abortion is not murder. The Bible tells me so. The biblical punishment for murder is death. The penalty for causing a woman to miscarry is a lesser punishment. (Exodus 21:22-25)

The Bible in general, and Jesus in particular, don't have much to say about a woman voluntarily ending a pregnancy. It would be a kinder world if anti-abortion radicals would spend more time reading the Bible and less time watching Fox news and worshipping Donald Trump.

**Bob Tammen  
Soudan**

### What has changed, and what hasn't, in Eagles Nest Township

What has changed in the Eagles Nest Community?

After the recent decision by the Township of Eagles Nest Board, coming out of a meeting to address the development and concerns about an ATV corridor trail through our Township, what has changed?

The board chose to listen to the residents and property owners and not endorse an ATV route within our township. That sets a precedent.

What hasn't changed?

ATV's will still ride our roads and nearby trails. Local riders will see no change in their freedoms or the way their neighbors view them. They are respected members of our community.

The Prospectors temporary "Trail 4" is still operational.

Most likely, the Prospectors will still work on developing a more permanent ATV primary corridor trail.

What has changed?

Members of the Eagles Nest community are now fully aware of the trail and have had the opportunity to speak their concerns and were heard by our township board. It was a challenging task for the board and community members as well.

What we have learned is that honest communication, faith in our residents, and a board

that respects its community can change perspectives.

Another change is that from here forward, any ATV trail development does so without local community or Township endorsement. That may have far reaching effects on how and where a trail may go.

The challenge regarding the protection of our peace and quiet enjoyment in our township still lies ahead and we wish to be part of any process considering any outside influence over that right. This is not about ATVs, it's about peace, quiet and tranquility to the extent we can have it; for now, and into the future.

Our region has changed. Always has, always will. But a community that stands together can defend its rights and be a strong voice in the control of how that change comes and to what degree.

**Bud Van Deusen  
Eagles Nest Township**

### It's time for a mining ban in the BWCAW headwaters

On June 23, the U.S. Forest Service released to the public the draft Rainy River withdrawal environmental assessment (EA), which analyzes the environmental impact of a 20-year mining ban on 225,504 acres of Superior National Forest lands in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The EA summarizes 20 resource reports that covered many areas of concern. The EA and its underlying reports document the significant risks that sulfide-ore copper mining in the Boundary Waters headwaters would pose to the wilderness.

The EA explains that the purpose of the proposed 20-year mining ban is to protect and preserve natural and cultural resources in the watershed, including the Boundary Waters, the adjoining Mining Protection Area, and 1854 Ceded Territory, from the known and potential adverse environmental impacts arising from exploration and development of federally owned minerals. The resources to be protected and preserved are water quality, scenic integrity,

important wildlife corridors, and high-quality recreation values. It notes that the Boundary Waters is a complex and interconnected ecosystem that offers recreational opportunities and other uses such that it is considered an irreplaceable national treasure. This treasure would be at severe risk from sulfide-ore copper mining.

The EA identifies risks of sulfide-ore copper mining:

- Mining of sulfide-bearing ore poses risks because of contamination resulting from accidents, spills, and failures of technology that could last centuries or longer (into perpetuity).
- Remediation technologies have limited effectiveness.

- Dry stack tailings storage facilities can harm the environment.
- Routine operations and failures of sulfide-ore copper mines could have significant negative impacts to aquatic systems and public health. It is likely that sulfide-ore mining would contribute sulfate to Birch Lake and downstream lakes, increasing methylation of mercury (harming fisheries and human health).

- Wilderness qualities and values and the recreation experience would be degraded.
- The low-income population of the three-county Boundary Waters region and the Native American community would bear the greatest risk of harm. These risks to environmental justice communities would persist indefinitely.
- 1854 Treaty resources, including wild rice, are likely to be adversely affected or permanently removed.
- Federally protected wild life is likely to be adversely affected.

In an ecosystem already stressed by climate change, sulfide-ore copper mining would cause the loss of additional forested lands and result in new sources of greenhouse gas emissions. The EA notes that the current amenity-based economy of the Boundary Waters region would be protected by a 20-year mining ban.

A mining ban on lands in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters is prudent and wise. Fortunately, nearly 70 percent of Minnesotans agree.

**Becky Rom  
Ely**

## Four travel lessons worth every penny

In the latest edition of National Geographic, the story of Jessica Nabongo, the first black woman to visit all of the world's 195 countries and 10 territories triggered memories of the handful of trips overseas that I've taken. Born in Detroit Michigan, Nabongo, a travel agency owner and United Nations consultant,



**KATHLEEN  
MCQUILLAN**

set out to document some of the pressing problems affecting people around the globe— such as interminable waste, and which countries of the world bear the worst effects of environmental degradation and recalcitrant poverty. National Geographic recently published her book entitled “Catch Me If You Can”. She expresses the value of seeing

the world beyond one's own borders but also suggests guidelines for world travelers in this age of climate change.

I took my first trip abroad in 1999. My in-laws invited me to travel with them to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. We would land in Cancun and launch other excursions from the island of Cozumel. Neither spoke Spanish. Knowing that I'd lived in Tucson, Arizona before moving to Minnesota, they welcomed me along, despite my rudimentary understanding of the language

— rusty after years of no use. Once they shared their itinerary, I knew this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

Many travelers will tell you that every trip has unexpected twists and turns. Challenges can become part of the adventure. And we certainly had our share!

Our first outing involved a ride on a rickety bus packed with local commuters, headed for the renowned Mayan “ruins” of Chichen Itza. Midway to our destination, while crossing a region of dense jungle, the bus

came to a sudden halt. Without any verbal cue, everyone filed off the bus — except us. We were confused, and a little nervous, so we agreed to stay put.

Within minutes, a uniformed police officer got on board and walked straight toward us. In a commanding voice and a foreign language, he pressed us harder and harder for a reason we couldn't understand. We finally determined he wanted to see our boarding tickets. After a

See **LESSONS...** pg. 5



# Letters from Readers

## Thinking of the words we use

“UNUS PRO OMNIBUS, OMNES PRO UNO,” in Latin translates into “one for all, all for one.” Forests, vital to animal denizens and life on earth, clean the air we breathe, filter water we drink, resist climate change, provide economic benefits, enhance beauty and health to our personal lives. Trees inter-

acting with the forest environment demonstrate the whole is enchantingly greater than the sum of its parts.

IDEOLOGY may be explained as a belief system posing as “fact” lost in “not seeing the forest for the trees.” Seeing parts, without understanding how they fit together, qualifies as ideocracy. Ideocracy may be defined as a ruling mindset that distorts reality to perpetuate power and interests for the authoring group.

IDEALISM prescribes principles, values and goals that we should or ought to live by. Ideals are ideas imagined as a promise. Among these ideals are equal justice under law, equal opportunity and government of, by and for the people. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to form a more perfect union, in practice falls far short of promise.

INDIVIDUALISM sees individuals separate and apart from society. This ideological illusion

is fed the masses while few feast on hegemonic power of wealth. Engorged few enjoy privilege and priority over community needs while extreme inequality eats away our social fabric. A public divided discourages popular collective action. Everyone for themselves is a dangerously disempowering belief to protect the interests of privileged few.

INDIVIDUALITY sees persons as unique and distinct in character and quality, but in

context with social being. Identity and experience account for differences, but likenesses unite us in cooperation for common cause. Social being binds us together into a lively mosaic of human community. Interdependence within complex society is simply working together to nurture human potential of each and everyone to their fullest.

**Harold Honkola  
Stillwater**

## LESSONS...Continued from page 4

few minutes of frantically searching our pockets and purses, I humbly put up my empty hands and tried to explain that we couldn't find them. With all of his vested power, obvious by the many insignia pinned on his chest, he glared at us. We knew we were at his mercy.

Just as our fear of being kicked off the bus was about to take over, the driver returned to his seat. He'd overheard what was happening and began speaking to the agent in a respectful but confident tone. The officer kept looking at us then back at the driver until his expression began to soften. Without any gesture to us, he simply turned and left the bus. The other passengers began re-boarding and within minutes we were back on the road. Mildly shocked but relieved that we had not been abandoned, we were overwhelmed with gratitude for the driver who was willing to intervene on our behalf.

Travel lesson #1. Even when terrified, try not to lose your cool. Help may unexpectedly arrive that may save your day.

My next trip took me across the Atlantic to Ireland, the land of my ancestors. In 2004, I discovered an announcement for an affordable ten-day tour and decided once again

to grab the ring before it passed me by.

I found the bucolic landscape as green as the words “emerald isle” would lead anyone to believe. Surrounded by the North Atlantic's gray and restless seas, the air was cool and misty. The Irish people's pale ruddy complexions and steely blue eyes, were richly reminiscent of my long-deceased grandparents. And their gestures, adages and brogueish speech brought back many warm and funny recollections. I felt so “at home”.

While walking the Aran Islands, a ferry cruise away from the coastal city of Galway, I fantasized a writer's dream of a lifetime. Secure one of these thatched-roof cottages. Leave my responsibilities of daily life behind. And retreat to this barren place where I could begin my first novel.

Ischemed and dreamed about this return to my ancestral homeland for a long time before I finally admitted to its folly.

Lesson #2. Dreaming can be fun and inspiring... And, faeries do exist!

In 2007, another chance to fly away came my way. Out of the blue, a friend asked me to accompany her on a trip to Vietnam! She was going to see her husband who was living

there, doing volunteer work. I could travel on her Delta Airlines “buddy pass” and spend three weeks vacationing with them. Without hesitation, I said, “Yes!”

After three decades of marriage to a Vietnam War veteran, I'd developed a deep connection to this country and knew that visiting would be an extraordinary and important experience. My friend's spouse, also a war veteran, was there assisting Amerasian Vietnamese who wished to apply for American citizenship. As children of American GI's, U.S. immigration policy allowed this ethnic minority to apply for full American citizenship. It required completing multiple forms, providing necessary documentation, and understanding how to navigate bureaucratic obstacles. Jon's clients lacked the resources needed to complete the process. They also lacked the confidence after being subjected to persistent discrimination and poverty. Jon's job was to offer assistance.

We landed in Ho Chi Minh City, greeted by a group of Jon's friends. They took our luggage and handed us bouquets of flowers. I will never forget their hospitality that day, and the strong fragrance of flowers mingled with

the smell of jet fuel, not to mention the intense heat and humidity of Vietnam at midday!

Together, we toured the southern half of the country, taking in coastal stops along Highway One north to Hue. One destination was Marble Mountain, located on the outskirts of Danang, the place where my husband, John, had been stationed. We toured its caves where life-sized statues of the Buddha had stood for centuries. I recalled some of John's sparse tales and imagined him and his buddies slipping away from the base to seek some respite in this quiet, sacred space.

As wondrous as these stops were, nothing matched the unexpected outpourings of generosity from the Vietnamese people. I admired their resourceful and industrious nature, their spirit of hope and resilience, and a persistent message they wanted me to carry home.

It went something like this. Despite a long and bloody war, they wished to express sincere gratitude to American soldiers for enabling them to achieve national unity and lasting peace! They wanted me to share their respect for our veterans who served their country well, as ordered. And finally, to assure them that the people of Vietnam

hold no malice.

Lesson #3: Peace is possible, and far more important than ideology.

My next opportunity was my “mission trip” to Africa. I'd longed to go to Africa starting at age nineteen when I was invited to travel to Kenya with one of my professors and a small group of students on a summer research tour. Not knowing how I would raise the money needed, I declined — a decision I always regretted. I was sure that an opportunity like that would never come again. But in March of 2016, I found myself boarding a jetliner for Johannesburg, South Africa!

From South Africa, I travelled on to Zambia where I participated in an aid program for children orphaned by unyielding famine, disease, conflict or economic policies. I visited small villages as well as large settlements of mostly homeless migrants forced to flee the rural countryside and cluster on the peripheries of large cities where the resources to meet even their most basic needs were utterly insufficient. The time I spent in service were the heart and soul of my trip to Africa.

