

Blueberry/Art Festival

July 29, 30, 31

Whiteside Park, Ely

Fri & Sat 10 AM-6 PM, Sun 10 AM-4 PM

Festival map and vendor list inside...

BROADBAND

High-speed internet finally reaching the North Country

Midco making \$500 million upgrade investment in network

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— After years of frustration over the lack of high-speed internet at the end of the road, the evidence of a solution is everywhere these days. And it’s all coming to nearby Tower and Soudan next year.

“We’re seeing a lot of construction activity,” said Ely Clerk-TreasurerHarold Langowski. “They’re drill-

Midco crews in Ely installed high-speed internet lines in Ely this week. photo by K. Vandervort

ing holes and hanging line all over these days.”

The work crews are in town via Sioux Falls-

based Midco, who has long been the cable pro-

See...FIBER pg. 11



NETT LAKE

Bear visits raise concerns

Shute feeding seven days a week but bears have more natural options

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- After last summer’s severe drought, there are likely no creatures happier to see this year’s bumper crop of berries than the black bears who count them among their favorite foods.

When the berries are good, the bears typically behave themselves, spending their time foraging in the woods rather than raiding bird feeders and garbage cans. Indeed, bear complaints are down markedly this year, according to Jessica Holmes, the DNR area wildlife manager in Tower.

But that hasn’t been universal in the area.

Bear sightings have been a cause of concern for some at Nett Lake this

See... BEARS pg. 11

A black bear was recently spotted foraging for berries and other treats along the road near Orr. photo by D. Colburn

CITY OF ELY

Employee faces assault allegations

City Hall incident involved construction worker and building inspector

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – A city of Ely employee was placed on paid leave last week while an investigation continues into an alleged physical assault at the Ely City Hall that put a local construction worker in the hospital.

According to Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, the Ely Police Department responded to a 911 dispatch to City Hall at about 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20, that involved a city employee, David Huberty, who also works in the city’s building office.

The emergency call was made by a local construction worker, Tanner Smuda, following what he says was a physical altercation outside the building official’s second floor office.

“Because the incident involved a city employee, the police chief called on the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department to investigate,” Langowski said. “Following their investigation, the city will conduct an internal investigation. The employee was placed on paid administrative leave pending the disposition of our investigation. That is the only comment I can make at this time.”

See...ELY pg. 10

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Communities on edge over policing at Voyageurs National Park

Tasing incident adds to concerns that businesses could suffer

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

V O Y A G E U R S NATIONAL PARK- An alleged tasing incident involving an Ash River houseboat

As Voyageurs National Park Facilities Supervisor Seth Nelson looks on, Park Superintendent Bob DeGross responds to a comment at a public forum in Crane Lake last week. photo by D. Colburn

rental operator and reports of overzealous law enforcement here by the park’s protection rangers have area business operators concerned that those actions are creating an atmosphere that will drive

away future customers unless something is done quickly to remedy the situation.

That was the message nearly two dozen Crane Lake resort owners, associated businesspeople and citizens had for VNP Superintendent Bob DeGross last week at a July 21 public forum at the Crane Lake Chapel, the last in a series of four such meetings

hosted by DeGross to gather input from people in gateway communities on flood operations and other issues related to the park.

After hearing opening statements from DeGross about the flood situation, it was clear that the Crane Lake meeting attendees were far

See...VNP pg. 10



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Community notices

Bio-Blitz 2022 happening in the Sax-Zim Bog Saturday, August 6



Attendees of the 10th annual event will get the chance to learn with natural science experts at the Sax-Zim Bog.

