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# the TIMBERJAY

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## ON THE GRID

# Electric rate hike subject to public scrutiny

### Groups claim Minnesota Power proposal is unjust burden to residential consumers

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesota Power’s quest for a proposed 18 percent overall electricity rate hike will be subjected to public scrutiny next week as customers will have the chance

to voice their opinions about the issue next week in virtual meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, and at in-person hearings in Hermantown on Wednesday.

Initially proposed last November, Minnesota Power (MP) is requesting a 17.58



percent overall increase that would generate an additional \$108.3 million that the company says it needs to

respond to changing consumer demand, the continuing need to provide for a stable power grid, and its ongoing conversion to a carbon-free energy supply by 2050.

“The energy industry of the 2020s looks far different than it did five years ago as

our customers’ expectations for clean energy and high-value service are increasing,” said Bethany Owen, ALLETE Chair, President and CEO in a press release last November that announced the proposed

See...**RATES** pg. 10



## SUPPORTING THE ARTS

# ‘Quiltmaker’s Gift’ returns to Ely

### Events celebrate production

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY –The “Quiltmaker’s Gift” opens Friday, July 15, with a 7 p.m. performance at Ely’s Historic State Theater.

The show continues Saturday, July 16 at 7p.m. and closes Sunday, July 17 with a matinee performance at 1 p.m.

Tickets are available at \$15 for adults, \$5 for K-12 students and \$25 for premium seating in the

See... **QUILT** pg. 11



Morgan Sauls, top, with the puppet featured in the “Quiltmaker’s Gift” at Ely’s Historic State Theater this weekend. Katie Kopp-Nelson and Gail de Marcken, above, display a children’s quilt designed by youth art camp participants.

photos by K. Vandervort

## GREENWOOD TWP.

# Regional EMS service study moves forward

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Greenwood Township is putting itself in the driver’s seat as it approved spending approximately \$55,000 for a study on options for the feasibility of developing a region-wide ambulance service. The cost includes \$48,575 for consulting services and up to \$6,900 in travel expenses.

The board voted, unanimously, at their July 12 meeting, to hire McGrath Consulting Group, Inc., to conduct a study that would include a review of area providers from Tower, Ely, Cook, and Virginia. McGrath is based in Illinois.

This proposal was one of several received, and while not the least expensive option, the firm has done work on fire and EMS issues on the Iron Range, and its lead consultant, Dr. Tim McGrath has 33-years of experience in fire and EMS, including work as a volunteer firefighter, development of paramedic training programs, working on consolidation of emergency services, and even assisting in the creation of a new fire department.

The study would seek to answer the question of whether Greenwood and the surrounding areas can improve EMS through greater cooperative efforts, what level of EMS is most appropriate and cost-effective within the service area, and what is the most cost-effective means of providing ALS (paramedic) services. The study is expected to take at least five months.

Supervisor Mike Ralston said the township has been talking with the IRRR

See...**STUDY** pg. 10

## ELECTION 2022

# Three people vying for county sheriff position

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Among the candidates who will appear on the Aug. 9 primary ballot are the three men vying to replace longtime St. Louis County Sheriff Ross Litman. While it’s officially a non-partisan office, the primary will narrow the field to two candidates, who will then compete for the job ahead of the



Jason Lukovsky

Nov. 8 general election.

It’s a key elected position in the county, since the sheriff oversees county jails and law enforcement



Gordon Ramsay

throughout most of the county’s land-mass, including all the rural areas not served by municipal police.

Among those seeking



Chad Walsh

the position is Jason Lukovsky, who has served in the St. Louis County sheriff’s office for 24 years, including as undersheriff

for more than a year. That makes him second in command behind Litman himself and it’s one reason that the Fredenburg Township resident is confident he has the experience necessary to oversee the Sheriff’s Department, its five subdivisions, and its approximately 280 employees.

“Effectively directing the people, divisions and offices of the

See...**RACE** pg. 9



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Community notices

Curtis Laine to speak about Carl Gawboy’s murals on Wednesday, July 20 at 7 p.m.

ELY- Join the Ely-Winton Historical Society for the fourth History Night of the year, this time with Curtis Laine speaking on the murals of Carl Gawboy.

Gawboy is an Objibwe-Finnish artist and writer from the Ely area whose works focus on both the daily lives of the Ojibwe people and the beauty of the land they inhabit.

Local photographer and businessman Laine is currently working on a project to preserve and display Gawboy’s wilderness murals. He will go over the location and condition of the original murals, the challenges of dealing with the deterioration of the originals, his multi-stage process to get the murals back to like new and preserved in digital format, and his conversations with Gawboy. There will be copies of Carl Gawboy’s books, as well as prints of his artwork, for sale.

Ely-Winton Historical Society History Nights are FREE to the public and occur in Lecture Hall CL 104 of Vermilion Community College at 7 p.m. The fifth and final History Night of the year will be Reed Peterson presenting on the history of high school sports in Ely.

NWFA Concert: The Blue Water Big Band to perform in Cook August 5

The Blue Water Big Band (BWBB) made up of 13 musicians from Duluth will perform music from the 30s to the 60s at the Cook Community Center on Friday, August 5. Attendees can hear everything from Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington to 50’s crossover rock as well as Latin, waltzes and swing at this Northwoods Friends of the Arts annual fundraising concert.

Doors open at 5 p.m. Cook’s own Eric Pederson and the Beefeater Brothers perform at 5:30 p.m. The Cook Lions Club will be serving bratwurst and beverages, and there will be silent art auctions and a last chance to enter the 50/50 raffle drawing. A \$5 ticket may win half the total amount of the ticket sales or an original painting by artist Jim DeVries. Proceeds support NWFA, a non-profit arts organization inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts in the Cook region for twelve years.

The BWBB takes the stage from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25 and \$30 at the door. Advance tickets are also available from NWFA board members Lauren Nelson (218-750-1989) or Shawna Kishel ( 218-780-6510) and at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. Ticket requests can also be placed via email at nwfamn@gmail.com.

Area students awarded Alworth Memorial Fund Scholarships

DULUTH - The Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund has awarded its latest round of scholarships to 71 northern Minnesota high school seniors pursuing bachelor’s degrees related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medical related fields and research.

Each recipient will receive \$20,000, distributed over eight semesters, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Awardees live in the Minnesota counties of Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Itasca, Koochiching and St Louis.

“For more than 70 years, the Alworth Memorial Fund has been proud to assist young people dedicated to making a difference in the sciences and mathematics-related fields,” said Patty Salo Downs, Executive Director of the Alworth Memorial Fund. “We’re thrilled that this year’s impressive group of scholarship recipients will be furthering their education at post-secondary institutions across the United States.”

The 2022-2023 Alworth Scholarship recipients, listed by high school, in our area are: Gabriel Pointer, Ely High School; Morgan Burnett and Abby Koch, North Woods School; and Kaari Harsila, Elsie Hyppa, Matti Koski and Britta Nordin of Rock Ridge High School in Virginia. Additional information about the Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund is at [www.AlworthScholarship.org](http://www.AlworthScholarship.org).

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LIVE THEATER

Mixed Precipitation bringing family-friendly opera and puppet fun to the area in August



REGIONAL-Mixed Precipitation presents “Pickup Truck Opera Volume Two: The Magic Flute” which is the second installment of their traveling operatic adventure. Performances run in this area starting in early August and reservations are open now. This show is lively fun for all ages.

Mozart’s 1791 opera, Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute), is thrust into modern times and a not-so-distant future. Our young heroes are early-career professionals entering essential jobs with a high risk of burnout. Young Tamino is a first-year teacher at an underfunded school, Strange Land Middle. Pamina is a mental health nurse, but she’s been hijacked by a wellness startup, Sarastro-Crop. Rival forces attempt to control the destiny of these eager and impressionable heroes.

Mozart wrote this allegorical plot with his creative partner, Emanuel Schikander (playwright, theatrical producer, and comedian), to celebrate the ideals of Freemasonry. The opera premiered in Vienna just two months before his death at age 35. Artistic Director Scotty Reynolds and the Mixed Precipitation crew have assembled a team of new voices to present a bold version of another opera classic. “This is the 4th production we’ve created which draws inspiration from the drama of Mozart’s music and the fantastical stories in his operas. We’ll use the myths of Freemasonry and the Enlightenment to look at the conflicts of our time with joy and hopefulness.”

This futuristic telling of the opera is created by music director Gary Ruschman, playwright Francisco Benavides, and staging director Taous Khazem. Mixed Precipitation tells the story with a cast of singers, puppeteers, and instrumentalists, featuring Mozart’s fiery arias, epic choruses, and the groovy beats of the 90s discotheque, including Dee-Lite, Pizzicato Five, Icelandic pop star Björk, and other 90s hits.

Sopranos Corissa Bussian and Jennifer LeDoux lead the cast, sharing the role of Pamina at alternating performances. Tenor Roland Hawkins plays the role of Tamino. Bass Rodolfo Nieto sings the role of Sarastro, and Lizz Windnagel plays the landmark role of the Queen of the Night. Loki Embrys Graham and Nick Miller split the role of the bird-catcher Papageno. Tamino’s comic sidekick at alternating performances. Audience favorite, Joni Griffith, returns playing multiple roles, including Papagena. Multi-instrumentalists Uchenna Chidozie, Joni Griffith, and Ginna Watson bring Gary Ruschman’s innovative musical arrangements to life. The design team includes scenic artist Boo McCloud, costume designer Rhiannon Fiskradatz, and puppet designs by Lizz Windnagel. Mixed Precipitation associate artist Jác Miller plays multiple roles and leads the choreography. At selected performances, Julia Engle plays the Queen of the Night.

The Pickup Truck Opera continues Mixed Precipitation’s 14-year tradition of outdoor theater extravaganzas, touring Minnesota communities in late summer. Mixed Precipitation began this mobile format in 2020, using a blue 2011 Ford Ranger Pickup Truck and a trailer as the container and platform for the opera’s action. This allowed them to reach audiences on neighborhood streets, public squares, libraries, and care facilities. They reached an audience of over 3,000 in 2021 with their production, Pickup Truck Opera: Volume One - The Odyssey. One audience member called their production “A magnificent, heart-warming, communal art experience.”

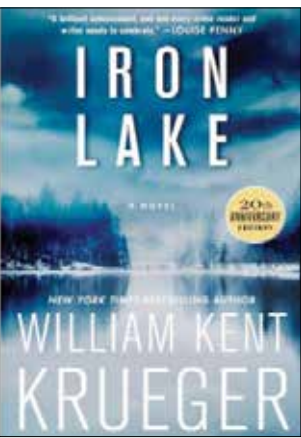
Their 2022 summer tour includes performances in sprawling parks, nature centers, and farms all over Minnesota. Audiences are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and beverages for their comfort. The performance lasts approximately 75-90 minutes. All performances are outdoors. Watch their website (<http://mixedprecipitation.org/>) and social media for weather delays.

Area performances include:

- Thursday, August 4 at 7 p.m at Cook’s CountryConnection,1953 Vermillion Dr. Cook, MN 55723
- Friday, August 5 at 5 p.m. Tower Farmers Market (shortened version)
- Saturday, August 6 at 4 p.m Whiteside Park, 721 E Sheridan St. Ely, MN 55731 *Presented by the Ely Folk School*
- Sunday, August 7 at 2 p.m. Early Frost Farm, 7273 Palo Tia Rd. Embarrass, MN 55732
- Friday, August 12 at 7 p.m. Hovland Town Hall, 4957 East Highway 61, Hovland, MN 55606 *Presented by the North Shore Music Association*
- Sunday, August 14 at 1 p.m. Finland Heritage Site, 5653 Little Marais Rd. Finland, MN 55603 *Presented by Lovin’ Lake County.*

Eighth chapter of One Book program features William Kent Krueger

SAINT PAUL- The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, as the Minnesota Center for the Book, announces the eighth chapter of One Book | One Minnesota, a statewide book club that invites Minnesotans of all ages to read a common title and come together virtually to enjoy, reflect, and discuss. The eighth title for the program is Iron Lake by Minnesota author William Kent Krueger. Presented in partnership with State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education, the program



aims to bring Minnesotans together and highlight the role of libraries as community connectors.

From July 11 through September 4, through

their local libraries, Minnesotans will be invited to read the featured book selection and will have access to reading guides and virtual book club discussions. Readers can access the ebook and audiobook for free on Ebooks Minnesota for eight weeks and will need to create an account to access the free materials. All Minnesotans are invited to participate in a statewide discussion with the author.

A Virtual Author Discussion, featuring William Kent Krueger in conversation with Ellen Hart will be held Thursday, August

11 at 7 p.m. This discussion is free and open to the public. Registration is required .

In addition to the digital formats, hard copies of the book will be available through public libraries, and through independent stores across the state. Links to resources and more information can be found at [thefriends.org/onebook](http://thefriends.org/onebook).

Iron Lake is the first novel in the bestselling Cork O’Connor mystery series and winner of the Minnesota Book Award and Anthony Award for Best First Novel.





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FINANCIAL WINDELL

# Federal funds rescue Ely trailhead building

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – A \$1.5 million federal grant has cleared the way for the city of Ely to build a new regional trailhead facility on the city’s west end. The U.S. Commerce Department’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced the award on Tuesday, which helps to fill a funding gap that developed as construction costs escalated on the project.

“This is kind of a big deal,” said Ely Mayor Roger Skraba in responding to the announcement.

City officials were hoping to have used state bonding funds last year to complete the project, but construction bids came in way over budget and the project was shelved until more funding became available.

“The last bid we had was not a good bid. It came in really high, so we went after more money,” Skraba said. “Senators Klobuchar and Smith have stepped up and



Left: An artist’s drawing of the planned trailhead building, set for construction on Ely’s west end thanks to additional federal funding announced this week.

got us the extra money, and that will fill in with our state money.”

The grant will provide for amenities such as restrooms, vending machines, and common areas designed to welcome tourists to the region and its local businesses. The EDA investment, and the \$1.5 million in state funds, is expected to create 75 jobs, retain 50 jobs and generate \$500,000 in private investment, according to a press release.

“We have to see how it works out but we will probably go for (construction) bids yet this year,” Skraba said.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo said the funding represents the Biden

administration’s intent to help the tourism industry recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. “President Biden recognizes the vital contribution the travel and tourism industry makes to the American economy,” said Raimondo.

Skraba could not promise that construction would start this year.

“We’re going to have to talk to the contractors. If prices come down then we will probably be able to go ahead as soon as possible. But we might not be able to bid until next year. We’ll see. Once we have the money in hand, we’re golden. This is a big project and there will be a lot of

moving parts.”

Minnesota’s two senators were also touting the economic news for the Ely area. “Northern Minnesota has incredible natural beauty that attracts people from across the world,” said Senator Amy Klobuchar. “This funding is a true win-win, creating good-paying jobs and helping locals and visitors alike enjoy the outdoor recreation that Ely has to offer.”

Senator Tina Smith added, “Minnesota is blessed with pristine natural landscapes and I’m always thrilled when we’re able to make them more accessible and inviting. This investment, made possible by the American Rescue Plan, will help support over 100 jobs while boosting the tourism industry and local economy in Ely. This facility will also be a great addition to the Mesabi Trail, which showcases the area all the way from Grand Rapids to Ely.”

The Ely Regional Trailhead Facility project is funded under EDA’s \$240 million competitive American Rescue Plan Travel,

Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation program. EDA awarded \$510 million in grants to all 50 states and territories in 2021.

The two programs are designed to accelerate the recovery of communities that rely on the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. In May, the EDA officially closed all of its American Rescue Plan programs for applications. The \$3 billion program funding will be awarded on a rolling basis through the end of September.

Skraba said he, the city council and city staff will discuss the project and the funding windfall at their next meeting on Tuesday, July 19.

“We will have to start over on the bidding process. We have to find out if the previous contractors that bid on the project are still interested. There is a special design for the building. We’re going to try use their expertise on putting this together.”

CITY OF TOWER

# Council awards bid for RV park infrastructure

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — Infrastructure work for the new Vermilion RV Park should get underway soon following city council action here on Monday. The council voted unanimously to award the work to Jola and Sopp Excavating for a total of \$316,705, which was the second lowest bid among six bidders on the project.

The low bid of \$290,700, from Veit & Co., was rejected due to missing documentation. In a letter to the council, the project engineer, Jeremy Schwarze of Benchmark Engineering, indicated that project developer Justin Renner wished to move forward with the bid from Veit & Co. once the city receives the missing documentation. But the council rejected that possibility in awarding the job to the second-lowest bidder.