The magnificence of the African landscape and its wildlife are indescribable. Not even my camera could capture it. Africa

defied all my imaginings! But my deepest and most lasting memories are not of Victoria Falls or Krueger National Park, as awe-inspiring as each of these places are, but memories of the people — singing, laughing and dancing, whether at work or at play. I will never forget the beautiful faces of Zambia's children and the women who cared for them. And their irrepressible expressions of joy amidst extreme hardship.

Lesson #4. The experience of intimate encounters with simple acts of love and kindness, delivered in joy, will always supersede the thrill of the “must-see” Wonders of the World!

Between the pandemic and a growing awareness of how traveling impacts our fragile planet, I reconsider every time the wanderlust strikes. No doubt, exploring beyond the familiar provides pleasure and valuable insights. But for now, I'm cruising on the memories I've already banked, thanks to the amazing folks who helped create them with me. For now, I'll train my eyes on the wonders around me, applying curiosity and a sense of adventure, here just outside my door.

## EDIBLES...Continued from page 3

are indeed now legal in Minnesota. And the regulations regarding THC address a public health concern with Delta-8 THC products, a federally legal product containing a less potent version of THC that has been widely available in the state, according to Rep. Heather Edison, DFL-Edina, who authored the specific section of the bill.

“There were these products that essentially didn't really have regulations on them. But people were consuming them,” Edelson said. “They were being sold all over the state of Minnesota, and a lot of them in gas stations.”

Edelson says the use of unregulated products by minors caused an increase in poison control calls. She believes those numbers will be reduced now that Delta-8 THC products will be regulated under the measure.

Steven Brown, co-founder of the Minnesota Cannabis Association and CEO of Nothing But Hemp, said over the last year those in the hemp industry were seeing products with varying amounts of THC pop up in smoke shops and CBD stores throughout the state.

He said the new law provides important consumer protections that he believes reflect the state's conservative stance on hemp-derived THC products.

### THC regulations

While marijuana-derived THC is still illegal for general purchase, hemp-based THC is chemically the same but produced in much smaller amounts in the growing process. While it takes more hemp to produce an equal amount of THC, the end product is exactly the same.

The new law says that food and beverages cannot contain more than five milligrams of hemp-based THC per serving and no more than 50 milligrams per package.

Packaging also must not mimic any non-THC products and be designed to prevent marketing to children. Individuals must be 21 years old to purchase THC edibles and beverages.

Five milligrams is more restrictive than many other states where ten milligrams per serving is allowed, but five-milligram products are readily available and more such items are anticipated to be produced in-state.

Enforcing the new law falls to the state's Pharmacy Board, an agency poorly equipped at present to handle the task. The board has only 23 employees

to deal with all pharmaceuticals, and the fact that THC products can be sold anywhere complicates things further. Pharmacy Board Executive Director Jill Phillips said the board will initially rely on consumer complaints to monitor products, but they have no control over licensing manufacturing or retailing. The Pharmacy Board has also called for the Legislature to consider an Office of Cannabis Management, as the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health also have authority for hemp production and products and medical marijuana, respectively.

Minnesota Public Radio contributed to this report. You can hear MPR news at 89.3 FM in Ely and at 92.5 FM on the Iron Range.

## CRASH...Continued from page 3

said. “I hope this is the fourth and final time.”


Spears said they'll likely be talking about this for a long time, and there's a piece of memorabilia

that will likely spark many future conversations.

“We collected a side mirror from the car and that's going to be mounted on the wall,” he said.

The sheriff's report noted that Hort showed no signs of impairment and alcohol and drugs were not suspected to be contributing factors. The total cost

of the damage has yet to be determined.



*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**

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

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

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Office Staff	Sharon Legg
Staff Writer	Rachel Brophy
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**Official Newspaper:**  
City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, Greenwood, ISD 707.

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

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Week of July 11

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

Tower City Council, 5:30 p.m. on July 11

**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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on July 12

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://vermilioncountry.org).

**Fourth of July Donations**

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

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

Thank you to:  
Virginia Elks Club  
Dan & Deb Wuirre  
Derek Lamma  
Brotan Construction  
Vermilion Storage  
Bruce & Kathy Carlson  
Terry & Donna Mosher  
T-S Insurance Agency  
Rosemary & Robert Ladner  
Peter Esala  
Dale & Rana Niemi  
Kenneth & Mary Danz  
Elisha & Linda Morcom  
Moccasin Point Marine  
Abe Construction & Masonry  
Vermilion Club  
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Peter & Elaine McGillivray  
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Starkovich Distributing  
Tom & Monica Pustovar  
James & Linda Mustonen  
Tower News  
Pauline Housenga  
Robert Desannoy family  
George Stefanich  
Chuck & Nancy Tekautz  
Pike Bay Lodge

**Old Settlers Picnic set for Saturday, July 16**

LOCAL TRADITIONS

BREITUNG TWP- This might be the most delicious \$10 you have ever spent. If you are a present or former resident of the Vermilion Iron Range, the annual Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic features the most amazing booyah you will ever taste. Simmered overnight in large cast iron kettles placed over wood fires, the meat and vegetable stew somehow manages to channel over 100 years of history of this traditional event. The kettles most likely date back to the earliest years of this picnic, which was originally sponsored by the Oliver Mining Company for their employees, but soon turned into a day-long community event.

The picnic is always held the third Saturday in July at McKinley Park Campground in Breitung Township. The 2022 event is coming up on July 16. Booyah gets dished out at 12 noon sharp, and is available until it runs out. If you haven't attended before, you need to bring your own pot, along with bowls and silverware, and any other picnic fixings you fancy. There is plenty of seating available, mostly under the covered pavilions on the campground lawns.

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

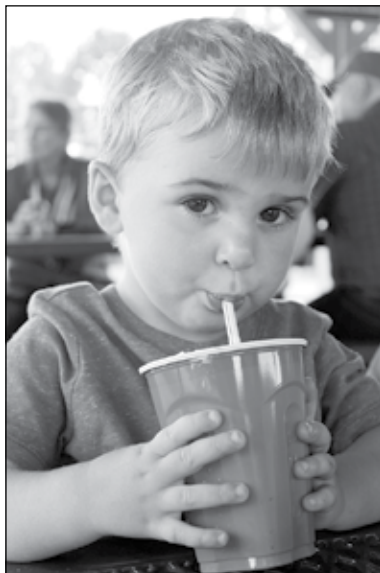


available the day of the picnic, but pre-payment is preferred to make the registration line move faster at the picnic!

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. Take-outs are also available if you are unable to stay for the picnic, live music, and raffles.

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



Left: Bentley Crego has fun on the slippery slide. Above: Alice Arola drew the winners for this year's raffle (see winners below). photos by J. Summit

**Picnic in Soudan**

The weather was perfect for this year's Breitung Community Picnic on July 3. Pictured (clockwise from top left): Maverick Zollar enjoys his root beer float, Nina Mitrovich shows off the quarters she found in the sawdust pile. Owen Zak takes a break from all the fun with his mother Amber.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

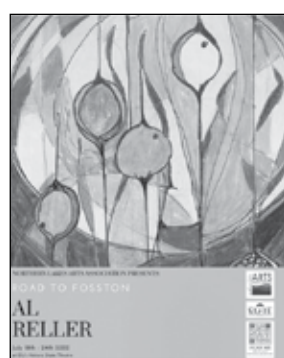
**Fourth of July raffle winners**

SOUDAN- The winners of this year's Fourth of July fundraiser raffle were announced at the Breitung Community Picnic on July 3. First place winner was Mandy Wannarka, second place was

Dan Kearney, and third place was Courtney Wannarka. Over 2,400 tickets were sold. Some families, including the Wannarkas, did purchase a lot of tickets! The raffle is a major fundraiser for the Fourth of July festivities.

**Tower Parade float winners**

Best of Show: Dean Brotan family  
First: Adria Kotzian and friends (Spongebob float)  
Second: Vermilion Dock & Lift Service  
Third: Katrina B Photography (Advocating for Mental Health services)  
Best Family: Amber McCarter family (Griswold family float)  
Most Patriotic: Iron Trail Motors  
Best Business/Commercial: Cook Muni



**Al Reller's art on display in Ely starting July 18**

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association is excited to announce their next art show in collaboration with Ely's Historic State Theater.

"Road to Fosston" by Al Reller is an intimate kaleidoscope of a life's work. A multi-medium creative megalith from Soudan, Al takes inspiration from the world around him and fills his work with bright and wild sensuality that leaves his

viewers desiring more. Come view "Road to Fosston" from July 18-24 in the Ely State Theater lobby.

**Travis Vogh graduates from Central Lakes College**

BRAINERD- Travis Vogh, of Soudan, has earned a Diploma of Occupational Proficiency, Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance from Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples. He graduated with honors, earning a 3.25-3.74 GPA. Central Lakes College is a comprehensive community and technical college in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. The college serves about 5,500 students annually in liberal arts and career education programs.

**St. Martin's Summer Salad Luncheon, July 13**

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.

**Tower-Soudan city-wide garage sale planned for July 30**

TOWER-SOUDAN- A Tower-Soudan city-wide garage sale is being planned for Saturday, July 30 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Get ready to clean out your house and garage. Everyone in the area is invited to participate. If you don't have enough to do your own sale, join up with a neighbor.

To participate in the event, please email your name and address to Paula Barnes at [pbarnes6@protonmail.com](mailto:pbarnes6@protonmail.com), send a facebook message to Starbaby Candles (Paula Barnes), or call Paula at 218-780-6806. Organizers will be creating a map of area sales to be handed out at local businesses.

TOWER • MN



**History Talks on Main Street**

Brought to you by Tower-Soudan Historical Society

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

**Marttila Drug Store**

Nickel Coffee, Penny Candy and Ice Cream to Die For!

Dave Anderson, Presenter Saturday, July 16 • 4 PM

(Herbert R. Lamma Civic Center, Tower) Hosted by Victoria and Charlie Carlson-UBetcha/UffDa

**The Inside Story**

**Olson's Grocery and Hardware**  
Growing Up on Tower's Main Street  
Lynn Olson and Debbie Olson Shields, Presenters

Tuesday, August 16 • 1 PM

(Birch St. and 515 Main St., Tower) Hosted by Dianna and Terry Sundahl

FREE • Light refreshments served

**Fridays 4-6 PM**  
at the Train Depot in Tower



## ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Supporting Ely businesses, community for 114 years

ELY - Over the course of 114 years, the Ely Chamber of Commerce has served the area as a business association.

In its early years as the Ely Business Men's Association, the focus was on infrastructure as a founding community was forming. In 1916, the organization was renamed the Ely Commercial Club with members seeking to develop strong leadership and a unifying voice and message.

The most recent name change occurred in 1959 with the organization taking on its current name. With each transition in the organization came a shift in focus based on the needs of its members.

In 2019, the Ely Chamber of Commerce participated in strategic planning and focus group discussion that included

both members and non-members. The feedback received aided the Chamber as they determined how its work and actions would be prioritized. Its focus is centered on business and resource growth, strategic partnerships, leadership and advocacy, and workforce development.

Workforce was the primary focus this past year, as the Chamber organized two job fairs that provided an opportunity for youth and residents to meet and learn about area employment options. The Ely Chamber of Commerce also attended the Iron Range Job Fair sharing over a hundred Ely area job openings with a broader group of job seekers.

A Workforce Needs Survey was launched in late August, 2021 and provided valuable information. When respondents

were asked if their business had to reduce hours or days of operation due to workforce constraints, 44.6 percent indicated they did need to make changes. Approximately 70 percent of respondents had to increase pay and/or benefits to attract employees.

Businesses indicated they were interested in working with high school or college internships, which prompted the Ely Chamber of Commerce to develop a Workforce Resource Guide with information on internship opportunities at various high schools, community colleges, and universities in the Midwest.