REGIONAL - Nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited to join experts in their fields for day-long field trips. The goal is to collect information about the biodiversity in the greater Sax-Zim Bog. Field trip options include emphasis on insects, spiders, butterflies, birds, plants, galls, moths, aquatic species, and fungi. There will also be a designated family friendly trip. Participants will meet at the Friends of Sax-Zim Bog Welcome Center at 8793 Owl Ave. in Toivola MN at 9 a.m. Saturday, August 6. Participants will choose their field trip and spend the day learning, exploring, and documenting what they find. The groups will gather back at the Welcome Center around 2 p.m. to discuss their discoveries and share their best finds. This event will take place outdoors. Expect varied weather conditions, biting insects (which will be documented), and walking over uneven terrain. People who are interested in volunteering to be a part of the field trip groups are encouraged to register through the website saxzim.org. There is no cost to participate in this event.

Ride, Raffle and Roll for ALS rides for seventh year on Aug. 20

EMBARRASS - The Seventh Annual Ride, Raffle ‘n Roll for ALS takes place Saturday, Aug. 20 starting at the Timber Hall in Embarrass. The day’s events begin with breakfast from 8-10 a.m.; breakfast is \$5 and open to the public. Other events include a 50/50 raffle, lunch, games, quilt raffle, and rider raffle. Registration is \$20 per person from 8:30 – 10:15 a.m. and kickstands up at 10:30.a.m. Proceeds from the ride benefit Never Surrender Inc. ride funding the fight against ALS through the 2023 Black Woods Blizzard Tour. For more information text Travis Erickson at 218-780-8944 or Aaron Wright at 218-280-4286 or visit www.neversurrenderinc.org.

Sons of Norway host annual family picnic on Sunday, Aug. 7

VIRGINIA - Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 will hold their annual family picnic at the Italian American Building in Olcott Park at noon on Sunday, Aug. 7. Beverages and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to share along with a serving utensil. Serving committee: Art Lee and Sharon Crep. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is welcome to attend.

EMBARRASS

The Alaspa Bunch wins Red Bear wiffleball tournament on July 16

EMBARRASS - The fourteenth annual Red Bear Wiffleball Tournament was held at the Marlin Bjornrud home in Embarrass on July 16. Six teams from Embarrass, Tower, International Falls, Bemidji, and St. Francis played all day, hoping to win the coveted travelling trophy. Team names included “The Potatoes”, “Mamas and Papas”, “Good Guys”, and “Wiffersnappers.”

At the end of the day, the championship game featured two Embarrass teams; “The Alaspa Bunch” and the “Mamas and Papas.” The “Alaspa Bunch” won in convincing fashion and took home the trophy.



The Alaspa Bunch from Embarrass beat out another Embarrass team in the championship game to take home top honors in this year's Red Bear Wiffleball tournament.

THEATER

MMT announces musical auditions

VIRGINIA — Auditions will be held for Mesabi Musical Theatre’s (MMT) fall dinner theatre production of *Forever Plaid* on Monday, August 15 and Tuesday, August 16 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 1111 8th St. S., in Virginia.

Publisher Musical Theater International states, “Once upon a time, there were four guys (Sparky, Smudge, Jinx, and Frankie) who discovered that they shared a love for music and then got together to become their idols—The Four Freshman, The Hi-Lo’s and The Crew Cuts. Rehearsing in the basement of Smudge’s family’s plumbing supply company, they became ‘Forever Plaid.’ On the way to their first big gig, the ‘Plaids’ are broadsided by a school bus and killed instantly. It is at the moment when their careers and lives end that the story of *Forever Plaid* begins...”

“Singing in close harmony, squabbling boyishly over the smallest intonations and executing their charmingly outlandish choreography with overzealous precision, the ‘Plaids’ are a guaranteed smash,



with a program of beloved songs and delightful patter that keeps audiences rolling in the aisles when they’re not humming along to some of the great nostalgic pop hits of the 1950s.”

The show’s songs include “Three Coins in the Fountain,” “Moments to Remember,” “Sixteen Tons,” “Heart and Soul,” and “Love is a Many Splendored Thing.”