Funding for the infrastructure work is coming from the

Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, with the city serving as fiscal agent. In that role, it’s up to the city to handle the bidding and contractor payouts for the project. Renner is in the process of developing a 49-unit RV park located along Pike Bay, just west of the mouth of the East Two River.

In other development action, the council opted to give SEH a second chance to provide an estimate for work on the second phase site plan and cost estimates for the trailhead project near the harbor. The city had also asked Benchmark Engineering for a proposal and Benchmark provided a formal proposal with a \$6,500 price tag. SEH offered a less formal proposal, with an estimated cost of \$7,500.

Rather than accept the low estimate from Benchmark, the council, after some discussion, opted to ask both firms to revisit their quotes and resubmit them in

a formal manner. Council member Joe Morin questioned whether the process would be fair to Benchmark, given that the firm’s lower bid would now be known to SEH. Yet the council was unconvinced and voted to request new quotes from the firms for the site planning on the project.

The project includes two phases. The first, which is well underway, is focused on construction of the trailhead parking area and accompanying lighting, and construction of a road to the site, located just north of Hwy. 169 on the east side of the East Two River. That work, which is funded through a \$600,000 grant from the LCCMR, was recently awarded to Mesabi Bituminous.

The second phase will focus on completion of the access road as well as improvements around the city’s civic center, including a green flush restroom. That work is slated to be funded by a \$461,900 grant from the DIRRR.

## New council member added

The council also took action on Monday to replace council member Sheldon Majerle, who died recently after a short battle with cancer. The council voted 3-0, with Morin abstaining, to appoint Robert Anderson to fill the vacancy. Anderson, who is related to Morin, was the only applicant for the position. He will serve until the general election in November, unless he wins election to the seat.

The council also approved a resolution authorizing a special election to fill the council seat formerly held by current mayor, Dave Setterberg. Setterberg was appointed as mayor to replace Orlyn Kringstad, who resigned last year. Setterberg had won election to a four-year term in 2020, but gave up his seat to become mayor. His former council seat, now filled by Tom Suihkonen, will be up again before the voters in November of this year.

Two other council seats and the mayor’s seat will be up as well, leaving four of the five elected offices in the city up for grabs this fall.

In other action, the council:

- Authorized the clerk-treasurer to contact individuals with delinquent sewer loans and make arrangements to pay off those loans by Sept. 30. Clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz reported that five individual loans, totaling \$8,098.21, are currently delinquent.

- Appointed Aaron Kania to the city’s forestry board. Kania has been active in recent trail-building efforts in Tower and is well-versed on land management issues, currently serving as Kawishiwi District Ranger on the Superior National Forest.

- Scheduled the presentation of the city’s 2021 audit report during the council’s Aug. 8 regular meeting.

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Umpires no more

High court majority seeks to usurp the powers of Congress and the executive

*“I will decide every case based on the record, according to the rule of law, without fear or favor, to the best of my ability, and I will remember that it’s my job to call balls and strikes, and not to pitch or bat.”*

**Chief Justice John Roberts during his 2005 Senate confirmation**

The justices who sit on the nation’s highest court like to compare themselves to baseball umpires, acting merely as impartial individuals pledged to offer an objective opinion on the pitches tossed by others. That was then.

Today, with an activist super-majority now in charge, the Roberts’ court appears to be willing and able to both pitch, bat, and call its own balls and strikes.

At least the minority on the court is willing to call them on it. In the minority dissent in the 6-3 ruling in *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*, Justice Elena Kagan exposed this reckless new court majority for what it is, a fundamentally dishonest political force that is imposing itself into the work of the other branches of government to a degree this country has rarely experienced.

As Kagan notes, the Supreme Court needn’t have wasted its time on this case, which was effectively moot. The issue before the court was the Clean Power Plan, initiated by the Obama administration, which the Roberts court unilaterally blocked shortly after it was announced. The Trump administration repealed it and the Biden administration announced it had no plans to implement it but would develop its own plan for dealing with carbon dioxide pollution, the primary contributor to global warming.

So why did the high court even expend resources to bat down a plan, now nearly seven years old, that everyone acknowledged would never be implemented regardless of their decision? Call it a shot across the bow, says Kagan. It’s directed at the Biden EPA, which is still working on its own plan to regulate carbon dioxide, and this court wants to be sure that plan fits their political agenda. “But this Court could not wait—even to see what the new rule says—to constrain EPA’s efforts to address climate change,” writes Kagan in her dissent, joined by both Justices Breyer and Sotomayor. It’s the umpire telling the pitcher what to throw next.

And the court’s impositions aren’t merely imposed on the executive branch— they also second guess Congress and what it really meant when it gave the EPA broad authority

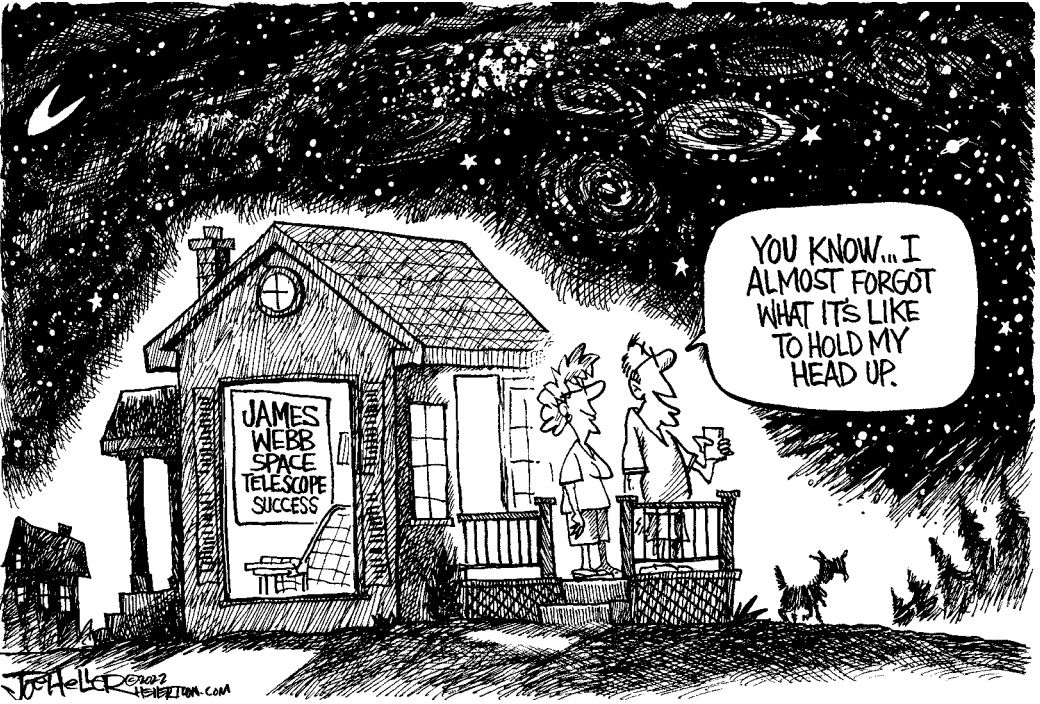
to regulate pollutants, like carbon dioxide. In the majority opinion, the court claims “it is not plausible that Congress gave EPA the authority to regulate CO2 in the manner it proposed.” “A decision of such magnitude and consequence rests with Congress itself, or an agency acting pursuant to a clear delegation from that representative body.”

Yet, as Kagan points out, Congress gave the EPA broad authority through Section 111 of the Clean Air Act to “regulate stationary sources of any substance that ‘causes, or contributes significantly to, air pollution’ and that ‘may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare.’”

As Kagan rightfully notes, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases clearly fit that description. Indeed, climate change is arguably one of the most significant threats to the public’s health and welfare in modern history, and it is well-accepted scientific fact that carbon dioxide, produced in the power plants relevant to this case, is major contributor to that hazard.

And how was the EPA supposed to regulate carbon dioxide, as Congress clearly intended? According to the statute’s own language, it was through implementation of “the best system of emission reduction,” which Congress left to the EPA and its experts to determine. The radical majority on the high court may not like that delegation of authority, but who cares? Congress writes the laws, not those “umpires” on the court.

But that’s not how the new radical court majority views it. They’ve made it clear that they want to rein in the executive branch agencies that have been charged from the early days of the Republic with interpreting and implementing the laws passed by Congress. It’s part of a longstanding mission of the far right to eliminate regulations that govern everything from food and worker safety, to banking practices, to environmental protection. The court knows that Congress can barely pass a budget these days. To think Congress is going to craft complex regulations to in any way keep pace with the rapid changes in technology and society or keep bad actors in check is preposterous. What’s more, dismantling the nation’s regulatory agencies won’t hand power back to Congress, particularly with this court in charge. It puts power back in the hands of corporate America, at the expense of workers, consumers, and the planet in general. And this court clearly doesn’t care what Congress, federal agencies, or the public have to say about it.



## Letters from Readers

### A response to the *Roe v. Wade* decision

I heartily endorse a meme currently making the rounds on Facebook to the effect that “Ours is not a Christian country; this is a country where you are free to be a Christian.” Or a Muslim, or a Mormon, or an agnostic, or an atheist. Remember that many of the original immigrants to this continent were escaping government-sponsored religious persecution in Europe. But there’s a trade-off: freedom of religion in the USA (with a tax-free perk for places of worship) comes with a Constitutional mandate to keep religion separate from the government. Our Bill of Rights says that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.”

And yet, we now have six of the nine Supreme Court justices making legal decisions for all of us out of their Catholic or evangelical Christian beliefs regarding sexuality, women’s roles, and procreation.

But these conservative Christian values are not supported by the majority of American citizens (according to polls), nor do they represent a large number of Protestant and Catholic Christians. In my denomination, for example, the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church has spoken out against the recent Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*: “The Council observes the great diversity of perspectives and viewpoints within the church body. However, in this case, the Council is clear in its response, noting that the ruling has denied the sacred worth of women facing ‘the tragic conflicts of life’...” The bishops also support the denomination’s Commission on the Status and Role of Women, which stated that this decision, “creates gender, racial and economic injustice for all Americans. It draws deeper lines between those who have means and those who do not.”

Legal access to abortion has been recognized by the Supreme Court as a human right for the past fifty years. Now denying that right (with no exceptions for victims of

rape or incest nor to save the life of a pregnant woman) is the kind of “cruel and unusual punishment” that is banned by the Eighth Amendment.

**Elton Brown  
Morse Twp**

### Time for a new generation of law enforcement

There’s a new sheriff in town— at least there will be shortly. There’s a primary election coming up on Aug. 9, and the man running for this position is Chad Walsh. Sometimes we have to wait a long time for a real American to run for an elected position, but that time has now come. Chad has been involved with law enforcement since 1994, but more than that, he has the principles and new ideas to bring law enforcement to a higher level of accountability and cooperation with the citizens he represents. It’s all about the people, he says, and calls the centerpiece of his campaign, “A new generation of law enforcement.”

As a small business owner, he has been working with ordinary citizens for years now, and he maintains that his job as sheriff will be to protect the rights of these same people, rather than the government. In these recent days where we’ve been seeing aggressive government overreach on every hand, this is no small thing. Being a student of our Constitution, he not only understands the meaning of the right to speak, to assemble, to write and publish, to worship, and the right to keep and bear arms, but how these are implemented in real life as well. Everything works better when elected officials and the citizens work together, and Sheriff Walsh will be a sheriff who works for the people.

During this election season we sometimes hear candidates boast of their 30 years experience as the Holy Grail of success. Unfortunately, in too many cases, it’s the same old saw for 30 years, with no new ideas or improvement for just as long. Take a look at Washington: the swamp is full of relics who have all been there for 30 or

40 years - and just look at the mess our country is in! Both there, and here, a new approach would sure be a breath of fresh air. That is what Chad Walsh brings to the table. For the many who are growing weary of the operation of the “Good ol’ Boys Club”, there is now real hope for something better. Chad Walsh. August 9. Remember the name and date.

**Jim Hofsommer  
Markham**

### Range mayors seek special session

As mayors from cities across northeastern Minnesota, from Aitkin to the North Shore and Ely to Grand Rapids, we are incredibly disappointed that the Minnesota Legislature failed to pass a bonding bill this session, as is common the even-year of the legislative sessions. This important investment by the state helps fund capital improvement projects in communities across the state. It’s disappointing that even with a \$9+ billion budget surplus, legislative leaders, and the governor couldn’t reach an agreement to get things done for the people of Minnesota.

To be clear, we are appreciative of our northern legislators who sponsored and advocated for so many of our projects. In particular, we are grateful for Senator Bakk’s work as chair of the Senate Capital Investment Committee.

Our communities in northern Minnesota had high hopes of being included in a bonding bill and had projects submitted from many area towns that are important to our residents. To name a few:

- City of Virginia- submitted \$10 million for water and sewer infrastructure
- City of Tower, Joint wastewater- \$1.75 million for wastewater infrastructure
- City of Buhl- \$1.45 million for water infrastructure
- City of Gilbert- \$6.25 million for their water treatment plant
- City of Hibbing- \$22 million towards a regional public safety building

See LETTER...pg. 5

# Thinking on the power of words

When does it make sense to speak up and when is it better to refrain from speaking? Is it ethical to lie sometimes? Should you always reveal information you believe to be true even if it hurts others?

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin tackles these questions and many other issues relating to communication between people in



**BETTY FIRTH**

his book, *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal, How to Choose Words Wisely and Well*. I picked up the book at a garage sale, thinking it might offer me some new perspectives on this fascinating and perplexing topic that is so critical to human relationships.

Telushkin devotes quite a bit of space to a

favorite pastime of our species, that of gossiping, emphasizing the damage that thoughtless words can inflict. We are naturally curious about others’ lives and how they manage and are particularly fascinated by details of their intimate social lives, hence the popularity of TV shows like *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. We also have an unfortunate tendency to focus on what we perceive as character flaws. Many reality shows pit people against each other in competitive situations to create

tension, drama, and conflict. Does it make us feel superior to point out others’ weaknesses? In his workshops, Telushkin throws out a challenge to go twenty-four hours without saying any unkind words to or about anybody. Give it a try. Keep it honest...don’t skew the results by being kinder than you usually are! Do you speak up when someone else gossips or bends the truth?

Telushkin explains that Jewish law regards humiliating another person, particularly in public, as one of the cruelest

things one can do. I’m sure we’ve all taken (and given) jabs in our lives, but parents, teachers, siblings, friends, and employers are often oblivious to the harm they are doing with offhand, negative comments, such as, “Are you ever going to get this right?” “Why can’t you be more like your sister?” Such snide remarks can undermine a person’s self-confidence and cause them to withdraw from others or pass along the negativity. It also sets

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COMMENTARY

Let’s have more good deeds and congressional earmarks

by PETE LESCHAK  
Contributing Writer

Good deeds. I was taught that’s what we’re expected to do every day. When I was a child the classic example was a uniformed Boy Scout escorting an elderly woman – arm-in-arm – across a busy avenue. Why that scenario was the iconic image of thoughtfulness I don’t know. Perhaps Norman Rockwell had something to do with it.

My takeaway was that good deeds needn’t be extravagant, world-shaking acts – every little bit counted. That was subtext: someone way up in the sky was counting and recording your deeds in a massive ledger (with a quill pen), preserving the evidence by which you would eventually be judged. Details of how and why were fuzzy, mutable, and largely symbolic -- “the sheep and the goats” -- but nevertheless made an impression.

The other day I generated three good deeds. I’ll record them here because I don’t think they’ll be inscribed elsewhere. First, I donated a book to a little library. Second, I delivered a carefully crafted congratulatory message to an acquaintance in recognition of a recent good deed of theirs. Third, I handed a twenty-dollar bill to a panhandler in a wheelchair who was energetically strumming an air guitar at the entrance to a supermarket parking lot.

None of this automatically makes me a “good person.” Let’s examine motives. I left the book because a few days earlier I’d taken one, and fair is fair. I sent the message because though I do think well of the person, I primar-

ily wanted them to think well of me. I parted with the twenty bucks because I’d just read an essay by a writer I respect making the argument you should avoid judging beggars, and if someone seems to need money and you have it, then just give them some. The air guitarist said to me, “God bless you!” but I saw the deed less as charity than as a small experiment in self-improvement.

Do less than pure motives detract from these deeds? I don’t believe so, but neither should they be trumpeted from the rooftops. I only mention them to make a point. It was better to do them than not, and we humans almost always harbor mixed motives. Much good work needs to get done, and if both receiver and giver benefit, so be it. We routinely manipulate others for a perceived greater good.