Approximately 20 percent of respondents showed interest in the J1-Visa program. The Ely Chamber of Commerce is planning to have a webinar in late September to present this employment opportunity.

Student placement for the J1 Visa program begins in late October.

The survey offered respondents the opportunity to share ideas or concerns. Housing and daycare were consistently mentioned. Transportation was another concern, particularly for high school students who don't have access to a vehicle. The results from the survey were shared with both Chamber membership and the Ely Economic Development Authority.

As the Ely Chamber of Commerce moves into a new membership year, they are continuing to seek out workforce solutions. They are planning to relaunch their Business Incubator and quarterly Chamber Breakfast Meetings in October, which provide networking opportunities for business owners and managers. More business

development sessions are also planned.

The March business development sessions were led by Molly Solberg of MAS Marketing and featured information on websites, social media, business pages, content, and branding.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce appreciates the continued support of its membership. Without membership support, the business development sessions, Celebrate Ely Business Networking Dinner, workforce supports, and other services would not be possible.

Not an Ely Chamber of Commerce member? Contact the Chamber office at 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org to learn more about the services and opportunities included with business memberships.

## 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 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



made it through the fourth onward with fun summer treats half a year all done

## ELY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## Adventures in babysitting

ELY - Ely area students recently took part in Ely Community Education's American Red Cross Babysitting Training. Participants included youth between 11 to 15 years old and were interested in becoming responsible and safe babysitters.

This training provided a hands-on experience for participants to develop skills in leadership, professionalism, infant, and child basic care, safety, and safe play. Each student practiced with an infant manikin which included learning and practicing Infant CPR and First Aid.

The students learned a lot of skills and knowledge. Professionals worked with students in a step-by-step process including topics such as choosing age-appropriate activities, basic childcare, bottle feeding, child behavior, safety, starting a babysitting business, and more. All students gained experience and knowledge to pass the exam to earn the American Red Cross Babysitting Certificate and the Infant CPR and First Aid Certificate.



## Libraries

## Ely library

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

## Babbitt library

Monday 10 am-6 pm  
Tuesday 10 am-6 pm  
Wednesday 10 am-6 pm  
Thursday 10 am-6 pm  
Friday 10 am-6 pm  
Phone: 218-827-3345

## Support groups

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

## AROUND TOWN

## Capture Ely in Chamber photo contest

ELY - The challenge is on to capture the essence of Ely through photographs. Participants are invited to grab a camera or phone and snap away to capture the special, unusual, or unique moment.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce is offering Chamber Bucks as prizes in four different categories, Outdoor Recreation, Family Fun, Nature, and Shopping.

First, second, third, and honorable mention Chamber Buck prizes will be awarded in each category as follows: first place \$200, second place \$100, third place \$50, and honorable mention \$25. That's a total of \$1,500 in Chamber Buck prizes.

Photographers can enter more than one photo. If print copies are provided, we will also need to receive a digital copy

too. Email submissions should be sent to director@ely.org. Submissions may be sent to the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731, or dropped off at the office. Again, digital copies of images must be included with the submission.

Photos submitted to the contest may be used on the Ely.org website, social media posts, or in our business and visitor guide. Photo credit will be provided. Photos can still be used by the photographer for their own personal or professional use. All entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20. For more details and entry form, visit ely.org/capture-ely-photo-contest, or call 218-365-6123.

## Support group meets Mondays in Ely

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

## Dental hygiene services offered

ELY - The Ely Community Health Center in the ECR building, (formerly AFU) is providing free dental hygiene services to anyone in need.

Call 218-365-5678 or email DentalECHS@gmail.com and they will get back to you. They can also make an appointment for you to see a dentist who will be available in the Ely Senior Center one day per month.



The Ely Police Department recently hosted a Bike Rodeo in the Ely Public Library parking lot where they reviewed bike safety laws and tips for participants. Bike safety inspections were available. Bikers negotiated a riding course in the parking lot. Information was also available about how local children can participate in the Fourth of July parade this year. Snacks and refreshments were also provided.  
photo by K. Vandervort



CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE

# Orr celebrates July 3 in patriotic style

ORR- It was a celebration the people of Orr thought might not happen this year, after last year's organizing committee said it was time to turn the planning over to someone else, and volunteers were initially hard to come by.

But perhaps because of tradition, perhaps because the town didn't want to miss out on a party, or perhaps just because out of pure stubbornness that the festi-

ivities would go on, Orr's Annual July 3rd Fun Day was back in full force on Sunday. Thanks to volunteers both seasoned and new, the show did go on after all, with most all of the same events attendees have come to expect from one of the most anticipated and festive Independence Day celebrations in the North Country. Here are a few images from the day's activities.



Top: The Orr Fire Department bounce house, Luke's Annual Tractor and Car Show, and food vendors were kept busy most of the day.

Above left: A mass of runners young and old take off for the start of the 5K race/walk. North Woods cross country runners made it tough on the rest of the field in their age groups, but everyone young and old seemed to fare well in relatively cool conditions.

Above right: Charlie Franks pilots her red, white, and blue bike down the parade route.

Middle left: Nia Gaskell is cruising in patriotic style in her decorated coupe during the kids' parade. More than 30 kids participated. Awards went to Makala and Bailey Brunner, favorite girl; Griffin Franks, favorite boy; River and Cece Holman and Henry Bartman, lotsa red, white, and blue; Corey Lindeman, most comical; Maverick Wright, most patriotic; Kayson and Nia Gaskell, most imaginative; Jasper, Bonnie, and Shelby, most crowd pleasing; Addie, Kenna, Paige, Logan and Liam Louwagie, most pizzazz; and Hayes Heggedahl, best of parade.



Middle right: Somewhere in that mass of kids is a sawdust pile they're searching for coins.



Lower left: Scott and Rob Rutar won the bean bag contest at the Orr Muni.

Lower right: Uncle Sam gets Benjamin Franklin and Santa to join in the "I Want YOU!" point.

photos by D. Colburn



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Jazz duo to perform in park next Wednesday

COOK- Sam and Mathew Miltich will bring their world class jazz guitar and bass duo to Cook from 6-8 p.m. this coming Wednesday, July 13 for Cook at Music in the Park.

Miltich has played Cook before and has graced stages from Iron-Range bars to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

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.

### Duluth bell choir to perform Monday at church

COOK- Strikepoint, an internationally acclaimed 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 St. SE.

Strikepoint, based at

First United Methodist Church in Duluth, is an 11-member directorless ensemble that plays an eclectic mix of popular tunes from nostalgic to modern.

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."

### NWFA workshop to feature O'Keeffe

COOK- Learn about well-known artist Georgia 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.

Ely artist Cecilia Rolando, who works in a variety of mediums, including acrylics, will lead the workshop.

Register for this Curious and Creative Class in person at the NWFA Gallery, by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153, or emailing [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).

The gallery is located behind the DreamWeaver Salon and Day Spa at 210 S River St.

### Clay whistles will be workshop focus at NWFA

COOK- Learn to sculpt a whistle with clay in two classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts on Thursdays, Aug. 4 and Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Teacher Lyn Reed will lead students in creating fanciful clay whistles in the first session, and students will glaze their creations in the second class.

Register for this free Curious and Creative Class in person at the NWFA Gallery, by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153, or emailing [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com).

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 at 210 S River St.

## YOUNG HELPERS



Jake Drobnik, Riley Odle, and Josie Drobnik, along with Riley's brother Parker, who pedaled home before this picture was taken, sell iced tea and lemonade on Sunday in Crane Lake to raise money for the town's Fourth of July fireworks show. The kids are no strangers to helping out, either, as the youngsters also set up a similar operation to raise funds to help with sandbagging during the recent flood.

photo by D. Colburn

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## CITY OF ELY

# Council commits to ambulance service improvements

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – City council members here unanimously agreed to commit taxpayer dollars and work with other area governments and the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board to purchase a vacant building in town to serve as the new home of the Ely Area Ambulance Service.

The city of Ely, Morse Township, Fall Lake Township and the city of Winton appear to be in agreement to chip in the funds necessary to purchase the building at the corner of Central Avenue and Chapman Street that previously housed Kondos Outdoors.

The purchase price for the building that would serve as a garage for emergency vehicles and living quarters for on-call emergency medical technicians is roughly \$460,000. Renovations needed to the facility could cost more than \$100,000.

Equal shares of \$150,000 from each main governmental entity, plus \$11,500 from the city of

## New building occupied ahead of Aug. 1 closing date

Winton, will need to be paid to the Ambulance Joint Powers Board before an anticipated real estate closing purchase closing date of Aug. 1.

“As owners, we will have to develop a fiscal agent to deal with the financial aspects of the real estate purchase and then have a way to lease the building to the ambulance service,” Ely Mayor Roger Skraba said Tuesday night.

A recent 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 medical facility’s campus.

At a special Ambulance Joint Powers Board earlier on Tuesday, it was revealed that the Town of Morse already contributed a portion of their committed funds in order for the ambulance service to occupy the

building. The on-call staff and ambulance are already operating from the facility.

On-call staff were using a rental house for on-call staffing at a cost of \$1,200 per month. Ambulance Service Director Dusty Moravitz said that the one-year lease to rent the house was up for renewal, and it made sense to occupy the new facility as soon as possible with the purchase closing date imminent.

The new facility has a bathroom, kitchen area with refrigerator, sleeping area and internet service. Moravitz said they purchased a new stove and microwave oven.

“The staff is sleeping there. The morale is improved greatly. We had an ambulance call out of the building last weekend,” he said.

In another move Tuesday night, city council members unanimously agreed to have city staff assist with the set-up of the fiscal agent capability for the Ambulance Joint

Powers Board to purchase the building.

“If we don’t do this, the Morse Township clerk agreed to assist in getting this all set up,” Skraba said.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski and City Attorney Kelly Klun were directed to develop the necessary legal and financial apparatus.

Council member Al Forsman asked to see the contract.

“We don’t have a contract yet because first we all have to decide to do this,” Skraba said. “It is a fast-moving thing. There are so many moving parts to this. We talked about the operating budget, fixing the building if something happens, insurance, property taxes (\$4,300 per year), and how we are going to divide this. We have answers for most of it.”

Area governmental entities would continue to ask taxpayers to fund the area ambulance service operations with annual

payments on a per capita basis.

Langowski said that he will discuss the city’s financial commitment with the budget committee this week.

“We don’t have any money allocated for this purchase,” he said. “They can recommend to the council to make a transfer from our reserves to the project fund to make this happen. We have quite a bit to do here in the next couple of weeks.”

The council’s next regular meeting is Tuesday July 19.

“Or we can have a special council meeting (on Aug. 28) if we need to,” he said.

City Attorney Klun, who is also on the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital board, added, “The hospital is happy to see this arrangement come into place.”

Minnesota’s two 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 to build a new ambulance and emergency services facility. The Ambulance Joint Powers Board will also be applying to the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) for funding.

“This seems like the direction that will work until something else happens,” Skraba said. “To keep moving in this direction is a positive. It is better than renting a building here and having the ambulance garage over there.”

Council member Heidi Omerza asked if city staff will be reimbursed for their fiscal and financial work.

“Right now it is just a matter of getting it done,” Langowski said. “Is this going to take 100 hours or five hours? I don’t know if we can get this done by Aug. 1. It could be very simple or it could be very complicated. We’ll play it by ear.”

Skraba added, “We are hoping the hospital board will share the burden.”

## TRAIL...Continued from page 1

Ron Potter said the club would continue to work with officials from the Department of Natural Resources and St. Louis County on permits for a route through the township. “Everything we’ve been working on includes a route through the township,” he told the board during last week’s special meeting. The town hall was packed with more than 50 residents, with many more participating via Zoom.

Potter, who had been part of a township-commissioned committee seeking to find a viable route that would minimize impacts to residents, said he would no longer work with township officials on seeking a route.

That township committee had identified three possible ATV routes, dubbed the northern, central, and southern routes. But township residents, organized under the banner of the Eagles Nest Trail Advocacy Group, had pushed for no route.