“This music is of another era, yet Sparky, Smudge, Jinx, and Frankie are endearing to audience members of all ages,” said director Tucker Nelson. “The four young men never amounted to much in life, so during their first—and last—con-

cert, their enthusiasm for performing shines through. The audience will find humor in *Forever Plaid*’s dialogue and choreography while being charmed by the quartet’s earnestness and zeal.”

Roles are available for four men ages 16–30. Singing and acting auditions begin at 6 p.m. both nights. Those wanting to audition may attend on whichever night they prefer and should expect to be at the audition for about an hour and a half. A list of scheduling conflicts is requested for dates between August 18 – November 13. Email mesabi-musical@gmail.com with any questions.

The cast will be announced Wednesday, August 17 on MMT’s website and social media accounts. The first read-through will be held Thursday, August 18 at 6 p.m. Rehearsals will be held weekday evenings in Virginia.

RODEO

Effie to hold 67th Annual North Star Stampede July 29-31

EFFIE -Cowboys and girls of all ages are invited to Effie to attend the 67th Annual North Star Stampede. The rodeo begins Friday July 29 and runs through Sunday July 31. All the familiar fan favorites like saddle and bareback bronc riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, and barrel racing will be on display at the country’s longest-running family-operated

rodeo held continuously in the same arena. This year’s rodeo also features a new event, ranch bronc riding.

Single session tickets for performances at 5 p.m. Friday, July 29 and 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, July 31 are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children ages 6-13, and three-day passes are available at discounted prices of \$45 for adults and

\$20 for children.

Folks with three-day passes also have the option of grabbing a spot in the campground, provided each person occupying a campsite has one. Those who can’t make the main event on the weekend can still enjoy timed events like roping and barrel racing by attending slack day on Thursday, July 28.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Ojibwe expert mesmerizes with history of timber on the Range

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- This summer’s Northern Lights Music Festival in Virginia featured a successful wrinkle from last year’s festival that’s surely not duplicated in any other similar music event—a lecture series on Iron Range history.

However, it seems to be a perfect match for the talents of Bemidji State University professor and noted Ojibwe scholar Dr. Anton Treuer, who delivered a virtuoso performance of “Native Americans and Logging the Northwoods: An Indigenous History” on July 18 at the B’nai Abraham Cultural Center.

Treuer is one of those rare presenters of history who seemingly inhabits past, present, and future almost simultaneously, moving effortlessly across the centuries from the Ice Age to his own hopes for a better future, deftly connecting the dots along the way about how the past informs our understanding of the present.

Treuer draws his information from an increasingly diverse number of fields that once were largely separate from history but are now integral to it.

“We now have disciplines that we thought would have nothing to say about things like who got here, when, and how that are contributing all kinds of information,” he said. “Genomic mapping has just yielded all kinds of information about what humans ate, how it affected their bodies, the movement of peoples, how they’ve been disconnected from one another. Anything you have read that’s ten years old or older is way off today. And that would include stuff that I was writing back in the day.”

Treuer began his lecture talking about the geological and ecological changes over time in northern Minnesota, and how the Ojibwe people who migrated here adapted to the environmental changes and available resources.

“As the topography shifted, people had to change their cultures,” Treuer said. “And as new

technologies or understandings emerged, or even ways to structure societies, then people started to change and adapt.”

The introduction of Europeans to the Americas put into play a dramatic shift in the lives of indigenous people, and that was surely the case when they came to take the land inhabited by the Ojibwe.

“When they came to north-eastern Minnesota, they looked at the big stands of virgin pine forest and they thought, ‘Wow, look at all the money that grows in the trees,’ Treuer said. “By the time you get into the logging you’ve got a huge shift going on in human populations and economic conditions in America that changed everything here, and it would happen very, very quickly. The very first Ojibwe land cession in Minnesota doesn’t happen until 1837, and that’s not so long ago.”

While the Ojibwe ceded more land to the U.S. government in 1854 and 1866, their understanding of the transactions was quite different from that of simply



Anton Treuer

handing it over to someone else.