In September 2004, I was dispatched to the Florida panhandle to help with recovery after Hurricane Ivan. When the tidal surge scoured the barrier island of Santa Rosa, damage was catastrophic, and a small restaurant catering to tourists at the Fort Pickens National Monument was flooded and left without power. Fridges and freezers crammed with food quickly morphed into horror chests of putrefaction under the Gulf Coast sun. You could smell it from a quarter-mile away.

When the Operations Chief of the National Park Service incident management team had “given” me the island as my division, he said, “The island is yours. You own it. Make it work.”

Where to begin? Tarp the roofs of the salvageable buildings, restore electricity, repair the water and sewer systems, secure hazmat, clear debris from

the roads, and not least, serve the sixty people assigned to the division – engineers, plumbers, electricians, archivists from the Smithsonian (for the museum) and two 20-person wildfire crews. Access was by boat – a road from the mainland had been returned to the sea. Rotting food didn’t top the list, but we finally got there. A public health engineer said we could dump the food into a big hole, add lime, bury it. Simple enough – in principle. He provided some full-body proximity suits for those who would have the privilege of muscling the corruption out of the building.

The two fire crews had been tarping roofs and clearing debris, and I summoned one of them to join myself and the engineer at the restaurant. I took the crew supervisor and his assistant aside for a briefing. As it happens, I spent five years working at a municipal sewage plant, and once spent an afternoon rooting used condoms out of clogged pump impellers, and that wasn’t my nastiest shift. It’s not easy to gross me out, and as I outlined the restaurant mission I emphasized the suits would shield them completely, and that it shouldn’t take long. The miasmic odor was certainly awful, but I tried to be a bit light-hearted (“think of it as a novel challenge”) without minimizing the job. It had to be done.

As the supervisor briefed his crew I saw shaking heads, wrinkled noses, and general expressions of disbelief and disgust. He returned and respectfully declined the job. In the wildland fire service there is an established protocol to turn down an assignment you consider to be unduly hazardous. Personally, given the protective equipment, I didn’t consider the task to be dangerous,

but it was certainly ugly, and I wasn’t surprised by the demurral. I figured it was counterproductive to argue or demand. The crew had been working hard under difficult conditions, and we had much more to do. It was pointless to alienate them.

“OK,” I said, “I understand.” I turned to the public health engineer and grinned. “Well, Brian, I guess it’s you and me buddy,” and we started to don a couple of the suits. It was clear that Brian and I fully intended to do the job, and our sincerity had the intended effect. Crew members quietly approached and took the suits. “We got this,” said the supervisor. I suppressed a satisfied chuckle; it was intentional manipulation in order to accomplish a good deed.

If I wanted to positively spin my little performance I’d call it “leading by example,” and that wouldn’t be overly cynical. In the workaday world the best way to generate good deeds is for people to witness them being done. It’s why a savvy street musician might have a friend walk by and drop some cash into the hat. (It would also work with a Salvation Army kettle.) Rather than barking at people, provide a role model. We like to be on the bandwagon and part of the action. That’s one reason that when employees are eligible for savings programs or health insurance, for example, more participate when prompted to opt out rather than to opt in – more of that benign manipulation.

Consider our political process. When Congressional earmarks were banned in 2011 we heard much about government waste – remember the fabled “Bridge to Nowhere” in Alaska? President Obama vowed to veto any bill in which earmarks were detected. But at the time, some observers noted the utility of earmarks to grease

the skids for worthy legislation, especially in a deeply partisan atmosphere. Basically, a member of Congress who might otherwise oppose – say, a transportation bill – may be persuaded to support it if some additional money can be “earmarked” for a specific transportation project in their district. The project can certainly be something useful and good, while garnering kudos (and votes) for the legislator. Mixed motives and manipulation do produce the political equivalent of a good deed. Critics of the earmarks ban noted that even when some waste was involved, it was just the price to break gridlock in Congress, and how much is that worth? Besides “waste” may be in the eye of the beholder. One person’s perceived boondoggle may be another’s perceived necessity. (It should be noted here that the “Bridge to Nowhere” did have a local rationale, and in any case was never built.)

So, like legislators, we grease the skids of doing good with “earmarks.” Maybe Boy Scouts needed to escort senior citizens as credit toward a merit badge. Maybe the blessing of the wheelchair panhandler provided a small psychological offset for my occasional guilt over personal privilege and good fortune. Maybe the manipulation of that fire crew, convincing them to perform their duty, gifted them with a story they relate with relish to this day.

In general, these are the kinds of trades we elect legislators to make -- it’s bartering we routinely do ourselves. Accomplishing good deeds with mixed motives is human and necessary. And if you believe someone is keeping track in the ledger, well, try to keep them busy.

*Peter Leschak is a firefighter and writer. He lives in Side Lake.*

WORDS...Continued from page 4

a bad example of how to treat others. Parents often get a lesson in humility when they hear their own less-than-kind words and harsh tones falling out of their children’s mouths as they pass along negativity to a sibling or pet.

Don Rickels became famous for his stinging humiliation of audience members. I never did understand why he was so popular, but apparently people enjoyed the cruel barbs, as long as they weren’t the object of his derision. Snappy or sarcastic assessments can become a habit to amuse people or let others know that you’re “in the know.” Being a “word person,” I often have verbal quips come to mind, which can be sarcastic or teasing. There can be a thin line between amusing and hurtful, so I try to be mindful, not always succeeding.

The author tells the story of a man who was slandering the rabbi in his community. Then, feeling remorseful, he begged for forgiveness, offering to

undergo whatever penance the rabbi offered to make amends. The rabbi told him to tear open a feather pillow and scatter the feathers to the wind. The man did so and asked if he were forgiven. “Just one more thing,” responded the rabbi. “Go and gather all the feathers.” The man protested that it was impossible. “Precisely,” answered the rabbi. “And although you may wish to correct the evil you have done, it is as impossible to repair the damage done by your words as it is to recover the feathers.”

Telushkin remarks that it’s much harder to be clever when praising someone, and indeed, you don’t hear comedians telling many funny stories about how intelligent, caring, graceful, and compassionate people are. We may love to hear good news stories, but that cackling, self-serving inner self often enjoys the snarky stories more.

Rabbi Telushkin uses the term “micro lies” for untruths told to protect other people’s feelings or

safety, considered permissible at times. However, it is not permissible to lie about “macro” issues that transcend the individual and are often used as propaganda to mobilize and manipulate large numbers of people for some cause, whether for good or evil. One particularly pernicious example is a late nineteenth-century forgery, The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, supposed to have revealed “an international Jewish conspiracy to take over the world and to plunge nations into warfare and poverty.” The Nazis cited it as a “warrant for genocide” against the Jews, which laid the groundwork for the Holocaust when six million Jews were murdered.

On the flip side of the political spectrum, while stopping short of advocating genocide, in World War I, Allied propagandists made up stories about terrible atrocities committed by German occupying troops, including slaughtering children and raping nuns. The intent was to motivate the Allied troops and unite their

citizens, which did happen. The lies were revealed after the war, and twenty years later, when the very real German atrocities were being reported, the public was slow to believe they were really happening.

Today we certainly see the harmful effects of widespread fabrication about any number of serious issues. Hearing some of the fantastical lies being propagated on the internet, I am stunned that even one person would believe them, much less throngs of people. But, to my mind, the more disastrous effect is how people are worn down, fatigued by the ongoing battle of lies and often unable to discern where truth lies. People lose confidence in candidates, elected officials, government, and institutions of all kinds. Who is to be trusted?

Recently I read a four-column rant about Democrats in a letter to the editor published in another paper in which the writer made generous use of exaggerated statements and insulting language. While I personally felt his

position would have been strengthened by keeping to the facts, I can see how his emotional tirade could appeal to people frustrated with conditions today.

Telushkin advocates for a national “Speak No Evil Day” for everyone to refrain from all vicious and unfair talk. In fact, on July 17, 1995, Senators Connie Mack and Joseph Lieberman submitted a resolution to do just that to provide a break from and

increase awareness of the damage caused by “excessive anger, unfair criticism, public and private humiliation, bigoted comments, cruel jokes, or rumors and malicious gossip,” while also planting a seed for a more permanent shift in consciousness.

If you’re willing to give it a try, here are some helpful questions to ask yourself, “Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary to say it?”

LETTER...Continued from page 4

►City of Aurora- \$2.5 million to help with the St. James pit water level and \$637,00 for the community center

►City of Hoyt Lakes- \$1.5 million for the community and wellness center

►City of Biwabik- \$4 million for water and sewer infrastructure

►City of Chisholm- \$3 million for the sports arena and curling club

Our communities are now left wondering how these important projects will move forward. Our projects are already facing significant increases due to inflation and supply chain issues. With no partnership from the state, communities will need to re-evaluate plans. As mayors, we believe that funding public infrastructure should be a priority for Minnesota. Today, we call on Governor Walz, Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller, and House Speaker Melissa Hortman, as well as legislators from both sides of the aisle to go back to work and pass a bonding bill that helps all of Minnesota.

Furthermore, because of the budget surplus, there was a bipartisan tax deal ready to be passed at the end of the legislative session. This tax bill included significant increases for Local Government aid (LGA) that helps to keep our towns providing necessary services without raising taxes on its citizens. There was also property tax relief for homeowners and help for families with the child tax credit. There were important provisions for Iron Range schools, including an extension of the Iron Range School Consolidation and Cooperatively Operated School account. There are also important construction sales tax exemptions for school projects in Ely, Rock Ridge, Hibbing, Chisholm and Nashwauk/Keewatin. We were fortunate to have Senator Tom Bakk and Representative Dave Lisle on the Tax Conference Committee to help negotiate this bipartisan agreement. Now we ask that the Legislature see it through to the finish line.

As mayors, we want to ensure our residents have the services they need without having to raise taxes. We

want to run our cities efficiently with the highest quality services we can provide. To do that, we need support from our state. Governor Walz, Leader Miller, Speaker Hortman – please go back to work and get the job done in a special session. Our communities can’t wait one more day.

Signed by the following Iron Range Mayors:

**John Klarich, Buhl**  
**Andrea Zupancich, Babbitt**  
**Bob Vlasisavljevich, Eveleth**  
**John Champa, Chisholm**  
**Peggy Anderson, Mt. Iron**  
**Karl Oberstar, Jr., Gilbert**  
**Wade LeBlanc, Silver Bay**  
**Larry Cuffe, Virginia**  
**David Setterberg, Tower**  
**Chris Swanson, Two Harbors**  
**Dale Christy, Grand Rapids**  
**Jim Weikum, Biwabik**  
**Roger Skraba, Ely**  
**David Zins, Hoyt Lakes**  
**Cal Saari, Nashwauk**  
**Rick Cannata, Hibbing**  
**Doug Gregor, Aurora**



the  
**TIMBERJAY**

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Week of July 18

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

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

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

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

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

**TSHS to hold monthly board meeting**  
TOWER- Tower-Soudan Historical Society will hold its regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, July 20, at 1 p.m., in the Coach Car at the Tower Train Depot. The meeting is open to the public, and guests are welcome. This year’s membership dues (\$10 single; \$20 family) may be paid at the meeting or mailed to TSHS, PO Box 465, Tower MN 55790. Membership supports TSHS operating expenses at the depot-museum and allows the Society to continue its Vision, Mission, and projects.

**Citywide garage sale set for July 30 in Tower-Soudan**  
TOWER-SOUDAN- A citywide garage sale in Tower-Soudan is set for Saturday, July 30 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Maps will be available in local stores.

If you’d like to participate, you can join the event on Facebook, send a Facebook message to Starbaby Candles, send your address to [pbarnes@protonmail.com](mailto:pbarnes@protonmail.com), or call/text 218-780-6806.

**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



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

LOCAL TRADITIONS

Old Settlers Picnic this Saturday, July 16

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 Breit-



iung 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 and are available the day of the picnic, but please arrive a little early to ensure your place in line at noon. 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. Takeouts 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 once again be provided by area favorite Steve Solkela (pictured at left) and his one-man band.

Fourth of July children’s races winners

*Listed in order, first, second, third*

**6-Yard Dash**  
Boys, 2-3, Tanner Mickle, Ty Pavolich, Owen Zak  
Girls, 2-3, Sarah Engelke, Michaela Wolf, Lenon Zubke

**Backwards Race**  
Boys, 2-3, Nicholas Mullin, Tanner Mickle, Owen Zak  
Girls, 2-3, Sarah Engelke, no name given, Lillianna Lau  
Boys, 4-5, Axel Gorecki, Boone Wachlarowicz, Ellis Oliver  
Girls, 4-5, Jorie Adkisson, Maddie Runkle, Amelie Zak  
Boys, 6, Elias Boshey, Henry Lupkes, Tucker Pavlovich  
Girls, 6, Jessa Kramer, Sophia Hunter, Isla McGillivray

**10-Yard Dash**  
Boys, 4-5, Boone Wachlarowicz, David Beutz, Lincoln Bennett  
Girls, 4-5, Nora Zubke, Sara Schwartz, Jorie Adkisson

**20-Yard Dash**  
Boys, 6-7, Kade Jorgenson, Harrison Runkle, Elias Boshey  
Girls, 6-7, Allie Vesel, Elizabeth Beutz, Sophia Hunter

**50-Yard Dash**  
Boys, 8-9, George Rofidal, Harrison Rosati, Jack Wachlarowicz  
Girls, 8-9, Ellie Licari, Abbie Taft, Hailey Ulmer  
Boys, 10-11, Jordan Peterson, Aiden Luukkonen, Kadon Kramer  
Girls, 10-11, Livia Jorgenson, Kayla Dougherty, Leah Beutz  
Boys, 12-13, Anthony Postudensek, Jake Starich, Noah Wicklund  
Girls, 12-13, Maia Taft, Gigi Rosati, Zoe Amborn  
Boys, 14-15, Owen Lamson, AJ Kvistad, Dominic Wright  
Girls, 14-15, Allison Fink, Kensie Moeckel, Elizabeth Morcom

**Sack Race**  
Boys, 7-8, Kade Jorgenson, Harrison Runkle, Luke Schwartz  
Girls, 7-8, Ameila Clow, Juliet Lubben, Jessa Kramer  
Boys, 9-10, Harrison Rosati & Mikey Morley (tie), Bauer Matanich, Madden Nelson  
Girls, 9-10, Ellie Licari, Addison Lobe, Livia Jorgenson  
Boys, 11-12, Robbie Beutz, Dalton Hutchinson, Jordan Peterson

Girls, 11-12, Gigi Rosati, Lucy Stelter, Avery Lamson  
Boys, 13-14, Owen Lamson, Noah Wicklund, Blake Bunes  
Girls, 13-14, Kensie Moeckel, Maia Taft, Elizabeth Morcom

**Wheelbarrow Race**  
Boys, 7-8, Luke Schwartz & Rydan Amborn, Bode Hutchinson & Cormic Oliver, Elias Boshey & Richie Beutz  
Girls, 7-8, Emelia Crow & Hailey Ulmer, Elizabeth Buetz & Juliet Lubben, no name given  
Boys, 9-10, George Rofidal & Harrison Rosati, Jax Lobe & Keegan Kobensky, Louis Fink & Nixon Levens  
Girls, 9-10, Leah Beutz & Ellie Licari, Addison Lobe & Livia Jorgenson, Autumn Ulmer & Hailey Ulmer  
Boys, 11-12, Kooper Dostert & Dalton Hutchinson, Nate Crow & Ian Crow, Robby Beutz & Remington McDonough  
Girls, 11-12, Charlotte Rosati & Gigi Rosati, Avery Lamson & Lucy Stelter, Cece Loftus & Lucy Rofidal  
Boys, 13-14, Owen Lamson & Kennedy Heckenlaible, Blake Bunes & Anthony Postudensek, Caz Carlson & John Westby  
Girls, 13-14, Avery Loftus & Kensie Moeckel, Leah Beutz & Lillian Beutz, Channing Haycraft & Emily Majerle

**Adult races**  
*First, second place awarded in adult races*  
**Adult 50-Yard Dash**  
Men, 15-25, Nolan Svatos, Mason Landborg  
Women, 15-25, Ava Fink, Anastasia Beutz  
Men, 26 & up, JT Evans, Joe McGillivray  
Women, 26 & up, Whitney Cobby, Marjia Jorgenson  
**He/She Sack Race**  
15-25, Blake Ciesynski & Abby Carbajal, Kvistav & Colt Kvistav  
26 & up, Nick Rhinehart & Erica Amborn, Shauna Sampson & Justin Johnson  
Water Balloon Toss  
15-25, Ava Fink & Jace Westerbur, Blake Ciesynski & Abby Carbajal  
26 & up, Randy Johnson & Whitney Cobby, Erica Amborn & Reid Amborn.  
*The races were organized by the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board, and funded from donations from area residents and businesses, as well as raffle ticket sales. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped run the event on July 4.*

COMMUNITY NOTICES



**The Marttila Drug story: History Talk on Saturday, July 16 at 4 p.m.**  
TOWER- Do you remember Marttila Drug? You may not be old enough to remember the ice cream, nickel coffee, or penny candy, but the story of this longtime Tower business is of interest to all ages. Dave Anderson, CBS Channel 3 Meteorologist and descendant of the Marttila family will be the presenter on Saturday, July 16 at 4 p.m. at the Tower Herb Lamppa Civic Center. The presentation is free and open to the public. Vickie and Charlie Carlson, of Ubetcha and Uffda (located in the old Marttila Drug building) will be the hosts. Coffee an’ will be served. Tower-Soudan Historical Society memberships will be available to purchase; \$10 TSHS individual or \$20/family membership which help support filming our History Talk programs and support our depot train museum operations.