Town board chair Rich Floyd, during board discussion, said he was torn between the northern route and no route, but as each supervisor voiced their opinion, Floyd said he was convinced that the no route option was the most responsive to the residents.

Supervisor Kurt Soderberg was the most outspoken on the other side, arguing that given the political clout of the ATV groups, the concerns of township residents would likely have little impact in the end. He said St. Louis County officials were behind the ATV groups and would likely continue to issue new permits for the temporary ATV trail that was established through the township last year, much of which traveled along county roads. “I’m afraid the ‘just say no’ option will keep that trail in place,” he said. “It’s just a slogan, not a strategy,” he added.

Soderberg said the township has many other needs and concerns that have fallen by the wayside as the community has been consumed by the ATV controversy. He said actually fighting for a no trail option would require township officials to attend county board meetings to seek a change in the county ordinance, which currently

allows ATV use on county roads. “We would have to hire a lawyer and make multiple appearances,” he said. “And I think we would fail.”

He said the township has had to set aside other issues, such as ambulance service or pushing for broadband and he said he would not spend any more time on the ATV issue.

“We recently made people from the Tower ambulance service sit for three and a half hours because of this,” he said.

Soderberg said he thought the proposed central route could have the least impact on residents.

Supervisor Frank Sherman responded. “A lot of what Kurt said makes sense, but I don’t agree with him.” Sherman said he agreed that county officials were behind the growing use of ATVs in the region, mostly on economic grounds, but he said Eagles Nest only stood to lose from an increase in ATV traffic, with most of it coming from out-of-towners.

He cited the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, which notes that individuals have a right to enjoy “quietude” among other environmental values. “The Minnesota Supreme Court says a government body has no authority to approve an action that violates the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, unless there are no viable alternatives. He said the trail itself

isn’t necessary, which means the no trail option is a viable alternative. “The vast majority of our residents signed that petition that asked us to defend their right to quietude,” he said.

Supervisor David Chiabotti, who was appointed to the board back in October, said he had thought the ATV issue was behind the board by the time he joined. He said he’s a firm supporter of the right of local residents to ride ATVs, but said he understands the desire of residents for the quiet they thought was part of the lifestyle in the township, which is why he preferred the no-trail option.

DeAnn Schatz said she’s seen lots of changes in the township over the past thirty years, including more noise, and that it may. But she also worries that without a trail, the ATVs will still find a way

through the community. “My biggest thing is, if we don’t do anything, what’s going to happen?” she asked. “Will they go willy-nilly everywhere? If there’s a marked trail, 90 percent would stay on the trail. I think something marked is better than nothing.”

With two of the board members favoring no designated route, Floyd’s support made for a majority. He made a motion that the board opposes any route serving as an ATV corridor passing through the township or Bear Head Lake State Park. Floyd’s motion passed with additional support from Sherman and Chiabotti, while Soderberg and Schatz voted no.

### Next steps

Opponents of the ATV trail acknowledge that their victory at the recent town board meeting isn’t the end

of the fight.

“Basically, nothing has changed, except as the Prospector group moves forward, they will do so without the support of the local government or the local community,” said Bud Van Deusen, who helped organize the petition drive. “Nobody walked away giving high fives. But we felt we did the right thing.”

Van Deusen is optimistic, however, that there was growing awareness on the part of the DNR that residents throughout northern Minnesota value tranquility. “We enjoy our peace and quiet and have a right to it,” said Van Deusen and that’s a message that he expects township res-

idents will bring to land managers at both the state and county level as efforts move forward to create a new trail through the township. Van Deusen said he expects any new trail will require an environmental assessment worksheet, and that document requires assessment of impact to adjacent property owners.

Eagles Nest residents see that question as providing an opportunity to make their case for a new approach when it comes to the creation of high-traffic ATV corridors through otherwise quiet, lake communities in northern Minnesota.

## Artist Submissions Requested!

Reflections Dance Company is seeking artwork related to the theme “Math in Motion” for the 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.

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For more details stop by the Ely Chamber of Commerce office, or visit [Ely.org/capture-ely-photo-contest/](http://Ely.org/capture-ely-photo-contest/).



Photo by Les Conrad

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

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### 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.

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July 20: Curtis Laine on the Carl Gawboy murals.

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

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

# Another group of 'heroes' to get state bonus

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

## Post-9/11 veterans join surging frontline COVID worker applicants

REGIONAL - Applications for "Hero Pay" for frontline COVID pandemic workers continue to exceed expectations with still a month to go before applications close. But another group of Minnesotans, military veterans who served from 9/11 through August 2021, are also getting their due with services bonuses of up to \$2,000 in a program approved in the recent legislative session. That program began taking applications on Thursday. Starting in 1919 after World War I, through World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, and now the Global War on Terrorism the state has recognized the sacrifices Minnesotans took to defend the country by issuing service bonuses. Two area legislators were key to the veterans' bonus program this time

around. Rep. Julie Sanstede, DFL-Hibbing, authored the initial service bonus proposal that was then wrapped into a Veterans and Military Affairs omnibus bill by Rep. Rob Ecklund, chair of the House Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs committee. Gov. Tim Walz signed the bill into law on May 10.

"There are approximately 48,000 eligible veterans, over half of whom deployed to combat operations including those in Afghanistan or Iraq, who can receive bonuses up to \$2,000," Sanstede said last week in a press release. "I'm proud the House and Senate both passed this legislation on a broad, bipartisan basis and Governor Walz has since signed it into law. Now comes the exciting part."

According to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, which

will administer the two-year program, three groups of veterans and current service members, or beneficiaries of veterans who died in connection with their service, are eligible for Post 9/11 Veteran Service Bonus awards. The awards cover service rendered from Sept. 11, 2011 - Aug. 30, 2021 and include:

- \$600 if the veteran or currently serving service member served honorably in federal service and was not awarded a Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

- \$1,200 if the veteran or currently serving service member served honorably in federal service and received one of the aforementioned medals.

- \$2,000 for the beneficiary of a veteran who

served and died in federal service during the qualifying period as a result of a service-connected injury, disease, or condition and was awarded one of the aforementioned medals.

Complete eligibility and program criteria, as well as the application portal, can be found online at the MDEV Post-9/11 Veteran Service Bonus page at <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/familyassistance/911-service-bonus.jsp>.

### Frontline worker pay

With less than two weeks remaining, interest in the COVID pandemic Minnesota Frontline Worker Pay program has far exceeded the initial estimate of 667,000 workers applying for "hero pay." As of July 1, 867,000 applications had already been received, said Nicole Blissenbach, deputy commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

"We are halfway into the application period and are pleased with the launch and implementation of the Frontline Worker Pay Program," Blissenbach said. "We have received a large number of application submissions, so Minnesota workers know about the program and where to apply. We will continue to provide outreach and applicant support until the final day of the application period to ensure that eligible frontline workers can submit their applications and be recognized for their significant contributions during the peacetime emergency."

The number of qualifying applicants won't be known until applications are closed on July 22 and appeals of denials are processed, but if the numbers

remain higher than estimates the award per worker could be reduced. The \$500 million appropriated by the Legislature will be divided equally among all those who qualify. For 667,000 successful applicants, the amount awarded was estimated to be \$750 per person.

Of the 15 industry sectors deemed eligible for the program, those with the most applicants to date include health care, food service (including production, processing, preparation, sale, and delivery), and manufacturing, Blissenbach said.

Applicants who worked at least 120 hours in close proximity to individuals outside of their homes between March 15, 2020 and June 30, 2021 may be eligible for the benefit, although independent contractors and sole proprietors do not meet the guidelines.

For complete eligibility criteria or to apply, go to [frontlinepay.mn.gov](http://frontlinepay.mn.gov) or submit.

## COVID...Continued from page 1

Despite the increasing transmission rates, the Minnesota Department of Health last week switched from daily to weekly reporting of COVID-19 information, due to the uncertainty of case data and shifting measures health officials use to track the pandemic's severity.

More and more people have relied on home COVID tests in recent months, and positive results aren't typically included in state reports, resulting in a significant undercount of cases. Hospitalizations, deaths, and sampling of wastewater for COVID virus levels are more heavily relied on now than in the past.

"As testing behaviors have changed to include more at-home testing and with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 community levels focusing on severe disease, local disease activity, and related impacts, we are implementing more sustainable COVID-19 surveillance and data reporting efforts to align with the current state of COVID-19," said a June 28 MDH press release. "These changes will still allow MDH to remain flexible and scale up response activities as needed."

And with the highly contagious and vaccine-evasive B.5 Omicron variant becoming dominant this past week and numer-

ous Minnesota counties shifting back upward to high levels of community transmission, that flexibility may be necessary in the days ahead.

CDC community transmission levels are based on a combination of case and hospitalization data, but an alternative CDC risk assessment using only case data paints a potentially troubling picture. Seventy-five of Minnesota's 87 counties were reported as being at or above the high transmission level last week.

Monitoring of COVID virus concentrations in municipal wastewater systems also indicated a five-percent increase in northeast Minnesota last week.

The increased levels come at a time when the B.5 Omicron subvariant now accounts for 53.6 percent of the cases nationwide, and 54.5 percent in the region including Minnesota. Only a month ago, B.5 repre-

sented just nine percent of cases. Adding in cases caused by the B.4 subvariant, the pair is the cause of seven out of ten cases nationwide.

B.5 and B.4 are of particular concern because the subvariants have shown an ability to evade immunity from both vaccines and prior COVID infections. That significantly broadens the pool of people who could contract coronavirus for the first time or suffer a repeat infection. While cases are less severe overall than previous variants, health officials have said that the increased chance of getting COVID will likely result in more hospitalizations and deaths, though likely not to the degree seen in past waves.

But predicting long-term pandemic trends has often been difficult, as U of M infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm pointed out in a recent podcast.

"I'm not sure what to make of it all," Osterholm

conceded. "What will happen in the United States over the course of the upcoming weeks and months, based on what we're seeing internationally, is in a large way a crapshoot. Regardless, I think most places can and should expect some rise in cases in the near future as these sublineages take off and for hospitalizations to grow as well."

Osterholm pointed out that reinfections are of particular concern, with second and third infections increasing the risk of hospitalization and adverse health outcomes compared to a first infection, according to a recent study.

### Vaccinations

The number of the youngest Minnesotans from six months through four years that have received first doses of the newly approved Pfizer and Moderna vaccines more than doubled in the second week of availability from 3,291 to 7,654, representing just two percent of eligible patients. Availability of appointments with primary care physicians and an overall "wait-and-see" attitude among a strong majority of parents of this age groups are contributing factors to the slow but steady rollout.

It will take from four to eight weeks for children

to receive their second and final dose of the Moderna vaccine, while the three-shot Pfizer series will take up to 11 weeks to complete.

The number of people age 50 and over seeking a second booster shot has slowed somewhat as they consider whether to get the booster now or wait until fall. More appear to be willing to take their chances on waiting now that Moderna has announced a booster version with higher effectiveness against B.5 and B.4, which could be available by August. Current boosters show limited effects against the new subvariants, while still providing protection that diminished over time from other variants.

Overall, while 72.5 percent of Minnesotans have been completed their initial vaccine series, only 32.7 percent are up to date with recommended boosters.

### Local data

The Timberjay has tracked weekly COVID case numbers from MDH for six North Country zip codes since early in the pandemic, but with the new state reporting format those numbers were not available for the past week. All six zip codes registered case increases across the prior three weeks.



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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Tower Ambulance Commission to look at ways to move forward

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**TOWER** - The Tower Area Ambulance Commission intends to move forward, albeit slowly, and look at a different business models to oversee the area's ambulance service.

Rural ambulance services across the state, and nation, are struggling, and members have noted these challenges do not relate to the quality of the service and its volunteers, but to business models which expect a service to fund itself through insurance revenue.

At their June 26 quarterly meeting, with just a quorum of its members present, the group agreed to set a brainstorming session to discuss potential

funding/business model options for the service. But the actual date for such a meeting, as well as the agenda, is yet to be set.

"We can talk about the options, the pros and cons, and then bring it back to Tower and the townships," said Kevin Norby, city of Tower representative on the commission.

Eagles Nest rep Larry McCray said his township has "no interest in continuing down the road we are continuing on."

He urged the group to focus on the creation of a joint powers board to oversee the service.

"Anything less than that is a waste of our time," McCray said.

Norby said that forming a joint powers board is "absolutely on the list of options."

Norby noted that both Kugler and Breitung townships, who were both absent from the meeting, have said they will participate in the planning group.

The creation of a joint powers agreement would take the ownership of the ambulance service away from the city and turn it over to a board representing the member governments. This would allow for the possibility of some sort of tax support for the service.

The ambulance service has struggled financially since moving to a 24/7 paid-on-call service, which is required by the state. Under the oversight of former director Steve Altenburg, the service put in place a salary structure significantly higher than any surrounding service. This caused salary costs to rise

dramatically, while reimbursements from private insurance and Medicare/Medicaid have not increased proportionally.

"We do want to get this process started sooner rather than later," said Tower Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen.

The board took no action on the ambulance subsidy agreement for 2022. The only issue of disagreement is an indemnity clause placed in the agreement at the insistence of Greenwood Township, which dealt with insurance liability. Norby said the city wants to discuss the issue with its own attorney before agreeing to insert the clause again.

"Should we be reinventing the wheel if TAAS is going away?" asked McCray. "I just can't see

this continuing to be a viable business...I think we should go with the existing indemnity clause so we can get this year's township funding."

"We are abiding by the contract in spirit," noted Norby. "If they say it is a small thing, we can go ahead."

Greenwood Township, which did not have a representative present at the meeting, is looking at conducting their own study on the ambulance service issue. The township has called for proposals to conduct a study that they are expected to review at their July 12 meeting. The cost of such a study, and how they would fund it, has yet to be determined.

The ambulance service is having another busy year, with 143 calls through the

end of May and an additional 26 transfer runs in that period. Suihkonen said the service turns down at least 60 percent of requests for transfer calls because it depends on finding additional service members who are able to take them (and not already on paid-on-call at that time), and that most of these transfer requests occur in the middle of the night. The service currently has ten EMTs with two current EMRs who will soon become EMTs. The service also has 13 EMRs. Suihkonen also told the commission that the city has paid what was owed for transfer miles in 2021 into the subsidy account, which now sits at \$117,979. The service had a bank balance of \$8,672 at the end of May.

## ELY...Continued from page 1

enrollment for the 2022-23 school year is estimated to be 510 students, a decrease of 28 students from 2021-22.

"We are going to try and recover some of those students we lost in the past," Klarich said. "I'm hoping that's the floor. We have room to grow there."

He did not describe his efforts to increasing enrollment numbers.

Estimated Basic State Aid will increase about two percent to \$6,863 per pupil, up from \$6,728 last year. However, even with the increase, the assumed enrollment decrease will result in about \$1,350,000 less in revenue.

Increased spending for staffing, based on negotiated contracts for salary and benefits increases about \$250,000 next year; however, according to district finance manager Spencer Aune, staffing reductions this spring totaled about \$320,000.

"We are also assuming our fuel costs will go up next year," Aune added. "All other expenditures that are assumed to be pretty close to 2021-2022 levels."

Revenue decline has further reduced the school district's unassigned reserves which are projected to fall to \$1,368,011, or 17.3 percent, below the school board's goal of 20 percent.

Klarich seemed to think that state legislative financial help could still be forthcoming this year, despite all indications that

state legislators have no appetite for a special session with elections looming.

"That remains to be seen what happens," he said. "Money is in the legislature for us. We have sales tax exemption money. We have money in an increase in the IRRR taconite tax. It is a wait-and-see approach. They are at an impasse. They might have a special session before the general election or maybe after. I don't know."

He said he has continued discussion with the school district's lobbyist, the Costin Group, on the subject.

"Everybody is hoping, but it takes a lot of movement from just a handful of people to make this happen." He admitted, "Everybody is telling me that it is kind of not going to happen."

Klarich continued, "This is nice news that our projection right now is a balanced budget. In this day and age, that's pretty good. There are a lot of schools are having some negative news."

He also said that in his conversations with other superintendents, "a lot of schools are using that ESSER money" to balance their budgets.

**Superintendent contract**

Klarich reached an agreement with the board to extend his contract as ISD 696 superintendent for another year. The new contract runs from Sept. 1,

2022 to May 31, 2023. He came to ISD 696 midway through the 2021-22 school year following the resignation of Erik Erie.

Klarich continues to work on a part-time basis for the district. The contract calls for a minimum of 116 days on the job, with duty days consisting of one remote day per week and two on-site work days per week during the contract period. Six paid holidays are part of the contract.

Klarich will be paid \$50,061. The school district will contribute \$1,350 per pay period to a 403(b) retirement plan, beginning in January, with a cap of \$13,500. The superintendent contract does not provide health benefits.

**Other business**

In other business, the board:

- Approved a two-year agreement with the district's principal bargaining unit. Jeff Carey, who recently accepted the 6-12 principal position following the resignation of Megan Anderson, was formally hired under the new deal that pays him a salary of \$99,492. He begins his duties on Aug. 8.
- Accepted a list of the school district's newest

tenured teachers, including, Clara Roy, Max Gantt, Madeline Olson, Timothy Hogan and Suzanne Zobitz.

- Hired Jerome Debeltz as Summer Skills Paraprofessional for June-August.
- Hired Mike Rouse as Fall Musical Director.
- Reduced the Playground Aide position from 5.5 hours per day to 3.75 hours per day, effective this year.
- Accepted the resignation of Louis Gerzin as assistant hockey coach.
- Accepted the resignation of Megan Devine as assistant cross country coach.
- Renewed fall and winter head coaches for the upcoming year, including Louis Gerzin, football; Megan Wognum, volleyball; Jayne Dusich, cross country; Tom McDonald, boys basketball; Max Gantt, girls basketball; Jake Myers, hockey; Desirae Cram, fall and winter dance team; and Donna Kari, speech.
- Extended an agreement with Teachers on Call for substitute teachers for two years.
- Approved the IRS increase of mileage reimbursement rate of 62.6 cents per mile.

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SUPPORTING THE ARTS

# Ely follows the yellow brick road to the Land of Oz

Prairie Fire Children's Theatre returns to VCC

ELY – The Yellow Brick Road led to Ely last weekend as the Prairie Fire Children's Theater, with the help of the Northern Lakes Arts Association and Lake Country Power, presented "The Wizard of Oz."

The Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater was transformed into the wondrous land of Oz as at least 30 area children, ages 7-18, participated in the weeklong theater workshop that culminated in two performances last Saturday.

This life changing week has been enjoyed by the young people of this community for almost 25 years, and thanks to a grant from Lake Country Power's Operation Round Up the 2022 theatre camp was free for all who wanted to participate.

"The Northern Lakes Arts Association believes that the arts should be accessible to everyone," said Managing Director Ian Lah. "And

thanks to Lake Country Power they are." Local youth actors included Jordan Borchert, Henry Gilson, Oliver Hohenstein, Nels Majerus, Reagan Borchert, Luke Moravitz, Lennon Brecke, Juliet Stouffer, Moss Erzar, Stella Koivisto, Siiri Nelson, Ameila Strom, Ian Anderson, Keller Strom, Sadie Nelson, Emory Hohenstein, Mariam Messerschmidt, Sydney Cooley, Payson High, Amiah Brandau, Ellie Marshall, Lily Schroeter, Coco Gillson, Eleanor Stocks, Alyssa Anderson, Gordon Smith, Juliana LaMontague, Lucy Luthens, Fiona Ollson and Molly Moravitz.

Two adult directors from the Prairie Fire organization, Kiera McManus, who played the Scarecrow, and Bel Sierra, who played the Wicked Witch of the West, worked with the local cast members all week to rehearse lines and singing. All costumes were provided.



Henry Gilson, above, played Toto, Jordan Borchert, left, adjusted the witch's legs during rehearsal. Prairie Fire Theater's, Bel Sierra, above, visits Munchkinland with her Flying Monkees. The Tin Man, played by Oliver Hohenstein, get a shot of oil.



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THE FOURTH IN THE NORTH



## A red, white, and blue CELEBRATION!



Top left: Members of the Northeast Range marching band honored Troy Swanson during the Tower parade. Swanson, who died June 30, was the longtime school board representative for the Tower- Soudan area.

Top right: Flag-bearer Rod Politano looks intent as he led off the Tower parade.

Above: 10K racers in Monday's Vermilion Run take off with the starting gun.

Left: Families marched in the Tower kiddie parade before the start of the main parade.

Below: Parade watchers huddle under an umbrella to avoid the occasional showers that fell during the Ely parade.

all photos by Timberjay staff



Left: Young and old faces were lit up with smiles during the parade in Tower.

Above: Griffin Franks, shows the red, white, and blue during the July 3rd kiddie parade in Orr.

Right: Abby and Blake Haugen wave their flags just ahead of the kiddie parade in Tower.





MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER

# Superior Siren and Wild Horses in Concert on July 8

CHISHOLM- The Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm is set to welcome two up-and-coming northland bands to the Amphitheater stage for a summer concert on Friday, July 8. Superior Siren takes the stage at 7 p.m., and the Wild Horses kick off the main show at 8:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be offered at the concert starting at 6 p.m. Tickets and event details can be found online at Eventbrite.com. The concert will happen rain or shine.

“Superior Siren and Wild Horses offer a fantastic modern folk-music concert experience, and we are excited to have them perform on the Amphitheater stage,” said Donna Johnson MDC Executive Director. It feels good to be hosting

concerts again and our staff has been working hard to forge new partnerships that will allow us to bring more quality performances to Chisholm in the near future.”

### About Superior Siren

Superior Siren is an eerie folk project from Duluth, Minnesota. The music is inspired by Lake Superior and Siren mythology, and combines alluring vocals with haunting melodies. Superior Siren is led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Laura Sellner. Sellner debuted the project in 2014 with the ethereal solo EP “Lotus in the Muck”. In 2016, she joined forces with cellist Rachel Gobin, bassist Nyssa Krause, and drummer Emma Deaner to craft a mesmerizing blend of strings and

percussion. The all-female band released a full-length, self-titled LP in 2018, followed by a tour of the Midwest. In 2021, Superior Siren released another solo EP of original material titled “Kill Your Darlings”. The collection spotlights Sellner’s captivating voice and poignant songwriting. Laura Sellner’s writing is inspired by the human experience, the depths of the psyche, and the beauty of natural surroundings. She aims to promote healing through music in hopes of encouraging more compassionate communities. The band is a sisterhood of Sirens; radiating love, creativity, and empowerment for all. Superior Siren has supported internationally recognized acts such as Bon Iver, Low, Trampled By

Turtles, Charlie Parr, Danny Barnes, and HALEY; as well as a special performance with DeVotchKa on the main stage of First Avenue. They continue to perform as a solo or full-band act throughout the region, and are in preparation for the next full-length album.

### About Wild Horses

Hailing from the deep woods of northern Minnesota, Wild Horses is quickly becoming one of the regions hottest rising folk-rock bands. Having already shared the stage with renowned artists such as Langhorne Slim, Charlie Parr, and Trampled by Turtles, they have left a lasting impression on their show-goers by packing venues across the state. They’ve often been compared to bands like

Mumford and Sons, The Lumineers, and Gregory Alan Isakov due to their ability to draw listeners in with both captivating melodies and a hard-hitting drive in the same live experience. Wild Horses seeks to convey the unbridled heart of the Wild West in their music. Through time spent in its wide-open spaces and often unforgiving nature, the band offers intimate knowledge of the need to move forward no matter what terrain lies ahead. Their debut record, Runaway, will be released in the summer of 2022. Wild Horses’ core consists of Jed LaPlant (vocals, guitar), Ariana LaPlant (vocals, keys, fiddle), McKeon Hugh Roberts (bass), and JJ Snell (drums).