Small town Fourth of July rescue story

A family visiting Tower from Houston, Texas, got some above-and-beyond help from the Tower maintenance crew after the Fourth of July parade. “We really enjoyed your 4th of July parade,” the family wrote in a thank you letter to the city of Tower. “It was exactly what a celebration of community and freedom should be.” But when the family’s five-year-old son Ethan dropped his camera in a storm drain, it was the city maintenance workers who came to the rescue. “We asked these gentlemen for help, and without batting an eye, they grabbed a giant crowbar, and worked to pry the cover open, and jumped right in to rescue it.” Ethan’s family noted that this type of assistance would never have happened in their hometown of Houston. “This really sealed the deal in our hearts as to how special this corner of the world, and it’s people, are. Thank you!” they wrote.

New exercise class for seniors offered in Tower

TOWER- Living Well Physical Therapy is now offering a weekly “Senior Strength and Balance Class” on Wednesdays from 12 – 12:45 p.m. with instructor Maty Erie. This is a group exercise class designed to improve strength and balance for senior citizens. The class is designed to be safe and fun while being personalized to an individual’s needs and abilities. Cost is \$12 per class or \$75 for a 10-class punch card. No reservations are needed. Questions, call 218-481-7603. The “Strength and Conditioning Class” continues on Tuesdays from 12 – 12:45 p.m. and Thursdays from 5:15-6 p.m. with instructor Wendy Anderson. This class is a fun, high-energy group workout with music. Activities include a variety of upper body, lower body, and core strengthening with cardio. Cost is \$12 per walk-in class or \$75 for a 10-class punch card. No reservations are needed.

FOUR ON THE FOURTH



2022 Four on the Fourth running event participants started the Trezona Trail race in wet conditions. photo by K. Vandervort

Repeat winners highlighted at Independence Day running event

ELY - Michael Schwinghamer was the overall winner of the 2022 Four on the Fourth Inpendence Day Race here last Monday. Repeating his 2021 first-place finish, Schwinghamer posted a time of 21:32.

Cailee Peterson repeat-

ed as female champion at the Janet Gensler Memorial Four on the Fourth event. She was 12th overall with a time of 25:36.

Rounding out the top men finishers were: Dominic Solhol, 21:52, Emmett Faltesek, 21:55, James Schwinghamer,

22:02, John Schwinghamer, 22:49, Blake Gallardo, 22:52, Jasper Johnston, 23:39, Peter Daniels, 24:53, Hudson Kingston, 24:59, and Sam Gausman, 25:17.

Behind Peterson, the remaining top women finishers included, Francisca Geffre, 27:00, Erin Schwartz,

27:32, Kari Goeltl, 28:27, Shelby Suhr, 28:56, Sydney Augustine, 29:00, Hannah Yonkers-Tacz, 29:08, Lauren Frizzle, 29:30, and Cassidy Molina, 29:56.

The top walker was Lisa Eastman in 51:24. Ely Mayor Roger Skraba finished in second place in 51:25.

The event is named after the late Janet Gensler, who was instrumental in starting the race several years ago. The fundraising event for the Ely High School track teams attracted 170 participants, despite the rain-soaked start.

AROUND TOWN

Be safe on the trails: ATV safety training course held for beginners

ELY - The Prospector ATV club hosted an ATV training class last Saturday at the Long Branch in Winton.

Each student was required to complete the online segment of the course prior to attending the class. Each student was accompanied by a parent or qualified guardian who was required to sign a release form.

Classroom instruction was held in the morning. Field testing was held after lunch.



The course is registered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. More information is available on the following link for the on-line course;

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/atv/index.html>

For more information on future classes, contact instructor Mike Banovetz at 218-235-9969.

**Beginning ATV riders participated in field testing last Saturday at the Longbranch in Winton.**

photos by K. Vandervort



SUPPORTING THE ARTS



Members of the “Quiltmaker’s Gift” orchestra rehearsed at Ely’s Historic State Theater this week in preparatin for the shows this weekend. From left are, Howard Shertzer, clarinet; Lynn Evenson, percussion; Nina van Gelder, flute; Ellen Shertzer, cello; Emily Roose, bass; and Susan Germek, keyboard and director. submitted photo

In Brief

**Tuesday Group schedule**

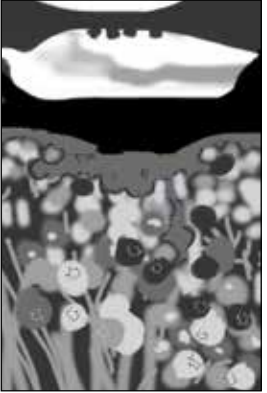
ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call her at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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- July 19: PolyMet update by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.
- July 26: Meet New Elyites.
- Aug. 2: Northern Nights, Starry Skies: Preview of a PBS documentary.

**Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



clumps of blue berries search the landscape with buckets

big pie very soon

Libraries

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

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

Support groups

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**SUNDAY NIGHT AA -** at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church is canceled.  
**ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA -** Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.** Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.  
**AL-ANON -** Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.  
**BABBITT AL-ANON -** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.  
**CO-DEPENDENTS’** 12-step support group, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E Camp St, 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. Conference Room B

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Patience brings a match made in Subway

## New owner eager to get acquainted with customers and community

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It's been 20 years since Lisa Ojanen opened up the now familiar Subway restaurant in Cook, these days if you see her in there, it's as a consultant or a satisfied customer.

That's because last week Chris Verhel became the new owner of the Subway franchise, and for both Ojanen, it was a matter of patience finally paying off.

Ojanen had been in the thick of running the restaurant until her husband, Tom, retired in Nov. 2020, and she hired a manager so that she could take more time off. And she eventually put the shop on the market, waiting for just the right buyer to come along.

Verhel, from Hermantown, was enjoying his work in law enforcement in Duluth before he was injured on the job and ended up taking early retirement at 35. Too young to retire, he pivoted into opening a couple of small businesses, but in the back of his mind there was Subway.

"I've wanted to get into Subway for many years, but it's definitely a hard business to get into," Verhel sad. "The people who have them, they don't want to sell. They'll buy

more before they get rid of the one they have."

Verhel and Ojanen connected for the first time about six months ago and started exploring the possibility of a sale. Everything fell into place, and last week they signed off on the deal and Verhel met the staff for the first time.

"I've been very, very lucky that we've always had great staff," Oljanen said. "I didn't just call them my staff, they were my co-workrs since I was in the store every day with them."

And Verhel is happy to have them.

"We sat down with all the staff last week to let them know what's happening," he said. "I didn't want them to think that a new owner is coming in and is going to change everything and they're going to be unhappy because that's not what they want. We want staff to stay here and be excited to come back to work. Everybody took it really well, and it's a fun group of people."

But like most business owners these days, Verhel wouldn't mind bringing a few more employees into the fold.

"One thing about the restaurant business someone told me once is that you never really stop hiring people," he said. "You can be fully staffed, but

somebody walks through that door with a lot of really great qualities, you might not be able to give them full-time hours but you can get them in the door. Lisa and Tom have established a great presence in the community, so people know this is a fun place to work and not terribly demanding. We want staff to be here long term."

Verhel didn't just buy a Subway, however. He also inherited a brand-new menu. While customers still have the option to build their own sandwich or wrap, the new "Subway Series" menu features a dozen new sandwiches with ready-made recipes.

"It's a good thing," Verhel said. "Instead of ordering a sub and the employee waiting for me to tell them what I want on it, now you have options where Subway has already put the recipe together. Just like if you were to walk into Wendy's or McDonalds and you order a number two or a number three, you're going to get it the way they make it. You still have the ability to make your own, but the big thing is just being able to come in and order that number one and having it done the way you know it's going to be done every single time."

That's one aspect of buying into a franchise that has over 20,000 out-



Chris Verhel is the new owner of the Subway in Cook, completing the purchase last week just in time to roll out the chain's new menu.  
photo by D. Colburn

lets that appealed to Verhel, as did walking into an already established store with steady clientele, room for growth, and a wealth of corporate resources to support him as he takes over. But with all of that, Verhel knows that continued success not only means getting to know his customers and providing consistent quality. In a small town like Cook, it means getting engaged with the greater community.

Verhel has already joined the Cook Chamber of Commerce, and he's sponsoring a golf team from Nett Lake in the men's league at

Vermilion Fairways. "My goal is to be a big part of the community, and that's giving back. It's because I personally like being part of the community and Subway's a big part of it, too. But my personal thing is getting to know people." He'll still be doing some juggling between Subway and his other businesses, but the parents of one of his close friends in Hermantown live here, and he's already enjoying spending time here sitting around a fire at night on Lake Vermilion.

He has a little less to juggle these days with his kids, 22-year-old Easton

and 17-year-old daughter Aveya, since they're both more independent.

"Aveya is very smart. She wants to be a neuroscientist. She will often send me text messages that I have to Google the words because I don't know what they mean," Verhel laughed. "My son's the same way, but he doesn't want to be a neuroscientist. He's looking more at business ownership."

Overall, Verhel feels like this is a perfect fit, and he can't wait to begin meeting customers and keep Subway going as an integral part of the Cook business community.

COOK CITY COUNCIL

# Cook council 'falls back' by eight hours, not one

## Progress reported on new blight ordinance, ambulance service

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- For the Cook City Council's regular meeting June 30, it was high time for a change, or rather, time for a time change.

The council changed its meeting time from it's traditional time of 6 p.m. to 10 a.m., and will keep that time at least until December's Truth in Taxation hearing, which must be held in the evening to give full opportunity for citizens to attend, although few rarely do.

The new schedule will better facilitate interactions between council members and city staff and consultants as they begin digging into budget discussions in August and continue through November. Budget discussions will be held prior to regular monthly council meet-

ings, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

While the agenda was light, the change seemed to bring with it lively discussion as the council worked its way down the list.

Council member Jody Bixby stood in for Dr. Bruce Garbish, who was unable to attend, to describe a project he's spearheading to develop a monarch butterfly pollinator garden at Trinity Lutheran Church.

"He's spent a lot of time researching this, and it's a process," Bixby said. "Right now we've dug up the area and put plastic on it to kill things naturally. From there we'll be planting milkweed and other species that butterflies and birds like. We're encouraging people to do pollinator gardens in Cook because it's a wonderful thing."

City administrator Theresa Martinson said she put the item on the agenda so councilors would be aware that the garden uses a portion of a city alley. Councilors had no objections and commented positively on the development.

Council member Elizabeth Storm noted that Garbish is also very interested in eliminating buckthorn, a comment which sparked an impromptu conversation about the noxious plant and various ways to get rid of it.

Council member Karen Hollanitsch gave a brief report updating the status of efforts to restructure the ambulance service. Meetings have been held with the two new part-time staff to clarify roles and responsibilities and set expectations, she said. Letters have been sent to

community members who have asked questions or voiced concern. And the anonymous online survey for staff to provide feedback on ambulance service operations was almost complete and ready to deploy.

"I think we're making good ongoing progress," Hollanitsch said.

The council also received an update on the progress of planned revisions to the blight ordinance.

"We have recommendation from our attorney to add to it," Mayor Harold Johnston said. "It will go to her for review and then she will send it to the county to review. And then we'll meet again next month."

Johnston said a public hearing on the new ordinance would have to be held before it could go into effect.

Administrative assistant Dawn Kehoe was promoted to the deputy clerk position, effective July 1, and Martinson asked for approval to work with a temporary staffing company out of Hibbing to provide part-time coverage for the administrative assistant vacancy, which was granted.

The council also approved hiring Travis Abramson for a position in the maintenance department. Storm took the opportunity to compliment the city's maintenance staff.

"I would just like to say thank you. Everything looks good," Storm said. "And you got the curbs and everything painted before Timber Days, which was very helpful. People are always saying everything's mowed and looking good, so thank you."

The council also dis-

cussed possible signage for the new Veterans Riverfront Park after Johnston reported that when he walked out of the pharmacy recently that it was obscured from view.

In other business, the council:

- Received the annual economic impact statement for the airport.
- Received the 2022 Arrowhead Library System budget.
- Noted that the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation did an article about the new park.
- Discussed ways to improve the audio system in the park, noting that with the advent of wireless communications a system stretching down River St. would be far less costly and more easily deployed than a wired system.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

### NWFA releases schedule for August classes

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts is rolling into August with a full slate of free and affordable Curious and Creative art classes for young and old alike.

Free classes include:

**Let's Try Watercolor Kids!**

Tuesday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. to noon. Experimenting with watercolor for beginners. Lyn Reed, instructor.

**Making Whistle Music with Clay**

Thurs., Aug. 4th and Aug. 11, 10 a.m. to noon. A two-day class in which you sculpt a form to make a whistle with clay and glaze the whistle the sec-

ond class. Lyn Reed, instructor.

"Curious and Creative" classes with affordable class fees include:

**Exploring the Tumbling Block Quilt Technique**

Wednesday, July 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join quilter Kathy Lovgren as she demonstrates and assists as you create a tumbling block sample. \$30 for NWFA members and \$45 for non-members. All materials will be supplied. Kathy will provide information about what sewing tools to bring to class.

**Lino Print - Carve a Block in a Design**

Saturday, Aug. 6, 9 a.m. to noon. Artist Lyn Reed, instructor. \$10 NWFA Members, \$20 non-members. \$5 materi-

al fee to instructor.

**6X6 Watercolor Field Sketchbook/Journal**

Saturday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Brenna Kohlhasse, instructor. \$30 for NWFA members and \$45 for non-members. \$20 materials fee to instructor.

**Beginning Acrylic - Learn Painting Techniques**

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 10 a.m to 4 p.m. Cecelia Rolando, instructor. \$30 for NWFA members and \$45 for non-members. Materials provided.

There are three ways you can register:

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

on Saturdays. The gallery phone is 218-780-7130.

- Call Alberta at 218 666-2153.
- Email nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

The gallery is at 210 S River St. in Cook.

### NWFA exhibition continues through June 30

COOK- The exhibition "Hometown Focus by photographer Connie Stone and multimedia artist and photographer, Laura Pajari debuted on July 7 and will continue through Saturday, July 30 at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, at 210 S River St. in Cook.

The exhibition may be visited 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays,

Thursdays, and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays during open gallery hours.

### Beefeater Bros. are back for July 20 music in park

COOK- Eric Pederson and the "The Beefeater Brothers" will be featured on Wednesday, July 20 at 6 p.m. at "Music in the Park", Cook's weekly summer concert series.

Bring a lawn chair or sit in your car to hear your favorites of classic country with rock and roll hits.

Enjoy St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Alango) burger/brat stand. In case of rain the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

### Veterans fishing event coming up on August 25

REGIONAL — Fortune Bay Resort Casino is pleased to partner with the Lake Vermilion Guides League for the 9th annual Take A Vet Fishing event, Thursday, August 25th.

This unique event gives veterans ranging from World War II to the Korean War to Vietnam and Desert Storm a chance to spend time together on beautiful Lake Vermilion.

If you are a veteran and would like to come out for a free day of fishing and shore lunch, you can register online by visiting lakevermilionguidesleague.com.

ELECTION 2022

Political signs not permitted on state highway rights of way

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL—Political season in the North Country means another season of visual distractions on roadways as candidates and their supporters look to gain the best possible advantage for exposure for their signage.

While signs are allowed at private residences and on commercial property, placement of campaign and other advertising signage on any highway rights of way is not allowed under state law, according to Margie Nelson, a public affairs coordinator for District 1 of the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

All state, county, city and township roads and highways fall under the same state law.