## TOWER FOURTH OF JULY

# Vermilion Run celebrates its 39th year

TOWER- Two hours of mostly solid rain didn’t help the turnout at this year’s Fourth of July 10K run and 5K run/walk, but those who braved the possibility of a wet run were rewarded with about as perfect running weather you can find in July, cloudy and cool, with no rain dampening the course. Racers in the 5K and 10K ranged from 7 to 77.

Teenage runners proved their mettle, with the Bortem brothers Soren, 16, and Charlie, 14, taking first and second in the 10K race with a commanding lead. The top 10K female runners were quite a bit older, in their 30s and 40s, but also booked respectable times.

The 5K finish was highly competitive, with four runners coming in within seconds of each other, and again two teenage runners, Kyle Peterson, 15, and Max Molinaro, 12, in the top three. Scott Peitruniak, 27, had the best time with 20:22.

Lilli Molinaro, 13, was the top female finishers, followed by adult runners Meg Norberg and Kristen Bortnem (mother to Soren and Charlie).

The race is a fundraiser for Vermilion Country School in Tower. Friends of VCS would like to thank race organizers Mary Shedd and Jodi Summit, along with our volunteers Sue Beaton, Michelle Lubinski, Isaac Archembeau, Bobby Hujanen, Steve Wilson, Marshall Helmberger, Eva Feliz, Max Helmberger, Nancy Salminen, Michelle Toutloff, Victoria Ranua, Tracey Strong, Stephanie Ukkola, and the Hoodoo Point water crew. The race is part of the official Fourth of July festivities, so organizers also wish to thank the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board, the city of Tower, and the Breitung Police Department.

### Kids fun run results

(first, second, third)  
Boys: Leo Peterson, age 11; Brodie Kotch, age 10; Grant Zobitz, age 9  
Girls: Milja Peterson, age 11; Phoebe Zobitz, age 9; Abbie Taft, age 9

### Vermilion 10K

**Top three male finishers**  
Soren Bortnem, 16, 36:21  
Charlie Bortnem, 14, 38:15  
BJ Dinter, 37, 45:06



Above: Brothers Soren (left) and Charlie Bortnem led throughout the 10K race. Below: Kids take off for the Fun Run. photos by D. Colburn



**Top three female finishers**  
Leah Pustover, 36, 46:11 (and fourth finisher overall)  
Lindsay Edwards, 32, 47:16  
Janelle Gomez, 46, 51:40  
Runners ranged in age from 14 to 68

### 5K Race

**Top three male finishers**  
Scott Pietruniak, 27, 20:22  
Kyle Peterson, 15, 20:35

Max Molinaro, 12, 20:45

**Top three female finishers**  
Lilli Molinaro, 13, 22:45  
Meg Norberg, 37, 24:54  
Kristin Bortnem, 47, 27:03

There were a dozen runners in the 5K ages 13 and under. The oldest 5K runner this year was 77.

### Vermilion 10K 2022 (male and female finishers by time)

1	103	Soren Bortnem, 16, M	36:21.9
2	104	Charlie Bortnem, 14, M	38:15.2
3	134	BJ Dinter, 37, M	45:06.6
4	123	Leah Pustover, 38, F	46:11.7
5	108	Mike Anderson, 44, M	46:16.6
6	124	Chris Kuehle, 38, M	46:18.5
7	105	Darin Smith, 43, M	46:48.0
8	125	Lindsay Edwards, 32, F	47:16.2
9	102	Cliff Reither, 42, M	47:24.6
10	127	Greg Gossel, 39, M	48:31.3
11	121	Ben Taft, 25, M	48:32.7
12	114	Nick Myre, 27, M	49:09.7
13	101	Brian Norberg, 37, M	49:46.9
14	133	Casey Nelson, 39, M	50:08.0
15	118	Jimmy Haugen, 41, M	50:32.1
16	130	Janelle Gomez, 46, F	51:40.9
17	122	Peter Molinaro, 43, M	51:53.1
18	111	Faith Eskola, 44, F	52:28.2
19	110	Joy Ercoi, 42, F	52:33.5
20	129	Larry LaTarte, 48, M	53:03.6
21	126	Nick Banovitz, 41, M	53:49.1
22	131	Mitch Myre, 46, M	54:39.1
23	132	Eli Pollack, 36, M	54:43.0
24	116	Chase Klepper, 21, M	54:59.4
25	112	Kim Carlon, 57, F	55:16.3
26	120	Greg Taft, 51, M	55:18.4
27	109	Mark Eskola, 68, M	55:32.2
28	117	Bria Chiabotti, 21, F	55:50.4
29	135	Kim Zoellick, 34, F	56:53.4
30	113	Shaun Myre, 37, M	57:40.3
31	128	Jessicca Hellmann, 47, F	57:53.1
32	119	Clara Zak, 15, F	58:23.9
33	106	No name given	59:30.3
34	115	Jerry Myre, 68, M	1:05:32.4

### Vermilion 5K 2022

Pl	Bib	Name	Time
1	252	Scott Pietruniak, 27, M	20:22.5
2	258	Kyle Peterson, 15, M	20:35.3
3	244	Max Molinaro, 12, M	20:45.3
4	215	Travis Green, 48, M	20:47.3
5	247	Nolan Kelly, 16, M	22:14.9
6	248	Lilli Molinaro, 13, F	22:45.1
7	224	Meg Norberg, 37, F	24:54.8
8	231	Kristin Bortnem, 47, F	27:03.5
9	232	Peter Bortnem, 53, M	27:04.7
10	245	Sadie Molinaro, 9, F	27:24.8
11	243	John Molinaro, 41, M	27:25.8
12	264	Hannah Reichensperger, 18, F	27:29.3
13	222	PJ Fleming, 7, M	27:33.2
14	220	Kelly Fleming, 42, F	27:39.5
15	216	Miley Green, 16, F	27:57.9
16	256	Ray Peterson, 49, M	28:09.9
17	263	Beth Curtis, 42, F	28:12.7
18	257	Haley Kolquist, 10, F	30:15.4
19	259	Liisa Kolquist, 46, F	30:22.0
20	235	Sonja Hanson Stark, 50, F	31:16.9
21	249	Patti Hallback, 63, F	31:23.0
22	250	Veronica Molinaro, 11, F	33:48.7
23	223	Robby Fleming, 8, M	33:52.6
24	219	Mitch Fleming, 41, M	34:54.0
25	217	Everett Green, 14, M	37:05.2
26	238	Jack Nickila, 8, M	37:27.3
27	266	Tasha Trucano, 40, F	37:37.9
28	239	Becky Nickila, 36, F	37:41.2
29	246	Anna Molinaro, 39, F	37:52.6
30	262	Ashley Krasaway, 11, F	39:06.1
31	255	Mindi Ratzloff, 29, F	39:45.0
32	254	Tina Bosma, 41, F	39:47.2
33	253	Lucas Bosma, 10, M	39:53.0
34	214	Shauna Green, 48, F	41:34.9
35	265	Susan Krasaway, no age given, F	41:51.0
36	221	Elly Fleming, 9, F	44:38.2
37	251	Samantha Farley, 24, F	46:46.1
38	218	Mark Mayne, 77, M	49:08.2
39	261	Annabelle Krasaway, 9, F	49:11.3
40	260	Ann Hoak, 72, F	54:15.3

# Fun with history in Tower-Soudan

### Charlemagne’s Attic

The popular second-hand sale event at the historic fire hall will be held on July 29-30; and again on September 9-10. We may hold a short sale on the day of the St. Martin Catholic Church rummage sale too. Watch for flyers and news articles!

We need YOUR help. Please clean out your garage, basements, attics, cabins and sheds. We are accepting donations of anything antique, unique, vintage, collectible, cabin or fun. We are not accepting clothing, garage sale items or books. Contact Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514, Louise Gately at

515-229-8757, or Linda Folstad at 218-750-0193.

### Self-Guided History Tour Map

Our self-guided maps will be distributed at the train depot museum and at TSHS sponsoring businesses through the Tower Soudan Lake Vermilion area. Thirty places of historic significance and links to more information is found in this amazing brochure. Discover the history of our area on your own and learn about our ancestors!

### Tower Train Depot Museum and Train Cars

The depot museum will be open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 am to 4:00 pm starting Memorial Day weekend and continuing through Labor Day. Volunteers will greet you and answer questions at the museum. The train cars may be opened every day if volunteers are signed up to open and close the cars daily. Consider volunteering at the train depot museum. We hope to be open during other days of the week if enough volunteers come forward to help out. No experience needed as we will train you!



Community notices

# Replica cannon fired in honor of the Fourth

## Local history talks underway in Tower-Soudan

**SODAN-** David Colburn, an editor for the *Timberjay*, kept the full house audience spellbound at the Breitung Township Community Center as he related the fascinating details of the life of this brave soldier who represented Tower-Soudan, along with 34 others from our district and 500 from the Iron Range, during WWI.

Colburn, introduced by Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) Board Member Richard Hansen, began his talk with the first records of the Nelson family residing in the area. He cited the 1895 census where it was reported that Gust Nelson (Charlie's father) was living in Breitung Township and working as a miner. After a brief stint of living on land in the Pike River, he moved back to Soudan as an elected overseer of highways for Breitung. It seems that his son, Charlie, worked in the mines also as early as 1910. Charles was the third of 10 children, and according to official registration for the service, he lived on 24 Main Street, which is the present day location of Soudan's Only Store.

Colburn indicated what was going on in the Tower-Soudan area during the four months from Charlie's induction to his death. Some of the details included school children involved in a school garden and collecting leather straps to help make aviator jackets and the community putting up posters to enlist or help with the Red Cross. He stated, according to research, 94 people from our towns pledged \$30/month, a great sum in those days. There were many parties held for the soldiers before they headed to Duluth to be feted by thousands of well-wishers.

Nancy Larson, President of the TSHS said, "I was most impressed with the research and detail David provided as to the actual experiences of Charlie Nelson and his research of the context of WWI. He combined this information to get the audience to feel the experience. He provided (a) great deal about different aspects of life during those early days as a young man leaving home, what was happening at the time back home on the Range and in France. He had the audience's attention during the entire hour of his excellent presentation.

The next TSHS Historical Talk will be on Saturday, July 16, 4 p.m., at the Herbert Lamppa Civic Center. It will cover the details of the area icon, Martilla Drug Store located on the Main Street of Tower. These are free to the public and include coffee an'.

Article submitted by TSHS Board Member Kathy Siskar

**LAKE VERMILION-** On Monday at the top of each hour, Lake Vermilion residents celebrated the Fourth of July with a big bang by firing an exact replica M1841 Civil War era cannon off the top of Grassy Point bluff between Keenan and Gold Islands.

For those present in boats offshore, imagine if you will the Battle of Gettysburg July 1-3, 1863. There are easily a hundred of these cannons scattered liberally on both sides of the trenches. With a sustained rate of fire of three shots per minute, add the smoke and explosion from the cannons and musketry fire of the troops and very quickly the carnage and confusion of the battle become self-evident.

Each shot consists of ramming eight ounces of black powder wrapped in tin foil so it won't spark during the loading process. For wadding, a large portion of 'eco-friendly' dry dog food also packed in foil is rammed tightly which creates the proper pressure and subsequent explosion. A long screwdriver is used to puncture the gunpowder foil and a friction primer is inserted into the top of the cannon. A 10-foot rope lanyard is attached to the primer which when pulled shoots a flame downward into the cannon and ignites the gunpowder.

Several locals accepted my invitation for a photo opportunity and to take their turn at firing the cannon. There are numerous pictures and some great video on the Lake Vermilion Cabin Owners Facebook page.

Story and photos submitted by Bruce Archambault



Above: Bruce Archambault rams the cannon for firing. Bruce is a US Army retired Artillery Officer and saw combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He lives on Grassy Point in his 'Big Cannon Lodge' in the summer and in Weeki Wachee Florida in the winter.

Left: LeRoy and Nancy Forstrom, along with their dog Ruger, of Lake Vermilion. Locals know LeRoy and Nancy as prior owners of the Glenmore Resort here on Lake Vermilion.



Left: Jackson and Donna Jordan, David Sterner, Shaun and Reese Jordan, and Miciah Bingle. Miciah is from Wimberly Texas, David and Donna are from Dallas and Shaun, Reese and Jackson are from Austin. Shaun is a two-time US Swimming Gold Medal Olympian.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



### Marguerite Eyre

Marguerite Eyre, 95, of Cook, passed away on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at the Cook Care Center. A private interment will be held at a later date. Memorials can be directed to the Cook Lions Club. Funeral arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

### Harold F. Leustek

Harold "Sonny" Frank Leustek, 77, of Ely, a U.S. Army veteran, passed away on Wednesday, June 29, 2022. At his request, there will be no formal service. A celebration of life will take place sometime in August at his residence. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

### Donald E. Maki

Donald E. "Don" Maki, 81, of Babbitt, passed away on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at the Cook Hospital. A graveside service was held on Thursday, July 7 at the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Funeral arrangements were by Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife, Carole Pinola Maki;

son, Scott; daughter-in-law, Jill; grandson, Dylan (Tessa) Maki; great-grandchildren, Kane, Ivan and Archer; sister Vi (Gene) Fleming; brother-in-law, Sheldon (Nona) Pino-la; and many nieces and nephews.

### Terrie L. Villebrun

Terrie L. Villebrun, 57, of Hibbing, passed away on Monday, June 27, 2022. Funeral arrangements are pending with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

### Carol J. Peil

Carol June Langehaug Peil, 90, of Virginia and Aurora, died on Friday, July 1, 2022, at Northern Pines Nursing Home in Aurora. A funeral service

was held on Wednesday, July 6 at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower with Pastor Doug Workman officiating. Interment will be in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Memorials are preferred to The American Cancer Society, St. James Presbyterian Church, or Peace United Methodist Church. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Rebecca Schmitz of Chandler, Ariz., Mark Peil of Aurora and Susan (David) Blubaugh of Bonney Lake, Wash.; two grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

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# Outdoors

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Northwoods

## WILDLIFE RESEARCH

# Voyageurs wolf pups to debut in new Disney series

Part of the six-episode “America the Beautiful” series filmed by the same team that produced Planet Earth

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK**— A media-savvy research project here is about to garner even more coverage of their ongoing wolf research thanks to an upcoming appearance on the Disney+ channel.

Disney, working with Nat/Geo and the same award-winning team that created the landmark series Planet Earth and Frozen Planet, has created a new

natural history series, “America the Beautiful,” that will journey through America’s visually spectacular regions, with a focus on iconic species of wildlife, including the gray wolves of northern Minnesota.

The Voyageurs research team, led by Tom Gables, from the University of Minnesota, has spent the past several years documenting the summer lives of more than a dozen packs of wolves that operate both in and near Voyageurs National Park in far northern St. Louis

**Right: A pair of wolf pups wrestle outside their den located near Voyageurs National Park. The pups were filmed as part of the new natural history series, “America the Beautiful,” now available on Disney+.**

County.

They’ve positioned hundreds of trail cameras throughout their study area, which have collected vast amounts of video of wolves and the many other

See **WOLVES...**pg. 5B



## HIKING

# Newest Tower trail now marked

Pine Ridges Trail offers rugged terrain, interesting rock formations, and great views

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**TOWER**—Thespectacularpine-covered ridges on the north side of Tower have long been known to many local residents even though navigating the area has long been challenging.

That’s a problem that local volunteers are in the process of solving, as work continues on the recently dubbed Pine Ridges trail, located just past the Vermilion Senior Living facility at the end of Birch Street in North Star Addition.

A kiosk, installed last fall at the Birch St. turnaround, now has a temporary trail map in place. A larger, permanent sign for the location is in the works. Additional maps have been installed at key locations along the route, and the trail has been blazed with blue paint, according to volunteer Mary Shedd, who has done much of the work this summer.

The roughly one-mile-long trail takes hikers along two pine-covered ridges on the city’s north side, both of which provide spectacular overlooks of Lake Vermilion as well as interesting rock formations tucked amid open pine stands. The lower ridge looks out over Pike Bay, while the upper ridge provides views to the northeast, over other parts of the lake. The higher ridge also peeks out over the Tower Airport and can be an interesting vantage point to watch planes come and go during busy periods there.

Because the forest is quite open, with minimal undergrowth within the stands of pine, it is tempting to explore, but Shedd recommends that users stick to the trail as much as possible, especially if they’re with young children. The terrain is rugged, with areas of loose rock talus as well as high cliffs and portions of trail travel across slopes that can make the walking difficult. Walking sticks would help anyone unsteady on their feet.

Shedd recommends that hikers take



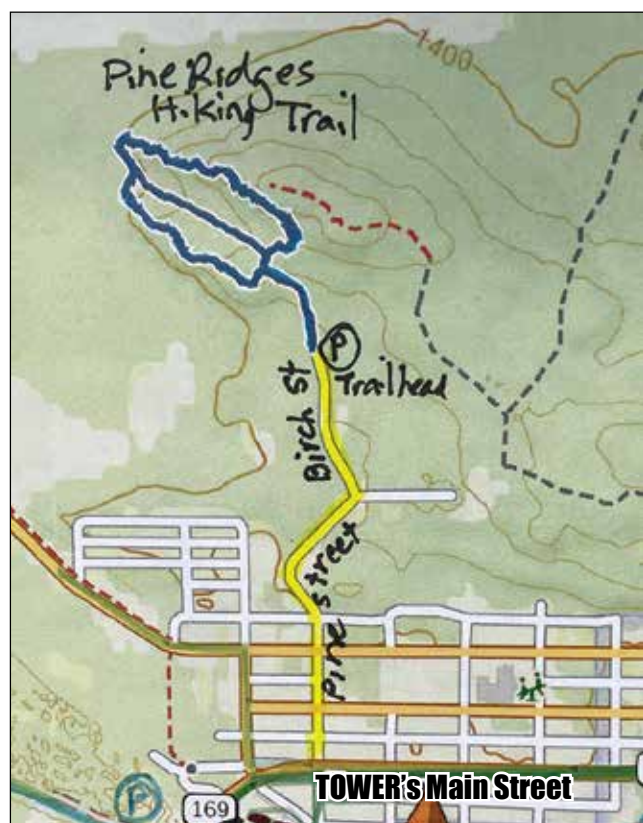
**Top: Scattered red pine, rock formations, and views of Lake Vermilion are among the highlights of the new Pine Ridges Trail, which is now marked on the hill on the city’s north side.**

**Above: Overlooking the Tower Airport from the high ridge along the trail. Volunteers plan to undertake a small amount of strategic thinning to improve the view from a number of such overlooks along this route.**

**Right: A hand-drawn map showing the location of the new trail, colored in blue toward the top of the map.**

Map courtesy M. Shedd

photos by M. HelMBERGER



## Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower  
**ORANGE HAWKWEED**



This is another non-native wildflower that has become a common sight throughout north-eastern Minnesota. The **Orange Hawkweed**, *Hieracium aurantiacum* provides an orange wash to fields, roadsides, and other disturbed areas here.

It’s considered a noxious weed, but it’s now so abundant in our region that there’s really nothing that can be done about it, other than to enjoy its brightly colored early summer flowers. The plant is easily recognized by its tight clump of reddish-orange flowers at the top of a very hairy, 8-12” stem. Once mature, the flowers develop seeds attached to bit of fluff, very reminiscent of the dandelion. The plant also spreads vegetatively, via rhizomes.

It’s native to Europe and was first introduced to Minnesota in the Duluth area, eventually encompassing most of the Arrowhead.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

Walleye fishing was surprisingly good, considering mayflies continue to hatch on many area lakes. Best fishing seems to be shallow, in ten feet of water or less. Shallow flats with scattered weeds, wind blown shorelines and areas around current, has been the best areas to fish. Live bait rigs like spinner rigs and lindy rigs tipped with a crawler or leech has been the way to go. Reports of people catching walleye right off their docks with a slip bobber and leech continue to come in.

Topwater fishing for small-mouth and largemouth bass fishing has been excellent this last week. Whopper ploppers and pop-r’s have been outstanding. Anglers should target shorelines with down trees, points or large shallow flats. Smallies love boulders on these flats and largemouth love weeds and lily pads. Soft plastics like sinko’s, fished wacky has also been extremely effective.

Finally water temps have begun to concentrate lakers and good lake trout reports are finally coming in. Anglers have been catching lakers trolling shallow diving minnow baits, behind five colors of leadcore, over deep water. Best colors have been solid white or blood nose.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors in Ely.



**WATCHING WILDLIFE**

# Shute sanctuary may close in August due to staff shortage

## Open weekends only in July

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Limited public weekend viewing of the black bears at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary will continue through July, but August sessions may disappear completely if volunteers aren't found to help staff them.

Former Executive Director Steph Horner stepped back into the position in June after the new director hired to replace her abruptly quit, and ever since she's been trying to recover from a staffing crisis that forced the sanctuary to close temporarily and then open weekends only. Hoping to expand to full hours by mid-July, Horner reluctantly announced continuation of the Saturday-Sunday schedule on Tuesday due to a continuing shortage of volunteers.

"We will be open every Saturday and Sunday for the month of July from 5-8 p.m., with viewing continuing until dusk," Horner said in a social media post. "Our hours of operation in August will depend on staffing. At this time, we do not have the staffing to be open in August."

August is normally the time when summer interns begin to transition away from the sanctuary to return to their schools and homes and volunteers step in. But with only two interns on staff this summer instead of the normal 10-15, public viewing in August will have to be terminated so that the few staff and volunteers who remain can devote their time to feeding the bears, unless more regular volunteers can be found.

"Now is the time to volunteer if you always wanted to," Horner said.

Potential volunteers should contact Horner by emailing bears@americanbear.org.

### Bear breakfast

The ever-popular Breakfast with the Bears will be back on Saturday, July 16 from 7-9 a.m. The ticket price of \$40 includes breakfast, beverages, and a souvenir Breakfast with the Bears mug. Register online at [www.americanbear.org/event-calendar/breakfast-with-the-bears](http://www.americanbear.org/event-calendar/breakfast-with-the-bears) to reserve your spot.



**A very large male bear rests after a meal at the Vince Shute sanctuary. The organization that operates the sanctuary is asking for donations to help fund the bear-feeding. Visitor fees normally help pay for a large portion of the cost, but staff shortages have forced the sanctuary to sharply limit its hours of operation**

file photo

Meanwhile, donation requests are normal during the regular season, and Horner is once again asking for the public's help at the iconic Orr attraction.

"We are still accepting bear food donations and monetary donations for bear food," Horner said. "These are critical times for us, so please consider a donation."

Those considering food should donate only dried fruits, nuts, seed, apples and watermelon, and regardless of public viewing hours, the bears will be fed their regular diets every day, Horner said. Donate to the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary by going online to [www.americanbear.org/get-involved/donate](http://www.americanbear.org/get-involved/donate).