“Highway rights of way include driving lanes, inside and outside shoulders, ditches and sight corners at intersections,”



she said. An apparent violation of this law was documented just outside of Ely this past weekend at the intersection of Highway 169/1 and

Old Highway 169 Road. As many as five political signs advertising for Roger Skraba, Pete Stauber, Andrea Zupancich and other candidates were clustered

in an area just inches from the gravel shoulder of the roadway.

Violation of the law (Minn. Stat. 160.27) is a misdemeanor. Civil pen-

Numerous political signs were posted along Highway 169 outside of Ely last weekend.  
photo by K. Vandervort

alties also may apply if the placement of signage contributes to a motor vehicle crash and injures a person or damages a motor vehicle that runs off the road.

Politicians contacted by the *Timberjay* did not admit to having any knowledge of the placement of the sign cluster. Landowner consent is needed before signs are placed on private property outside of the right of way, MnDOT officials said.

MnDOT crews are required to remove unlawfully placed signs and impound them at one of its local maintenance truck stations. When improperly placed signs are removed by MnDOT, every effort is made to temporarily store

the sign and notify the owner where the signs can be retrieved.

The Minnesota Outdoor Advertising Control Act (Minn. Stat. 173.15) also prohibits placing advertising materials on public utility poles, trees and shrubs, and painting or drawing on rocks or natural features.

For information about the proper placement of campaign signs or where to retrieve signs, contact the local MnDOT office at 218-725-2800. See also [mndot.gov/govrel/rw\\_signs.html](http://mndot.gov/govrel/rw_signs.html).

When placing signs, the best way to avoid an emergency or unintentionally striking an underground facility is to call 811 before digging, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Go to the GSOC website and request that underground utilities be marked near the area of the digging.

RACE...Continued from page 1

St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office is not something you pick up overnight,” states Lukovsky on his campaign website. “During my 24 years in the sheriff’s office, including in my current role as undersheriff, I’ve built relationships and mutual trust with citizens, community leaders, criminal justice partners and public safety personnel.”

Lukovsky comes to the race with a bevy of endorsements, including one from his boss, Sheriff Litman, who said he’s been supporting Lukovsky’s candidacy from the start. “I’ve held this spot for 20 years and I think I know what the job entails,” said Litman. “It’s clear to me who the best candidate is to lead this department.”

Litman, who has run the sheriff’s office since 2003 noted that he has promoted Lukovsky four times during his tenure. “I think he’s held every office in the department, except sheriff,” said Litman.

Lukovsky, in a sense, already had a trial run in the top job, noted Litman, whose wife died unexpectedly of a stroke last year. Litman had taken an extended leave in the aftermath of that tragedy and he said Lukovsky, who had just been promoted to undersheriff a few weeks earlier, didn’t miss a beat as he took over as the department’s interim boss. “It was seamless,” said Litman.

Lukovsky also has the endorsement of the Duluth Police Union Local 807, the St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff’s Association, the Duluth Police Lieutenants Union Local 363, the Duluth Central Labor Body, the NE Area Labor Council, as well as a number of other trade union endorsements. Also in the running is

More information

- Want to learn more about the three candidates running for St. Louis County Sheriff?
- You can read much more on their websites:
- Jason Lukovsky: [lukovskyforsheriff.com](http://lukovskyforsheriff.com)
- Gordon Ramsay: [voteramsay.com](http://voteramsay.com)
- Chad Walsh: [chadwalshforsheriff.com](http://chadwalshforsheriff.com)

Duluth native and former Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsay, a position he held from 2006-2016, when he left to serve as police chief in Wichita, Kan. Ramsay left that position earlier this year. While in Wichita, population 400,000, he managed a staff of just under 1,000 and an annual budget of \$110 million.

In announcing his bid for St. Louis County Sheriff back in March, Ramsay said his priorities include reducing crime and building relationships. “Covid has closed jails, created backlogs in the courts, stifled accountability, and left victims without justice,” states Ramsay on his campaign website. “Through strong leadership I will work to address these issues, implement community policing so community members have an understanding of what’s occurring in their areas, and build strong relationships with those we serve.”

Ramsay cites his passion for community collaboration as a way to reduce crime and improve police accountability. He established Duluth’s first-ever citizen review board as part of an effort to foster better relationships and increase trust between the DPD and city residents. During his time in Duluth, he also served as president of the Minnesota Police Chiefs Association.

During his six years in Wichita, Ramsay won good reviews for his com-

munity-building from the city’s top manager and the city’s mayor. He also won favorable reviews for his handling of the protests in the wake of the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin.

According to Ramsay’s website, the Wichita Police Department had been experiencing poor police-community relations and was the subject of weekly protests at the time of his arrival there. Ramsay states that those conditions improved during his tenure and that civil rights lawsuits against the city’s police declined by more than half during his six years in office there.

Ramsay didn’t leave Kansas without some criticism, however, particularly over his handling of racist texts and memes sent by some police officers under his command. Ramsay responded by requiring counseling for the officers involved. Others criticized that decision, arguing that under department policy the officers should have been suspended. Other reports indicate that Ramsay had originally favored terminating the

officers over the incident, but that human resources officials at Wichita City Hall disagreed with that and prevented tougher action.

Ramsay has received a number of prominent endorsements, including from Roger Waller, another former Duluth police chief, now retired. He’s also won the backing of the former Wichita mayor as well as the former county sheriff in the Wichita area. Closer to home, he has the backing of Karen Diver, former tribal chair of the Fond du Lac Band, as well as Larry Cuffe, the mayor of Virginia.

The third candidate seeking the county’s top law enforcement job is Chad Walsh, a part-time Moose Lake police officer and gun store and firing range owner. Walsh has been actively campaigning and maintains a considerable yard sign presence in the northern part of the county.

He’s also had considerable success fund raising, reporting over \$41,000 raised through June 22.

A Hermantown native, Walsh has served in law enforcement in the U.S. Army as well as South Dakota, before being hired by the Moose Lake Police Department. He’s also run a number of businesses, including a portable toilet business and, most recently, Dead On Arms, a gun store and indoor shooting range near Cloquet.

“I’ve lived all over

the world and the United States, but I love living in northern Minnesota,” says Walsh on his campaign website. “Spending time with my family is also vital, as is making a contribution to the community, both as a business owner and through serving the public.”

Walsh said he wants to bring big changes to the sheriff’s office, to better involve members of the community and make greater use of technology in the department.

Walsh is arguably the most controversial candidate in the race. He’s flirted, at times, with fringe views, and recently campaigned during a showing of “2000 Mules” in Ely, where he appeared to voice support for the debunked conspiracy theory at the heart of the film, which falsely claims that the 2020 election was stolen by organized ballot stuffing across several swing states. Also appearing with Walsh at the event were two Republican candidates for office, including Roger Skraba, who is seeking the District 3A legislative seat, and Doug Wardlow who is challenging the GOP endorsed candidate for Minnesota Attorney General. Wardlow is currently head legal counsel for Mike Lindell and his company, My Pillow.

In addition to election fraud theories, Walsh touts his strong belief in acting as a “constitutional sheriff,” if elected. Among main-

stream law enforcement, the constitutional sheriff’s movement is considered a fringe element, known for their belief in the supremacy of the county sheriff to refuse to enforce laws that they deem unconstitutional. That most often includes gun laws, public health measures, or federal land use regulations. The movement is associated with the county supremacy movement and other right-wing groups and ideas. The founder of the movement, Richard Mack, a former Arizona sheriff, also served on the board of the Oath Keepers, one of the extremist organizations involved in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

“As a law enforcement officer, I agreed to abide by the law in everything I do on the job,” states Walsh on his campaign website. Walsh, however, was recently fined \$750 by a panel of administrative law judges for failing to follow campaign finance laws. Walsh had urged the judges to impose a reprimand only, but the judges determined a fine was appropriate, writing: “Respondent Walsh’s expression of regret for ‘honest mistakes’ falls short of demonstrating an understanding of the violations and an acceptance of responsibility for them.”

As for endorsements, Walsh recently won the backing of Jed Holewa, the chair of the Republican Party in St. Louis County.



Minnesota North College  
A Member of Minnesota State

Assistant Football Coach - Fall 2022 Season  
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## STUDY...Continued from page 1

about help with funding the study, as well as with St. Louis County. “But we need to prepare to pay for the full amount,” he said.

Greenwood does not have any management oversight of EMS services, and under state law the township is part of the Tower Area Ambulance Service area, which includes Tower, Eagles Nest, Breitung, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, and Greenwood townships.

“We want to maximize service in a fiscally responsible manner,” said Greenwood resident Lee Peterson, who has pushed for the study outside of any efforts by the Tower Ambulance Commission, which is in the process of starting its own locally-based study of service options. Greenwood has, so far, opted not to be part

of that process.

Peterson said the TAC is talking about forming a joint powers arrangement, which could include a taxing mechanism.

“Once you are in, there is no doorknob to get out,” Peterson said. “We need to be extra careful on how this goes.”

Supervisor Barb Lofquist said she didn’t think the township should separate itself from the work that TAC is starting to do.

Peterson said the township is going to have to accept that an ambulance service is going to cost money.

“The days of volunteers who live in the ambulance are gone,” he said.

Peterson said he didn’t want to see the township being one vote out of six on a local joint powers board,

because Greenwood has the largest population and property values.

“I am tired of the tail wagging the dog,” Peterson said.

The question of how a regionally-based EMS service would be funded is still an open question, and would also require some tax-based assistance. State law does allow for the formation of ambulance service districts with taxing authority.

### Will EMS services participate?

Peterson said he hopes the surrounding communities will participate in the study, although Greenwood has not formally asked for the cooperation of any of the surrounding EMS services.

“Our aim is for the best possible care for our

patients,” Peterson said.

The McGrath study would include tours and observations, stakeholder interviews, and data analysis.

“Our firm does not utilize a cut-and-paste approach,” they wrote. “Rather we take the time needed to learn the culture of the service area.”

Stakeholder interviews would include township and city officials, EMS department leadership and members, communication centers, and other identified stakeholders. Such interviews would be confidential. The objectives of the study of each service provider would include gaining an understanding of the organization’s background, goals, and expectations for the project.

The study would also

include:

- a general overview of EMS services.
- Current and potential future changes in population and demographics.
- Implications of current policies and agreements.
- Assessing current overall EMS organizations and operations for efficiency and effectiveness.
- Identifying and analyzing EMS providers in the area and their role in EMS service delivery.
- Identifying key stakeholders to ensure their input.
- Trends in emergency and non-emergency demands.
- Analysis of current emergency incidents, response times, and simultaneous call data.

It will also look at the need for ALS services to be

located within the regional service area by reviewing the current service and identifying appropriate data for making decisions in the future regarding ALS.

The study will also include looking at the leadership structure of area EMS providers, identifying appropriate national, state, and local service benchmarks for service, and identifying the most prudent and cost-effective staffing methods and distribution of personnel for ALS level service. In addition, the study will look at facilities, equipment, dispatch practices, and training.

The objective of the study will be greater shared services, looking at the challenges associated with regionalization.

## RATES...Continued from page 1

increase.

### Consumer concerns

A number of consumer advocates say the company’s request is out of line. MP’s rate increase proposal comes as the nation is grappling with the highest rate of inflation it’s seen in 40 years, hitting 8.6 percent in May and driven mostly by increasing energy and food costs.

“It’s no secret that people have been struggling dealing with the ongoing fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, and then more recently with inflation and costs going up in general,” said Brian Edstrom, senior regulatory advocate for the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) of Minnesota, a statewide advocacy group. “So, this rate increase comes at a at a tough time. And an 18 percent rate increase is big. That would mean approximately \$180 per year for the average household. That might not seem like a lot to some, but for those who are already living paycheck

to paycheck and struggling with inflation and making ends meet, that really does make a difference.”

Greater Minnesota Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light Bret Pence said in a July 8 press release. “Minnesota Power is requesting the rate increase primarily because electricity demand from its large industrial customers dropped. Minnesota Power is already directly passing along the higher costs of fossil fuel generation to its residential ratepayers on their monthly electric bills. Now they want to be compensated for millions in imprudent spending and receive a higher profit margin, called a return on equity, from ratepayers. That is both unreasonable and unjust.”

The increase, if

approved by the state’s Public Utilities Commission (PUC), would impact residential and commercial electric customers in Tower and Soudan and a small portion of Lake Vermilion, along with many other parts of the region served by the investor-owned utility.

MP Vice President of Customer Experience Frank Frederickson highlighted some of the recent upgrades the utility has made to improve the service they provide to its customers. “We’ve been modernizing our infrastructure in the region with smart electric meters and smarter systems throughout our energy delivery systems,” Frederickson said. “We’ve modernized our customer service programs and engagement platforms so that customers can do everything online, everything from paying their bill to reporting an outage, and they can look at an outage map right from their phone, in the case of a storm. And, along with that we’ve continued to expand clean energy.”

The rate increase also seeks to make up for the loss of revenue from large-use commercial consumers, most recently including the closure of the Verso paper mill in Duluth in 2020.

Minnesota Power has already implemented a 7.1 percent interim rate increase, which went into effect in January. State law allows for partial interim rate increases while the full increase is being considered by the PUC. The company had sought a higher interim rate, but it

agreed to lower the interim rate under an agreement with consumer advocacy groups.

Energy CENTS, a statewide advocacy group focused specifically on low- and restricted-income consumers, and CUB began negotiations with MP shortly after they announced the rate increase proposal, as they and others felt the requested 18 percent hike didn’t meet the criteria in state law that rates for regulated utility charges must be “just and reasonable.” The programs were instrumental in securing the agreement with MP to set the interim rate for residential customers at 7.1 percent rather than the company’s original proposal of 14.2 percent.

The interim increase boosted the average residential bill by an average of \$5.89 per month, according to the PUC. Small businesses and other classes of service saw their interim rates go up 14.2 percent in January. If the interim rates turn out to be higher than what the MPUC finally approves, MP customers would receive refunds for the amounts they overpaid.

MP’s last full review of rates was initiated in 2016 with a similar request of between 18 and 19 percent, but the MPUC only approved a \$13 million rate hike, about 40 percent of what the company had been seeking. Residential customers saw a 3.5 percent increase at that time. MP was back again in late 2019 asking for a rate increase, but voluntarily pulled most of that request off the table due to the impact of the COVID pandemic that began in March 2020.

“We worked with stakeholders to settle that request on a single issue,

ultimately delaying other issues and inflationary pressures the company is experiencing to provide that electric service until this rate case, which we filed in November.”

MP officials say they’re taking steps to reduce the impact of the increase on low-income customers. According to Frederickson, MP is increasing its financial commitment to the CARE program for income-eligible residential customers by almost \$430,000 annually, bringing the total annual budgeted for the discounted rate program to over \$2 million.

“One of the discounts is a flat discount that we’re going to increase from \$15 to \$20 a month, and this additional amount should extend the discount to more customers as well.”

Energy CENTS Executive Director Pam Marshall described another concession that will help those whose average usage per month is 1,000 kilowatt hours or less.

“They will prospectively offer a 40-percent discount on the first 600 kilowatt hours,” Marshall said. “That’s going to go a long way to mitigate the impact of any approved rate increase.”

Marshall believes the agreement with MP will bring up to twice as many people into the fold for assistance, particularly because customers are able to self-declare their income eligibility based on their participation in other programs such as SNAP food assistance, Social Security Disability, or free and reduced school lunches. “We expect as many as 25,000-27,000 low-income customers to receive some benefit either in the form of

the low-usage discount or the additional help from the CARE program,” she said. “The vast majority of their low-income customers are going to be pretty well insulated from any approved increase.”

### Consumer input


The proposed rate increase affects all MP customers, from residential and small business users to large commercial customers, and many have already registered their comments and concerns in writing on the PUC website. But Edstrom strongly encourages people to take advantage of next week’s public hearings to add their voices to the information the PUC will consider when making its final decision.

“People might say ‘Well, what does my single voice matter?’ but it really does, particularly if there are concrete examples that people can share of how a rate increase personally affects them and their family. Those are really powerful stories,” he said.

Two virtual public comment sessions will be held on Tuesday, July 19, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. On Wednesday, July 20, in-person meetings will be held at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the AAD Shrine Meeting and Event Center in Hermantown and are also accessible virtually. Full details including links and login information for the virtual hearings can be found on MP’s website at <https://bit.ly/MNPowerRateHike>.

Written comments may also be filed with the MPUC by emailing [puc@state.mn.gov](mailto:puc@state.mn.gov) or mailing them to MN Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 326, St. Paul MN 55101.

On Thursday, July 14, at 6 p.m. Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, the Citizens Utility Board, and the Sierra Club North Star Chapter were scheduled to hold a virtual townhall meeting where presenters were to discuss how utility rates are set, what Minnesota Power is proposing, and how to provide written or in-person comments. Those who read this article prior to the meeting can find more information and a registration link at [www.mnpl.org/event/minnesota-power-rate-case-townhall](http://www.mnpl.org/event/minnesota-power-rate-case-townhall).



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QUILT...Continued from page 1

first six center rows.

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As with the 2019 production, several community events were planned in conjunction with the show.

An Ely Public Library event, “Get Crafty! Make a Tie Quilt” will be held for students in grades 1-6 on Friday, July 15. A display case filled with illustrator Gail de Marcken’s memorabilia from her work on the book will remain in the

library thru July. Her seven-foot long wood carving of a scene from the musical, which was on display at the State Theater in 2019, now has a permanent home in the Ely library.

Three unique quilts crafted by Ely quilter Dorothy Sand were donated to be raffled off this year. Tickets are available during all three productions.

Piragis Book Store has copies of the “Quiltmaker’s Gift” in stock. They also will be available for purchase at the Theater and are available at Wintergreen.

The FrontPorch Coffee and Tea Co. is featuring an exhibit by local photographer John Ratzloff from the 2019 production of “Quiltmaker.” The exhibit will run through the end of July.

Residents at the Boundary Waters Care Center and Carefree Living in Ely were invited to a “Quiltmaker’s Indoor Garden Party” this week.

The “Quiltmaker’s Gift” book that is the inspiration for the musical was to be read, and residents and volunteers tied fleece quilts for kids. They were donated to Dr. Benjamin Novak, son of Ely’s Nancy Andreae, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Gillette Children’s Hospital in St. Paul.

Residents of Ely’s BWCC and Carefree, along with residents of Carefree Living in Babbitt and Vermilion Senior Living in Tower, were special guests at a dress rehearsal on Thursday.

A highlight of the Ely



Cast warmups with music director were held at rehearsal Sunday night at Ely’s Historic State Theater. photo by K. Vandervort

Fourth of July parade was the “Quiltmaker’s” honorable mention entry, made possible by the efforts of the cast, Ely Community Resource’s Julie Hignell, Rev. Craig Haberman of Ely’s First Methodist Church, Gail de Marcken and Paul Kess.

The “Quiltmaker’s Gift” celebration in Ely is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (ARAC), thanks to a legislative appropriation from the

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, and by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, the Rotary Club of Ely, Lake Country Power, the Kiwanis Club of Ely, and Ely’s Northwoods Partners.

ELECTION

# Unions endorse DeNucci

REGIONAL — Itasca County Commissioner and former Nashwauk Mayor Ben DeNucci announced a slew of union endorsements this past week, ranging from the construction trades, to teachers, to law enforcement.

DeNucci is seeking the DFL nomination for the District 7 state Senate seat. The newly-reconfigured district, created as part of the 2022 redistricting, encompasses areas currently represented by DFL Sen. David Tomassoni, and GOP Senators Justin Eichorn and Sen. Carrie Ruud. That includes much of the Iron Range and much of southeastern Itasca and northern Aitkin counties.

DeNucci’s most recent endorsements include: United Steelworkers District 11; Education Minnesota; Service Employees International Union Minnesota; Laborers’ International Union of North America; Minnesota AFL-CIO; North East Area Labor Council; Iron Range Labor Assembly; and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals 242 and 294.

“From day one of this campaign my goal has been to build a union-powered movement,” DeNucci said. “I fundamentally believe that being pro-union is the best way to be pro-jobs, and the economic vitality of the Iron Range will always be my first priority. Expanding mining, fully funding education, and protecting organized labor is how we make an Iron Range that is livable for generations to come.”

The latest endorsements join a coalition of labor support for DeNucci’s candidacy that already includes: United Steelworkers Local 2660; Iron Range Building Trades Council; Minnesota Nurses Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 5; Teamsters Joint Council 32, and Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 589.

“SEIU has a long history of supporting candidates who are committed to improving the lives of working families, and the SEIU MN State Council is pleased to formally congratulate you on your endorsement for MN State Senate District 7,” said Laura Carpenter.

To date, DeNucci is the only District 7 candidate to win support from organized labor.



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EDUCATION

ISD 696 looking for another superintendent

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

Board takes long-term view on administrative leadership

ELY – Just weeks after the top administrator at ISD 696 agreed to a contract extension, John Klarich announced Monday night that he is leaving his superintendent post after his contract expires next May.

At least some school board members were aware of the impending vacancy at the top of the school administration. A meeting agenda item this week called for the approval of a Superintendent Mentorship Agreement with current K-5 Principal Anne Oelke.

Apparently, school board leaders are looking at reducing school administration costs by combining the part-time superintendent position with a part-time elementary principal position. The current middle school and high school principal position would likely remain full-time. The move would reduce the number of administrators from three to two.

The school superintendent mentorship arrangement caught at least one board member by surprise. Following a motion by Tony Colarich, with support by Rochelle Sjöberg, to approve the agreement, Tom Omerza asked the superintendent or principal for an explanation.

Klarich and Oelke both pointed to each other to offer more details. “I think I’d rather let Anne talk about this a bit,” Klarich said, before announcing, “You know, I’m leaving May 31, and there was a discussion to decide to move (Oelke) into that superintendency. She will get hands-on experience and find out what it is to run a school district.”

Oelke, who holds a State of Minnesota school superintendent license, was asked prior to the school board meeting if the mentorship agreement proposal was her idea or if it came from the board.

“It was suggested that I do this,” she said.

The at-will Superintendent Mentorship Agreement, unanimously approved, runs from July 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023, and pays Oelke an additional \$1,000 per month for the

duration of the contract. The mentorship program also provides three paid days of vacation.

The completion of a list of duties or tasks for Oelke, required in addition to her regular full-time K-5 principal responsibilities for the next year, includes: ESSER funding; multi-tiered system/Coop; District IOWA; All District SERVS; World’s Best Workforce; REAP Grant and Funding; additional supervisory evaluations assigned by superintendent; crisis planning; QCOMP; TDE and other duties as assigned by the superintendent.

According to the agreement, the mentorship reports directly to the superintendent who will be responsible for evaluating the experiences and task completion every 60-90 days. The superintendent is required to present quarterly updates to the school board.

Klarich joined the school district in January following the resignation of Erick Erie and brought decades of school administration experience to what has been a revolving door of local school leadership. His part-time contract pays a \$50,000 salary, plus a maximum of \$13,500 contribution to a retirement plan. Klarich is required to work two days a week on campus and one day a week remotely.

Sjöberg added, “After John had brought this forward to Ray (Marsnik) and I for discussion, it was a way for the district, with the rotation in this position, to look more long-term and have some of that planning versus filling (a vacancy) by reaction. So, this is trying to pre-plan. Anne has had her license for many years and this is a way for her to get hands-on (experience) and determine if that is the direction she is going to want to go with after John is gone.”

Sjöberg also noted, “The school board has had a significant amount of discussion over the years that when the (Memorial and Washington) buildings were to be conjoined the

administrative status would be looked at. Right now, the biggest reason that we have three administrators is in part because of the separation of the buildings. I feel that Ray and I were super transparent that this is something that the board would be looking at.”

The \$21.5 million school facility building and renovation project is scheduled to be completed for the start 2022-23 school year.

Board chair Marsnik emphasized the reduction in school administrators from three to two would be a money-saving move for ISD 696.

After the unanimous approval vote on the motion, Sjöberg clarified that any discussion on the topic of administrative staff reductions would include a vote by the full school board.

“Should we decide that is the angle we want to look at, obviously, that is a decision we would all make,” she said.

**Rock blasting**

The campus-wide Ely school renovation project hit another road block involving the installation of water pipes, storm runoff and sewer pipe infrastructure this summer.

“It ended up that we have to blast to get through the ledge rock,” Klarich told school board members Monday night. “We can’t just jack hammer that out.”

Blasting notices were sent to residents in the neighborhood around the school from SX Blasting that allowed individuals to have pre-blasting inspections done on their homes and follow-up inspections to document any property damage that would result in financial reimbursement.

“The blasting company will come in and take pictures of the property before and after the blasting in case there is potentially any damage that happens due to the reverberation of the blasting,” Klarich said. “They came through the school as well to take pictures.”

ISD 696 Facilities Manager Tim Leeson is taking the lead on the

unexpected development and latest construction delay that has plagued the renovation project since the start.

“For Kraus-Anderson and (project manager) Todd Erickson, this was new to him, too,” Klarich added.

“They were going to start last Thursday,” Leeson said. “Then they thought they could start today (Monday, July 11), but that didn’t happen either. They cannot transport nitroglycerine within a certain radius of thunderstorms. And also, if there is a certain amount of rain and moisture in the ground, that doesn’t do well with the nitroglycerine that they have to pack into the holes they drill. They need drier conditions and it doesn’t look great for this week either. If we get a couple of dry days, they can hopefully start blasting.”

According to a letter sent to property owners, “During the blasting and drilling process, you will experience noise and minor ground vibration. SX Blasting uses safe blasting practices and designs its blasts to minimize disruptions for those living in the vicinity of the blasting site. In addition, SX Blasting uses a seismograph to measure and monitor the ground vibration on every blast to ensure that each blast falls within the allowable levels designated by the federal government.”

The first rock blast was heard and felt by nearby residents of the school campus on Tuesday morning just after 9 a.m. Before each blast, three successive horn blasts sounded, followed immediately by a muffled rumbling sound, then another horn blast. “There are usually two blasts each day, weather permitting,” according to officials.

Leeson said the blasting would start on the west end of campus near the playground.

He also indicated that temporary water lines were installed last Friday.

“They did find a coupling out by the hydrant or up against the building,

stamped from 1905, that was pure lead,” Leeson said. “That is probably an indication of couplings on the whole run. Hopefully that will fix our lead (in the water) problem.”

**Other business**

In other business, the board:

- Approved a resolution establishing dates for filing affidavits of candidacy for the Nov. 8 general election and special election for the school board. The filing period for both elections begins on Tuesday, Aug. 2 and closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 16. The filing fee is \$2. Three seats, each for four-year terms are open for the general election. One seat for a two-year term is open for the special election.
- Heard from Klarich about the school locker room flooring decision to proceed with a composite material “that will save us about \$17,000 by going with an epoxy floor.” Keeping the planter in front of the elementary school and several trees will also result in a savings of about \$25,000, he added.
- Heard from Leeson that using an existing wall-mounted furnace unit

from the former boiler building for the Ice Arena locker room heating issue will be a temporary solution for the heating needs in that portion of the arena. “That should get us by for a year,” he said. A permanent heating solution for the locker room is still required.

- Approved a quote for office furniture in the new school addition building from Premier F&E for \$65,537.
- Approved Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) dues for 2022-2023 of \$1,693.
- Approved a managed services contract with Voltz, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, for \$3,000 per month.
- Approved a one-year Bus Maintenance Diesel Mechanic Agreement with Jeff Johnston that pays him \$30.90 per hour for 12 hours per week.
- Approved a letter from teacher Todd Hohenstein rescinding his extended leave of absence request.
- Approved an agreement with Vermilion Country School, Tower, for cooperative sports participation for football, hockey, volleyball, basketball, softball and track and field activities for the 2022-2023 school year.

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TUESDAY GROUP

# Rom offers updates and introductions

Highlights EA on mineral withdrawal, showcases the next generation of wilderness advocates

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Members of the Tuesday group received an update this week on efforts to head off copper-nickel mining near the Boundary Waters and met the next generation of potential advocates for wilderness protection.

Becky Rom, national chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, offered both the update and the introduction. She started with the June 23 release of the draft environmental analysis of the impact of a 20-year mining ban affecting about 225,000 acres upstream of the BWCAW. Rom appeared to struggle to hold up the weighty document, produced by the U.S. Forest Service.

Rom provided a one-page summary that highlights what the Environmental Assessment

identifies as risks of from copper-nickel mining within the watershed of the wilderness. Those risks include:

- Mining of sulfide-bearing ore poses risks because of contamination resulting from accidents, spills and failures of technology that could last centuries or longer.
- 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.
- Wilderness qualities and values and the recreation experience would be degraded.
- The low-income population of the three-county Boundary Waters region and the Indigenous community would bear the great-

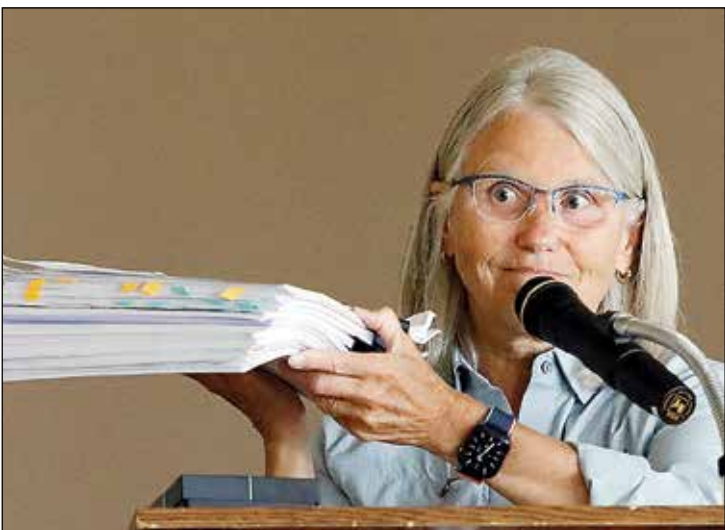
**Right: Becky Rom displays the hundreds of pages included in the recent draft EA on the proposed mineral withdrawal affecting a portion of the Superior National Forest.**

photo by K. Vandervort

est risk of harm.

- 1854 Treaty resources, including wild rice, are likely to be adversely affected or permanently removed.
- Federally protected wildlife 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.

Rom also brought something else to the Tuesday Group gathering. Four young adults who represent the next generation of



those who will continue the battle to protect the wilderness from the risks of sulfide-ore copper mining spoke of their passion and love of the North Country and what they feel needs to continue to happen to keep the BWCAW what it has always been, a pristine million-acre wilderness for the next generation. And all the ones after that.

Joseph Goldstein, originally from Illinois, first visited the BWCAW with his family when

he was six years old.

“That was 15 years ago, and I’ve been up here every year since then,” he said. He has worked in Ely for the past six summers guiding and outfitting canoe trips into the wilderness with Ely Outfitting Co.

“About nine years ago I became aware of the (sulfide) mining issue and decided I wanted to get involved to save the

See TUESDAY...pg. 2B



BUSINESS

# TOY STORY

An Ely original, reopens for business after extended closure

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Legacy Toys store here reopened recently and a celebration was held last Saturday. Founded here in 2012, the company says it’s “devoted to helping kids and their families ignite their imagination through exploration and play.”

“Due to difficult circumstances beyond our control, our store here went through a change in hands and management last year,” Legacy Toys Chief Operating Officer Peter Cpin said. “However, earlier this year, the Legacy Toys company had the opportunity to bring the Ely location back into our family of toy stores.

He said the company offers a “unique experience” at each of its locations, with “one-of-a-kind displays and activities that are sure to entertain.”

After the first couple of years located just in Ely, Legacy Toys expanded to a Duluth location.

About a year later, the Duluth location was expanded, then a location was added in Fargo, according to Cpin.

“Two years later, we branched into the Twin Cities, with the original plan of opening a location in the Mall of America,” he said.

At this time, another established toy store chain in the Twin Cities, Creative KidStuff, ceased operations.

“We were presented with opportunities we hadn’t really planned for, and we wanted to step in and fill the gap so we took on two additional locations, in Minnetonka and Edina, before we opened in the Mall of America. It turned into a whirlwind of openings down there.”

Meanwhile, the original Ely location closed temporarily.

“We got back in there this spring with the idea to revive it and bring it back to life,” Cpin said. “We have been hard at work fixing up the store and bringing it back to life with the original fun we started with. This includes a

**Above: Families with kids were busy shopping at Legacy Toys on Saturday during the store’s grand re-opening.**

**Right: Pikachu was outside the store on Saturday, attracting attention from passersby.**

**Lower right: Kids quickly headed for the jelly beans.**

photos by K. Vandervort

full remodel of the store with new fixtures, a new Legacy Littles section, more toys and we even brought back our huge fresh water aquarium.”

As with every other brick and mortar business, the COVID-19 pandemic had a big impact on the educational toy business.