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
<b>77 51</b>				<b>78 57</b>				<b>78 59</b>				<b>77 56</b>				<b>72 52</b>			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
06/27	60	37	0.08	06/28	60	68	0.00	06/27	62	44	0.03	06/27	79	39	0.53	06/28	68	48	0.05
06/28	76	43	0.06	06/29	No readings	06/28	76	45	0.15	06/28	68	48	0.05	06/29	64	39	0.00		
06/29	70	37	0.02	06/30	No readings	06/29	68	43	0.00	06/29	64	39	0.00	06/30	77	54	0.61		
06/30	67	44	0.12	07/01	at presstime	06/30	68	43	0.02	06/30	77	54	0.61	07/01	73	45	0.00		
07/01	81	42	0.10	07/02	at presstime	07/01	80	47	0.01	07/01	73	45	0.00	07/02	70	39	0.00		
07/02	72	38	0.00	07/03	at presstime	07/02	72	46	0.00	07/02	70	39	0.00	07/03	77	41	0.00		
07/03	71	41	0.00	07/03	at presstime	07/03	70	47	0.00	07/03	77	41	0.00	07/03	77	41	0.00		
YTD Total	11.07			YTD Total	12.47			YTD Total	12.90			YTD Total	NA NA			YTD Total	16.47		

## PINE RIDGES...Continued from page 4B



**Above left: One of the many rock formations, also known as hoodoos, to be found along the new Pine Ridges trail.**



**Above right: Young white pine cones develop atop the ridge, with a view of Pike Bay in the background.**

their time and wear hiking boots or other appropriate footwear. "It's definitely not a trail for flip-flops," said Shedd.

The trail is new, so the route is not as obvious as a well-worn path, so hikers should keep watching for the blue blazes as they go. Like any trail built by volunteers, it's a work in progress and users can help ensure a safer trail by kicking or rolling loose rocks off to the side, preferably downslope, when they encounter them. In fact, Shedd is asking for volunteers who might be interested in adopting a portion of the trail for a month each summer, just

to clear fallen branches or remove loose rocks as they crop up. Anyone interested can contact Shedd at 218-830-2457.

While the rugged terrain can make the trail challenging at times, the trail is high and relatively open, which means it will catch most breezes and it stays relatively bug-free along much of the route. That's a plus in this particularly buggy year.

The trail is a joint effort of the city of Tower, the Wagoner Trails Club and Friends of Vermilion Country School, and is part of a larger program to develop trails to some of Tower's unique assets.

"Tower is incredibly fortunate to have such unique outdoor recreation opportunities," said Jodi Summit, with the Friends of Vermilion Country School. "You have the ancient cedars forest on the south side of town and the high ridges on the north side. We want to make it possible for folks to experience these great places. We think it all helps make Tower a great place to live, or visit."

The trail clearing and construction were completed with all volunteer labor. Funding for kiosk and signage came from the North St. Louis County Trails Task Force, which is funded by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

## WOLVES...Continued from page 4B

animals that call the area home. That video, in combination with GPS data from tracking collars, has given the researchers unique insights into the activities of gray wolves in summer, including time spent by both wolf pups and parents in and around their dens. The research team assisted the Disney/Nat Geo film crew as

they visited the area to film wolf pups for one of the episodes. "We are incredibly pleased to be able to help the film crew capture stunning footage of the wolves of Voyageurs," said lead researcher Tom Gables. "We look forward to seeing it when it comes out."

The entire six-part series

became available for streaming on July 4. Episode 5, titled Heartland, features the footage of the Voyageurs wolves.

You can see a brief trailer of the segment at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=559838319125355>.

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experience in marketing, event planning and/or fundraising

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

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

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

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FILING NOTICE

Filing is open for the following positions of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District Board of Directors:

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Field Township
Leiding Township
Linden Grove Township
Camp 5 Township
Kabetogama Township

Dates for filing are August 2, 2022 – August 16, 2022. File with respective Township Clerks and with proper Affidavit of Candidacy.

Terms of Office are four years.

Election date is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.



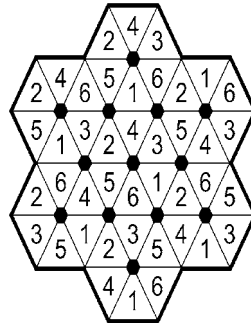
Teresa Debevec Cook Hospital CEO/Administrator 218-666-5945

Published in the Timberjay July 8th & July 15th

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SNOWFLAKES solution



Super Crossword

Answers

CESSNA, EARCANA, ENACT, ODIOS, STOPPAGE, MOSHE, HITTING, THERESE, BUTTON, NET, ARE, NESA, ARIE, ITSPRETTYBUT, ISITART, MAGEE, MAROON, NETI, INHALES, FERRIS, TOMBS, ATTRACT, ATTENTION, NOEL, HUB, SOUR, RAE, THECONSTITUTIONSTATE, ISERE, INANE, VISIT, THENOTTOODISTANTPAST, WIL, SARA, DOC, ARES, PUTTING, OTHE, TEST, STRUM, HOTAIR, HUMIDOR, MEGA, TOSSED, INDIA, THETRUTHOFTHEMATTER, RENO, ATO, IDO, OER, ITTTECHNICALINSTITUTE, MURAL, AEROPERU, EDISON, SPELL, TRESPASS, DAPHNE

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.

PGS QLSOCBOTP EB ZGOIRHEKT

HT KEP ZLSOD; HP'T PGS

ERRETHPEK. — KHZC TSHPY

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PT Unit Clerk/HUC

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PT Adult Day Services Assistant

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 River blocker
4 Locate
8 Cherry type
12 Hearty quaff
13 Notion
14 Manual reader
15 Asian holiday
16 Brando role
18 Glorify
20 Make lace
21 Formerly, once
24 Ballpark winner
28 Child star's parent, maybe
32 Zilch
33 Hosp. sections
34 Continental cash
36 Caustic solution
37 Bulb measure
39 Pop's pop
41 Covert agents
43 Summers in Paris
44 Vichy water
46 Patriot Allen
50 Cub Scout leader
55 Rock's Brian
56 Curved molding
57 Roof overhang
58 Scratch the surface
59 Suitable
60 Roe provider

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-61 indicating starting points for clues.

- 61 Links org.
11 Dog's warning
17 Foot rub response
19 Race segment
22 Overconfident
23 Baseball's Joe
25 Aspinc form
26 "May It Be" singer
27 Oboe insert
28 Gives a darn?
29 Snare
30 Wine region
31 Castle defense
35 Showed scorn

- 38 Overflowed ahead" hrs.
42 — Paulo, Brazil
45 Western tribe
47 Rope fiber
48 Scrambled wd.
49 Asta's mistress
50 Pooch
51 Swelled head
52 Opposite of paleo-laugh
53 Taunting laugh
54 Actress Mendes

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 5, 8, 1, 4, 7, 9, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 3, 6, 7, 5, 8, 1, 4, 3, 9, 5, 9, 2, 1, 7.

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS**- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 915 E Camp St., Ely.  
**MS SUPPORT GROUP**- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.  
**ORR AA** meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

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

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

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

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

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

### SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

### CryptoQuote

answer  
The breakfast of champions is not cereal; it's the opposition. — Nick Seitz

### King Crossword

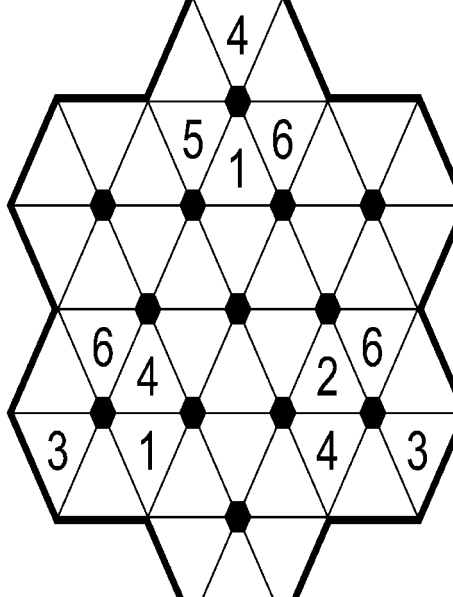
Solution time: 24 mins.

Grid for King Crossword solution with letters filled in.

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



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

## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

9x9 SUDOKU answer grid with numbers.

### 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

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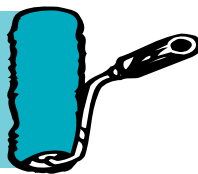
- ACROSS**  
1 Big name in small planes  
7 Passage leading to an aural drum  
15 Sign into law  
20 Despicable  
21 Cessation  
22 Six-Day War leader  
23 Starting something over, figuratively  
26 Bottom line  
27 "You — My Sunshine"  
28 U.S. intel org.  
29 See 106-Across  
30 Question the Devil asks in a Kipling poem  
39 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange"  
41 Leave high and dry  
42 — pot (sinus-cleaning device)  
43 Wolfs down  
46 — wheel (fair ride)  
48 Final resting places  
52 Cause heads to turn  
56 Yule tune  
57 Wheel center  
58 Turn rancid  
60 Norma — (film heroine)  
61 Nickname for Connecticut  
71 River to the Rhone  
72 Senseless  
73 Drop by  
74 Recent times  
81 Wheaton of "Stand by Me"  
82 Singer  
83 G.P. or vet  
84 War god  
86 Giving a rigorous tryout  
97 Play a ukulele, e.g.  
99 Boastful talk  
100 Cigar-holding container  
101 Huge, informally  
104 Chucked  
106 With 29-Across, neo-soul singer with four Grammys  
107 What's accurate about a situation  
113 City NNE of Lake Tahoe  
114 — Z  
115 Courtroom promise  
116 On top of, to poets  
119 It closed all 130+ of its U.S. campuses in 2016  
128 Wall work  
129 1973-99 Lima-based carrier  
130 "The Wizard of Menlo Park"  
131 Conjurung aid  
132 Encroach on another's land  
133 Novelist du Maurier  
**DOWN**  
1 Red Scare attorney Roy  
2 Falco of TV  
3 Wait patiently  
4 Mayberry's Otis, for one  
5 "Rapa —" (1994 film)  
6 Something really easy  
7 Prize greatly  
8 Part of NCAA: Abbr.  
9 — v. Wade  
10 Revival skill, for short  
11 Big simian  
12 "Stillmatic" rapper  
13 Narc, e.g.  
14 Gives access  
15 Outback bird  
16 Symbol for written music  
17 "Ad — per aspera" (Kansas' motto)  
18 Mass singers  
19 Principle  
24 Mutt's sound  
25 Despicable  
31 Bit of crying  
32 Ward of TV  
33 Wilson's predecessor  
34 Weight allowance, once  
35 Yesteryear  
36 Brought into the world  
37 Troop group  
38 "The Addams Family" cousin  
39 Actress Kirschner  
40 Home pest  
44 Cavern effect  
45 Daze  
47 Spanish ayes  
49 Swamp  
50 "Get lost!"  
51 Precip-ice?  
53 "Six-pack"  
54 Texter's hugs  
55 Cloister sister  
59 "Please reply," in brief  
61 Jeans go-with, often  
62 Dog following its owner closely  
63 Suffix with south  
64 Co. VIPs  
65 Uncle, in Argentina  
66 Pol. middle-of-the-roader  
67 — chi  
68 Little — (kids)  
69 Vietnamese New Year  
70 Actress Carrere  
71 "— a Very Good Year"  
75 Spy's device  
76 Capote, to his friends  
77 Courtroom promise  
78 Big whoop  
79 Chris of "Sex and the City"  
80 "Ac-Cent— Ate the Positive"  
85 Bottom line  
87 Dog with Dorothy  
88 "What business is — yours?"  
89 Magazine mogul Condé  
90 Lillian of film  
91 Grove growth  
92 Give forth  
93 Pitchfork part  
94 Cincinnati Reds player in the Baseball Hall of Fame  
95 "... or — gather"  
96 Song syllable  
98 Sea, to Yves  
102 Avocado dip, informally  
103 To boot  
105 Barely passing grade  
107 Prunes  
108 In a snit  
109 — nous  
110 Sharpener of skills  
111 Many mag pages  
112 Schleppe  
117 School on the Thames  
118 Thinker Descartes  
120 Kay-em link  
121 Wrath  
122 Bus. firms  
123 Extra for an iDevice  
124 Grassy area  
125 Taxing org.  
126 Ore —  
127 Advice tidbit

19x19 crossword grid with numbers and black squares.





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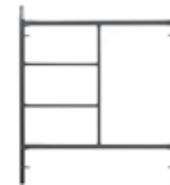


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