“All of our stores were closed down for a couple of months as mall and shopping areas shut down for public health safety,” he said. “We had just opened our Mall of America location and had literally just gotten our feet



wet there.”

Legacy Toys focused on their online business.

“And that went crazy,” Cpin said. “We sold many puzzles and educational games and things to keep kids busy and learning while they were at home. It was enough to keep us afloat. As malls re-opened, our visitors returned, too.”

Legacy Toys still enjoys a brisk online business (www.legacytoys.com). “We’re not a normal toy store. We want kids to come into our stores and

touch and feel and explore and ignite their imagination,” Cpin said. “We offer a whole different experience that you just can’t get online.

Toy fans can visit Legacy Toys at any of their six locations, in Ely, Duluth, Fargo, Minnetonka, Bloomington and Edina. “We will soon have a seventh location, but we are not quite ready to announce our new location,” Cpin said. “I can say it will be north of the metro area.”

Service availability depends upon location. Past performance is no guarantee of future capital credit returns. Capital credits are distributed when economically feasible as determined by the cooperative's member-elected Board of Directors. Some restrictions may apply.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Timothy Warpula

Timothy A. Warpula passed away on July 9, 2022. Tim was born in Aitkin in 1961 and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Babbitt in 1980. In Tim’s honor, a Celebration of Life will be held on July 23, 2022, at the Hide-a-way Bar in Babbitt, from 2 – 5 p.m. The celebration will include a potluck luncheon and a cash bar. Tim loved Harley’s, and to honor that memory, Tim will take his final ride at 5 p.m.

Wearing many hats throughout his life, Tim worked in construction and maintenance for Gruhn Backhoe and Tiling and Fortune Bay Resort and Casino. Most recently, Tim enjoyed working with Lori at Bullseye Cleaning and was very proud of their work and the number of people in need they could help.

Tim is survived by his wife Lora (Cornwell) Warpula, parents Alvin and Carol(Grandahl) Warpula, sister Cindy Warpula, brother-in-law Glen, daughter Jennifer (Jeff) Sanders, step-son Davis (Jess) Cornwell, and a very special furry friend named Rascal. Tim also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews who lovingly referred to him as “Uncle T” and countless other family and friends.

Douglas W. Padgett

Douglas William Padgett, 87, of Virginia, formerly of Tower-Soudan, Cloquet and Lake Vermilion, died of COVID complications on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at Edgewood Senior Living in Virginia. Doug had been a member of the famed Flying Finns track team of Embarrass. The Padgett family wishes to thank the staff of Edgewood Senior Living and Caring Edge Hospice for their compassionate care and concern. A memorial service was held on Thursday, July 14 at Bauman-Cron Funeral Home in Virginia. Private inurnment was in the Waasa Cemetery in Embarrass. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Liz Stevens of Lake Vermilion and Virginia, Paul (Karen) Padgett of Cloquet and Ruth (Kevin) Boedigheimer of Cloquet; grandchildren, Zebulon Stevens, Sarah (Keith) Knudson, Hannah (Björn-Åge) Haugen, Jory Taft, Natalia Padgett, Leah Boedigheimer and Isaac Boedigheimer; 14

great-grandchildren; siblings, Charlotte Haavisto of Virginia and Gayle (Dave) Joki of Mt. Iron; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

John G. Hancock

John Gary Hancock, 75, of Virginia, died on Friday, July 8, 2022, at Essentia St. Mary’s Hospital in Duluth. Visitation will be held on Thursday, July 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Virginia Ward. Visitation will continue on Friday, July 15 from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral service at the church. Burial will take place in the Forbes Cemetery. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Susan Marie Takala Hancock; children, Jason (Julie) Hancock and their sons Logan and Landon of Angora, Heidi (Bill) Leigh and their children Alexander, Preston and Morgan of Forest Lake, Aaron (Jessica) Hancock and their children Ashley, Andrew, Ethan and Jacob of Loganville, Ga., Jared Hancock and his daughters Madelyn and Amelia of Fayal, William (Debbie) Hancock and their children Vincent and Keelin of Cornelius, N.C.; siblings, Janet (James) Churchtown, Jim (Debbie) Hancock, Jerry (Suzanne) Hancock, Jay (Heather) Hancock and Jeff (Cyndi) Hancock; brothers-in-law, Jon Koski

and Jack (Rhonda) Chiocci; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dorothy J. Budris

Dorothy Jewel Crawford Budris, 93, of Ely, passed away on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at Solvay House in Duluth. Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 14 at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely. Arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her daughters, Jana Su Planton (Suzie) and Amy (Terry) Soderberg; grandchildren, Alison (James) Richards, William (Katharine) Planton, Gail (Andy)

Guck and Jay Soderberg; great-grandchildren, Avery and Zoey Planton; step-great-grandchild, Bailey Potter; sister, Barb (Ron) Schulte; sister-in-law, Zelpha Crawford; many nieces and nephews; and special friend, Matt Smrekar.

David Oberg

David Oberg, 74, of Pike Township, passed away on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, in Chisholm. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his sons, Jeremy and Shane Oberg.

Celebration of Life  
Tim A. Warpula  
Saturday, July 23, 2022  
2:00-5:00 pm  
Hide-A-Way Bar in Babbitt, MN  
Potluck Luncheon and Cash Bar

\*\* Tim loved Harley’s and to honor that memory, please bring your bike and join us for Tim’s final ride at 5:00 pm.\*\*

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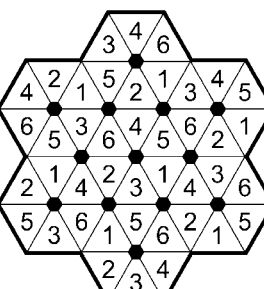
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1	8	6	2	9	5	7	4	3
2	6	1	4	5	8	3	9	7
9	7	8	3	1	2	6	5	4
3	4	5	9	7	6	1	8	2
8	1	2	6	4	3	5	7	9
7	5	4	1	8	9	2	3	6
6	3	9	5	2	7	4	1	8

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO  
THE SCHOOL BOARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 707  
NETT LAKE, STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 707 shall begin on August 2, 2022, and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 16, 2022.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. At that election, three members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each, and one member will be elected to fill vacancy in term expiring January 6, 2025.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, Nett Lake School, 13090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same primary or next ensuing general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 16, 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
Malita Spears, School District Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, July 15, 2022*

**Town of Embarrass  
Notice of Primary Election  
and  
Notice of Candidate Filing**

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of the Town of Embarrass, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota.

Primary election will be held Tuesday, August 9, 2022. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Embarrass Town Hall.

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk at the Clerk's Office located at the Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Road. Filing dates are from August 2, 2022, to August 16, 2022. The Clerk's Office hours are from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

The following Township Offices are to be filled in the November 2, 2022, Election:

**(Three) Board Supervisors and  
(One) Town Treasurer**  
➤ Supervisor Seat 1 -  
position is a four-year term.  
➤ Supervisor Seat 2 & 3 -  
positions are two-year terms  
➤ Town Treasurer -  
position is a four-year term

A two-dollar fee is required with each filing.

Filing for offices closes on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. (The Clerk's Office will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on August 16.)

Jennifer Boese, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, July 15, 2022*



# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## RAINY RIVER BASIN

### Feds to tour flood area as cleanup efforts intensify

County offers options for free sandbag and debris disposal for victims of historic flooding

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The great Rainy River Basin flood is now a thing of the past for folks on Crane Lake and Lake Kabetogama, as lake levels there are within the normal rule curve. Even so, recovery efforts for affected businesses and properties will be ongoing for quite some time.

Meanwhile, water levels at Rainy Lake are dropping, and were

down 30 inches this week since the record-breaking peak in June. Levels are expected to drop another 16-18 inches by Monday. That’s enough for the National Weather Service in Duluth to issue its final regular update on the flooding this past Monday with a word of caution.

“Rainy Lake will stay several feet above regulated levels over the next couple weeks, despite decreases, and widespread flooding and impacts to shoreline property may continue but

**Right: Flooding at Crane Lake back in June.**

impacts should lessen,” the update said. At the present rate of decline, Rainy Lake levels should return to regulated levels in early to mid-August.

**Disaster assistance**

Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Small Business

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



## POLLINATORS

### It’s a bee? It’s a hummingbird?

Sphinx moths can be confused with a bee or a bird, but it’s really just an interesting moth

One of the NorthCountry’s coolest family of insects is the one whose members are most likely to be mistaken for a bird. They’re called sphinx moths or hawk moths (family Sphingidae), which includes a number of related moths best known for their ability to hover in place as they feed on flowers, thanks to rapidly beating wings. As a rule, they’re a bit smaller than our ruby-throated hummingbird but they’re often mistaken for hummers. In fact, one of the species in the same family is called the hummingbird hawk moth.

They’re actually pretty common in our area. I ran into a bunch (flock?) of them recently while photographing orange hawkweed for our wildflower of the week on the hill on the north side of Tower. The one pictured here flew right up to the flower I was photographing, and I was able to snap several images with my iPhone.

I’ve tried capturing their images a number of times in the past, but they are a tough subject as they flit from flower to flower, often spending no more than a couple seconds in any one place. It’s definitely one of those subjects where it pays to be lucky rather than good.

This particular moth has a great name, it’s officially called a snowberry clearwing, but it’s

**Above and right: A snowberry clearwing, a species of sphinx moth, hovers over an orange hawkweed. The orangish-red spots on the tips of the otherwise clear wings are a reliable field mark for this species.**

photos by M. Helmberger

also commonly known as a bumblebee moth. It’s easily mistaken for a large bumblebee, given its yellow and black coloration and its habit of visiting flowers. But it can be told from a bumblebee by its larger size, its long curling flexible proboscis (a feature of butterflies and moths but not bees) and its long, club-like antennae.

You’re more likely to spot this species than others in the family, since many of the sphinx moths are night fliers and feeders. The fact that the snowberry clearwing has evolved as a bee mimic is a clue that it’s a daytime feeder, and its black and yellow patterning undoubtedly helps to keep potential sight-based predators guessing. They feed in mostly sunny locations, such as forest edges, streamsides, or overgrown fields with an abundance of wildflowers.

This species has two broods during the spring and summer. The first sphinx moths of the year emerge from the soil in the spring, having overwintered as pupae. They’ll lay their own



eggs shortly after emerging and that generation is the one you’re most likely to see active in midsummer. They prefer to lay their eggs on bush honeysuckle, which are abundant in our area, but also lay their eggs on blueberries and snowberries, which probably accounts for their name. Once hatched, the caterpillars feed on their host plant until they enter their cocoon stage. Their transformation from caterpillar to moth takes about three weeks.

The eggs laid in August hatch, grow, and the caterpillars burrow into the ground in the fall, where they spend the winter before emerging as moths in the spring.

So, the next time you spot what many folks often mistake for a “baby hummingbird,” take a closer look. You’ll probably find it’s a member of this interesting family of moths.

## Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower  
**WILD PARSNIP**



This is another non-native wildflower that has become increasingly evident, mostly along roadsides.

**Wild Parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa*,** is hard to miss in its flowering phase, as it often stands four feet high and produces tiny, bright yellow flowers arranged in sprawling umbels, often six inches across.

While the root of the plant is similar in taste and texture to a domestic parsnip, much care is needed if you’re planning to harvest any.

The plant juices contained within the stems and leaves are toxic and, combined with sunlight, can cause serious chemical burns or a rash.

The wild parsnip is what’s known as biennial, which means its first year is spent developing roots and leaves, and it typically only grows a few inches high its first year. It’s only in the second year that the plant produces flowers and seeds, before dying off.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

Walleye fishing continues to be good to excellent for many anglers this last week. Anglers continue to find walleyes in ten feet of water or less, in weedbeds. A slip bobber and a leech have been very effective for many, while others are pulling live bait rigs, tipped with a leech or crawler, on weedlines. A few anglers are also starting to report a good bite out on sunken islands now too. Out here it has been more lindy rigging and jigging raps.

Meanwhile, the topwater bite continues to go hot and heavy, for smallmouth. Whopper ploppers continue to be very hot! Soft plastic worms and Ned rigs have also been very effective. Large boulder flats, rocky points and downed trees are where you will want to fish, if you’re looking for smallies.

Rainbow trout have been very active on in area stream trout lakes. Anglers are seeing rainbows down at about 20 feet right now. They have been trolling cowbells, tipped with a small, bright colored minnow bait. Fishing a crawler 10-15 feet under a bobber has also been very effective.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors in Ely.

LIFE AT THE LAKE

# Gardening on “The Rock”

When I affectionately say that I live on “the rock,” I don’t think people realize that I seriously mean that there is an abundance of well, rock, and a real lack of soil. Anything resembling soil, dirt or sand must be hauled out to the rock. So, if you think that a flower garden over there might be nice or a home-grown tomato would really hit the spot, yup, you gotta haul dirt.

I have hauled all kinds of dirt, gravel and sand to the rock. Sometimes in buckets or bags in the boat, or on a good year, when you’ve got all your ducks in a row and the weather and ice conditions cooperate, you can have it hauled to your piece of the rock. When I decided to spruce up the yard and plant a garden, I decided to have a load of black dirt hauled to the boathouse and bring it over in buckets. Lots of buckets, many, many buckets! A friend of mine had a slightly larger boat than I did so he could haul three more buckets of dirt per load than I could. Lucky him, and the poor man is still my friend. I think in the end we hauled over 500 buckets of dirt at 17-20 buckets per boatload. But I got dirt!

I plant a small flower garden over my water line. I pretend that small amount of dirt insulates my nearly exposed water lines in the winter, but I know it doesn’t do much. But my rhubarb

plants like it there as do my irises and rose bushes. They come up early in that coveted soil because the water line is heated. I also plant my deer and critter resistant annuals in there. This year I only made five last trips to the greenhouse. The year before it was seven.

I also have a bucket garden. Thirty-two buckets of tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers.

A friend of mine who came to visit from farmland was unimpressed with my bucket garden and thought I should just start collecting soil from around the rock. I asked him how much he thought I could plant in 2 cups of soil? But the buckets do pretty well, and I am considering expanding to a few more vegetables next year. Maybe critter resistant beans or pumpkins.

One garden had to be abandoned after the first year because there was a serious lack of sunshine there. I will reclaim the dirt and add to the other gardens as time allows.

Lady V and living on the rock present a bit of a problem, but not an impossibility for gardening and treating that itch to have dirty fingernails in the spring. Its lovely to see growing things and colorful flowers out the windows and it sure is hard to beat fresh veggies. And the bonus is that Lady V holds off the frost just a little later in the fall. I think she likes the flowers, too.

## Fishing reports

### Kab-Nam area






This week on Kabetogama, the mayflies have started and the reef fishing has gotten a lot better! The majority of the reef fish caught right now are in 24-30’ using Lindys and leeches. Anglers are still finding lots of nice fish in 8-12 feet of water but only on days where the conditions are right. Wind, clouds or a combination of the two seem to make the difference. In shallow water, anglers have also done well pulling spinners and crawlers or small jigs and leeches.

Namakan fishing has

also picked up slightly the past week. Look for that to only get better in the coming weeks.

Courtesy of Gateway Store, Lake Kabetogama.

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
																								
80 59					84 59					86 61					87 64					83 60				
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.
07/04	79	47	0.32		07/04	78	47	1.12		07/04	76	48	0.01		07/04	70	61	0.00		07/04	72	52	0.47	
07/05	68	60	0.29		07/05	68	60	0.25		07/05	67	59	0.35		07/05	72	61	0.22		07/05	69	61	0.25	
07/06	71	49	0.01		07/06	71	49	0.01		07/06	70	54	0.01		07/06	75	48	0.01		07/06	72	45	0.00	
07/07	76	49	0.00		07/07	74	49	0.00		07/07	75	53	0.00		07/07	79	54	0.00		07/07	75	50	0.00	
07/08	81	53	0.00		07/08	80	53	0.00		07/08	79	54	0.00		07/08	79	52	0.00		07/08	79	49	0.00	
07/09	80	45	0.00		07/09	78	42	0.00		07/09	77	50	0.00		07/09	81	48	0.00		07/09	79	43	0.00	
07/10	80	49	0.00		07/10	80	61	0.00		07/10	80	50	0.00		07/10	79	64	0.00		07/10	80	61	0.00	
YTD Total			11.69		YTD Total			13.85		YTD Total			13.27		YTD Total		NA	NA		YTD Total			17.19	

## Outdoors briefly

### DNR deploying herbicide in Tower work area

REGIONAL—The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin herbicide applications on certain state lands in the Tower work area to prepare sites for reforestation. Applications on 98 areas across three sites began June 20 and will continue

through approximately July 30.

Herbicides are used to reduce vegetation that would compete with newly planted tree seedlings. This gives the tree seedlings a better chance to grow and survive.

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

The DNR plants trees on state lands to reforest harvested areas,

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

More information about how the DNR manages Minnesota’s forests can be found at [www.mndnr.gov/](http://www.mndnr.gov/)

## FLOODING...Continued from page 4B

Administration (SBA) will be visiting the area next week to see the damage caused by the historic flood firsthand and gather data to determine the availability of individual assistance or low-cost loans, said Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls. Toward that end, Ecklund encouraged those who haven’t yet done so to report property damage to St. Louis County Emergency Management.

Any property owners who sustained flood damage to their primary residence since April 22 are asked to complete an online damage assessment survey by no later than this Friday, July 15. The survey can be found online at [stlouiscountymn.gov/damageinfo](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/damageinfo).

The worst of the flooding during this time period occurred in the Rainy River/Rainy Lake Basin area, however flooding also affected areas on the Iron Range, Fredenberg Township and other locations. Property owners in those places with flood damage should also complete the survey.

Separate from any possible federal assistance, the survey information will also be reviewed by the St. Louis County Assessors Department as it works to determine possible property tax relief as part of its damage assessment process. That work is expected to be completed

by the end of July, but is contingent upon water levels being conducive to allow for proper field inspections.

### Sandbags and debris

Nearly 200,000 sandbags were filled in St. Louis County to combat the flood, and now that the waters have receded they need to be properly disposed of. Used sandbags are considered contaminated because of bacteria and other pathogens in flood water and should not be emptied out for use on beaches or in yards.

St. Louis County Public Works and contractors will provide free curbside pickup of used sandbags in the Crane Lake, Kabetogama and Ash River areas on four consecutive Wednesdays: July 27, Aug. 3, Aug. 10 and Aug. 17. Residents and private business owners should leave sandbags at the end of their driveway by these dates to be collected.

Property owners also have the option to haul bags themselves to established drop-off sites. These drop-off sites are for sandbags only, and include:

- Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Road, Kabetogama.
- Anderson Outfitters, 7255 Crane Lake Road, Crane Lake.
- Frontier Resort, 10141 Ash River Trail, Orr.


Anyone with questions about sandbag disposal options should

contact St. Louis County Emergency Management at 218-625-3960 or email [johnsond@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:johnsond@stlouiscountymn.gov).

Free disposal of sorted flood-related debris is available at three St. Louis County Environmental Services container sites during the week of July 25. The sites include:

- Ash River Canister Site, 11391 Ash River Trail. This site will be open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Kabetogama Lake Canister Site, 10280 Gamma Road. This site will be open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Portage Canister Site, 6992 Crane Lake Road. This site will be open Tuesday, 2-6 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, 1-5 p.m., and Sunday, 3-6 p.m.

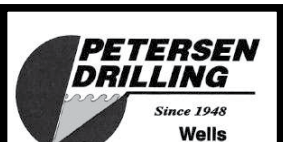
Any materials being dropped off must be separated into five categories: large appliances, electronics, household hazardous waste, demolition materials, and household garbage. For more information, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/garbage](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/garbage) or call 1-800-450-9278. The county is considering offering an additional week for free disposal of flood-damaged materials later this summer if there appears to be need.



**Ritchie Automatic**  
Livestock Waterers  
and Parts

**HIBBING**  
*FEED and SEED*

262-3049



**PETERSEN DRILLING**  
Since 1948  
Wells  
Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700  
Spring Park Rd.  
Mt. Iron, MN 55768



# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.



**CLEAN**

- ✓ Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
- ✓ Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving



**DRAIN**

- ✓ Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs – run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
- ✓ Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- ✓ Trash unused bait



**DRY**

- ✓ Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- ✓ (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

## STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!

LEARN MORE AT [CLEANDRAINDRY.ORG](http://CLEANDRAINDRY.ORG)



EMPLOYMENT

JOB OPENING • CITY OF ORR  
MAINTENANCE / PUBLIC  
WORKS ASSISTANT

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

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

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

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

Legal notices are online  
each week  
at timberjay.com

LOOKING FOR A JOB WITH SUMMERS OFF?  
AND SCHOOL BREAKS AND HOLIDAYS OFF?  
WHERE YOU WORK DURING SCHOOL HOURS?

These openings exist at  
**North East Range School in Babbitt:**  
➤ **Nutrition Employee I (Assistant Cook) M–F, 7–2:30**  
➤ **Nutrition Employee II (Cook Aide) M–F, 10–2**  
**Apply online at [www.isd2142.net](http://www.isd2142.net)**  
St. Louis County Schools ISD 2142 is an Equal Opportunity Employer 8/5

Need some extra cash?



Shamrock Landing on beautiful Lake Vermilion is looking for part-time help, 5-15 hours per week. You would be interacting with customers in the store, on the dock and helping with cabin cleaning.

Call us at 218-753-5457 for an interview!

7/15



PT School Cook  
Hours: 10:30 to 1:30  
Salary per VCS Salary  
Schedule

Duties:

- Preparation and serving of hot lunch
- Assist in menu development
- Assists with food production logs
- Lunch clean up of kitchen and equipment as required
- Must be able to use all kitchen equipment necessary for food preparation
- Good communication and customer service skills
- Ability to be self-directed with minimal supervision at times
- Ability to work with school staff and students

Open until filled

If interested in applying, please send letter of interest with a description of applicable experience to Mary McGrane, Director, at [mary.mcgrane@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:mary.mcgrane@vermilioncountry.org). Please call 218-753-1246 with questions.



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Hospital/ER

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

PT Unit Clerk/HUC

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

Dietary

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

Laboratory

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

Radiology

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

Activities

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

Care Center

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

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

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

Environmental Services

FT Laundry Aide

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

TO APPLY:

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

More Info? Contact Human Resources

**218-666-6220**

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

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

FILING NOTICE

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

- ❖ Beatty Township
- ❖ 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 8<sup>th</sup> & July 15<sup>th</sup>

EMPLOYMENT



Dental Assistant

Ely Family Dental is seeking a Dental Assistant to add to our family/team.

We are looking for a highly motivated professional that enjoys multi-tasking in a fast paced healthcare environment.

Duties include assisting the dentist during procedures and providing exemplary care to patients. Previous dental experience is desirable, but not required. An aptitude for learning, positive attitude and a strong work ethic are our priorities. This full-time position offers great benefits and competitive compensation!

Please send your resume to  
[cchoppdentistry@gmail.com](mailto:cchoppdentistry@gmail.com)



8/19

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.  
at the  
**Kugler Town Hall**  
**9072 MN-135**  
**Tower, MN 55790**

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

For further information contact:

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice to the Voters of  
Kugler Township

The following offices are open for election at the November 8, 2022 General Election. Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk by calling 218-248-0606. Filings are open beginning Tuesday, August 2 and ending on Tuesday, August 16, 2022. Hours on Tuesday, August 16 are between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, for the offices of:

One Supervisor C – (4) Four-year term  
One Treasurer – (4) Four-year term

Filing fee: \$2.00

Chris Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 15 & 22, 2022

CITY OF TOWER  
NOTICE

CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD

Notice is hereby given that the City of Tower will be accepting affidavits of candidacy at Tower City Hall during the filing period of August 2, 2022, to August 16, 2022, during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm. On the last day of the filing period, August 16, 2022, we will be open until 5:00 pm. The following seats are open for candidacy this election:

**GENERAL ELECTION**  
MAYOR, 4 Year Term  
Two CITY COUNCILORS, 4 Year Term

**SPECIAL ELECTION**  
One CITY COUNCILOR, 2 Year Term

The election for these positions will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Published in the Timberjay, July 15, 2022

Notice to the Voters of  
Bearville Township

The following offices are open for election at the November 8, 2022 General Election. Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk at 62949 County Road 557, telephone 218-376-4495 between the hours of 4:00pm and 9:00pm beginning Tuesday, August 2, 2022 and ending on Tuesday, August 16, 2022. Hours on Tuesday, August 16th are between 1:00pm and 5:00pm, for the offices of:

One Supervisor A – (4) Four-year term  
One Clerk – (4) Four-year term

Filing fee: \$2.00

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 15, 2022

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

AUTOMOTIVE

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair

Full Service  
Auto Repair & Garage

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

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Super Crossword and Snowflake puzzle answers on page 3B this week!

Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY! Call 218-753-2950



BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC



Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home

Superior Quality

- Plank Paneling
- Trim
- One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
- Industrial Lumber

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8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

WANTED

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

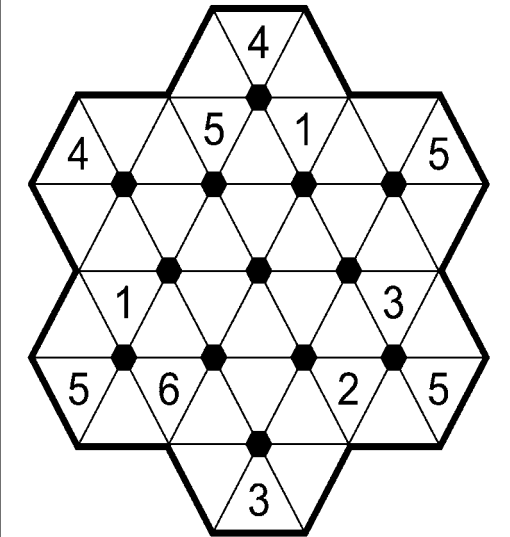
LOOKING TO BUY any SPORTS CARDS from the mid-80s and older such as football, baseball, basketball, and hockey. Please call or text Jason at 507-441-2403. 7/22

WANTED TO BUY- Home or Lakeshore in Tower / Lake Vermilion. I am looking for a home/cabin that may need some work, close to Tower. I will buy cash "as is". No inspection or cleaning necessary. Call or text Bryan if you might be interested in selling.(218) 269-1039. 7/22

Snowflakes

by Japheth Light

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



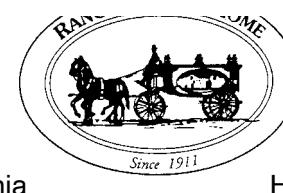
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



Virginia 741-1481

Hibbing 263-3276

Friends Helping Friends

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.

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

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

MARINE

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franksmarine@centurytel.net  
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

Handberg's MARINA

ALUMINUM BOATS • CRUISE YACHTS • YAMAHA • EVERGLADE • POLAR HART • GODFREY

Sales • Service Rentals General Store

218-993-2214  
www.handbergs.com

LOST

LOST CAT IN WINTON AREA- Orange with white paws and white belly. Name is Ringo. Reward offered. Call 314-630-1225. 7/15


MOCCASIN POINT MARINE


4655 Moccasin Point Rd Lake Vermilion

218-753-3319

Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales Mechanic on Duty

moccasinpointmarine.com





Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage Lease or Purchase Options Marina • Mechanic on Duty Convenience Store 24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457  
www.shamrocklanding.com

ARONSON BOAT WORKS

LAKE VERMILION, TOWER Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169

218-753-4190

Summer Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30 AM-5:30 PM Sat: 8:30-5, Sun: 9 AM-4 PM

MERCURY • LUND • HONDA • Evinrude • PROVEN

Storage • Complete Service • Sales

MARINE

TIMBUKTU MARINA ON LAKE VERMILION

218-666-2434

7401 Oak Narrows Rd - Cook MN

Cabin rentals

Year round boat storage and dockage

Boat and pontoon rental

Convenience store Gas, bait & liquor

timbuktumarina.com

TIMBUKTU MARINE LAKE VERMILION

218-666-2276

2475 Vermillion Dr - Cook MN

Ranger Boats

Premier Pontoon

WEERES

Boats

MERCURY


SUZUKI

YAMAHA

Sales, service, storage, boat lifts, docks, trailers and accessories

timbuktumarine.com

EMPLOYMENT



Information Specialist II- Planning (Virginia)

\$18.69-\$22.07 Hourly

Apply by 07/27/2022

Public Health Educator I– Community (Virginia) (Open)

\$25.78-\$31.32 Hourly• Apply by 07/19/2022

Heavy Equipment Mechanic

\$23.90 Hourly • Continuous

Public Health Educator I (2) (Nutrition)

\$25.78-\$31.32 Hourly • Apply by 07/26/2022

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 7/15

Super Crossword TB LISTINGS

ACROSS

1 Affliction

7 Really shout

13 Wine vessels

20 One of the Nixon daughters

21 — Vision (eye care chain)

22 Weird sort

23 Serious crime

24 Carol about holiday cheese?

26 Strip of weapons

27 "... or — thought"

28 Look as if

29 Trickle out

30 Guy who can do any interweaving style?

35 Ribeye, e.g.

36 Particular mag. edition

37 Writer Anaïs

38 With 60-Down, BB gun

39 Sorority "T"

41 "This tastes way better than coffee, tea or ale"?

50 Toon pics

53 Suffix with southwest

54 Spring month

55 Comfortable

56 Czar who was not inordinately cruel?

62 "Look!, in Latin

63 Person being examined

64 "What kind of fool —?"

65 Set sail

68 122-Down officer: Abbr.

69 Doughnut filling that's an exchanged commodity?

74 Wane

77 Easily available

79 Petri dish site

80 Got totally used up

82 Tennis great Nastase

84 Politician Gary propping himself up against something?

89 Actress Helena — Carter

92 Verdi's "— tu"

93 Prefix with chic or resort

94 2010 Apple debut

95 Enigmatic clodhopper casting spells?

101 Bride's vow

102 Wye follower

103 List-curtailling abbr.

104 Anna of fashion

107 Light lunch, maybe

111 People purchasing decorative rolling car parts?

117 Israeli carrier

118 Touch on

119 Talking- — (lectures)

120 Canine cord

121 Tall fence surrounding a pugnacious dog?

126 Improvise

127 Forms a liking for

128 Brezhnev of Russia

129 Kazakhstan's capital, until 2019

130 "It finally makes sense"

131 "The Munsters" actress De Carlo

132 Less fresh

DOWN

1 Peak near Tokyo: Abbr.

2 Concert sites

3 Purple flowers

4 "Put — in it!"

5 Dandie — (dog breed)

6 "Hurray!"

7 Tape holder

8 Filmdom's — B. DeMille

9 "Hurray!"

10 Be off-base

11 Boxer Laila

12 Soccer star Lionel

13 Shows up for

14 Actor Sandler

15 Aves.

16 Main monk

17 Denmark's — Islands

18 Fictional Doodittle

19 Streamlined

25 Poet Hughes

27 South Carolina river

31 Hi- — (stereos)

32 Tote or duffel

33 "— Bravo"

34 Nice scent

35 Hard fat

40 Atty.'s org.

41 Has no life

42 Eye, to poets

43 An hour past midnight

44 Pat lightly

45 President after Harrison

46 Ale relative

47 Incurred a lot of, as debt

48 Key on a PC

49 Tiny

50 Quote

51 In a dead heat

52 Roping in

57 High- —

58 Ares' mother

59 Livy's "I love"

60 See 38-Across

61 Pro at CPR

66 Polar hazard

67 Bedouin, e.g.

70 Doc who may scrape wax

71 "Abou Ben —" (Leigh Hunt poem)

72 Sheep cry

73 "Li" guy

75 La — Tar Pits

76 Longtime senator Robert

78 Soda brand

81 Depilatory brand

82 "Big Blue"

83 Mauna —

85 Suffix with cook or trick

86 "Totentanz" composer Franz

87 Acutely cold

88 Coveted annual prizes

90 Part of DNA

91 Irate

96 Illegal punch

97 One of 18 on a course

98 "So icky!"

99 Gambling site, for short

100 Optometrist, old-style

104 Action hero Steven

105 Like grizzlies and kodiaks

106 Hoffman/Beatty film

107 Three more than quadri-

108 Fake name

109 Hanukkah potato treat

110 Pulitzer winner Edward

112 Central point

113 Milan's land

114 Had a meal at home

115 One-named singer of "Royals"

116 Gossipy type

118 Choir female

122 Adm.'s milieu

123 Charge (up)

124 Aussie leaper

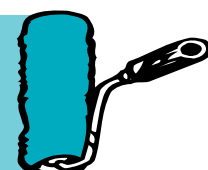
125 Resting place

126 Had life

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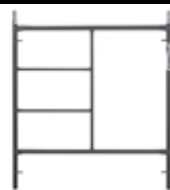
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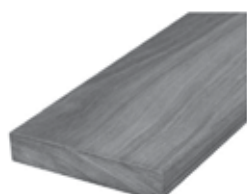
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