“The initial treaties like the 1854 Treaty have very clear language. Native people are saying, ‘Hey, we’re willing to change the status of some of our land to shared use. But we are not extinguishing our right to use any of our land. And, so, all these clauses in the treaties that say that natives

retain the right to hunt, fish, gather the wild rice, clearly the Native people were saying, ‘We can just stay here and we need to do life how we’ve been doing it.’ So even framing it as the Native sold the land is not quite accurate. Native people understood there would be a shared use, not an extinguishment of their rights.”

The post-Civil War era brought more huge shifts in land rights as homesteading accelerated and the government established an allotment policy to trim the 155 million acres of Native land inside reservations to only 50 million acres, opening up the rest to wider settlement. In northeastern Minnesota, that gave the growing timber industry access to more forest to harvest.

“All of that was ongoing in the very late 1800s and early 1900s,” Treuer said. “The timber boom was crazy. At one point, nine of the ten largest timber mills in the world were in Minnesota. It was a huge business and it

See TREUER...pg. 5

ONGOING CONCERNS

Northshore shutdown extended to next April

Without legislative intervention, workers’ unemployment will fun out this fall

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The uncertainty surrounding the future of Northshore Mining taconite mining and processing operations in Babbitt and Silver Bay was magnified last week when parent company Cleveland Cliffs announced that it was extending the current shutdown of the facilities that began in May.

Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves said that with the increasing use of scrap metal at its steel making facilities, “the pellets from Northshore are not needed at this time.”

“We are extending the ongoing idle at our Northshore swing facility until at least April of next year,” Goncalves said during an investors’ earnings call on July 22.

About 400 of Northshore’s 580 employees were laid off when the facilities were idled in May, and Babbitt Mayor Andrea

Zupancich said Monday that there will likely be more due to the extended shutdown.

“This hits everyone really hard right now because it was extended before the layoff was even close to being done,” Zupancich said. “And it’s a possibility it could be extended again, so there’s just a lot of unknowns.”

Cleveland Cliffs has been working to transfer some employees to other facilities, such as Minorca in Virginia, Zupancich said, but others have started to re-evaluate their future.

“There are 20 workers that have families that started within the last two years and they’re weighing their options now,” Zupancich said. “Everyone knows it’s happened before, not to say that that makes it ideal or acceptable. But this one just feels a little bit different.”

District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, noted that with Cleveland

Cliffs now relying more heavily on scrap metal rather than taconite pellets for its steel manufacturing needs, this could be a signal of things to come.

“With Cliffs getting out of the commodity pellet business and just supplying their own pellets, this may be something that we see going on down the road where these plants will be run as needed, at least until the scrap metal prices go high enough where it’s cheaper to use pellets,” Ecklund said. “When you’re dealing with world economies and world commodities that’s how things work.”

In his remarks to investors, Goncalves again highlighted his dissatisfaction with amount of royalty fees the company pays to the Mesabi Trust, holder of the mineral rights to the former Peter Mitchell mine in Babbitt, citing that as a reason to extend the shutdown.

“Rather than deplete this

finite resource for the benefit of the Mesabi Trust ... we’ll keep Northshore idle until we decide otherwise,” he said.

Ecklund said that the first closure announcement, he has tried to arrange a meeting involving Gov. Tim Walz and Cliffs and Mesabi Trust officials regarding the dispute but has gotten nowhere.

“The Mesabi Trust folks and (Goncalves) haven’t been willing to make an appointment to even chat about it,” Ecklund said. Both Zupancich and Ecklund noted that the Northshore shutdown will have a wider impact throughout the area by diminishing the revenue available to the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

“Commissioner (Mark) Phillips has done a terrific job on developing a budget that can absorb these cycles, but when you take one plant out of production that’s less revenue that we can use

in the rest of the region,” Ecklund said. “It’s going to make it tougher for the agency to provide its vital services.”

The immediate concern, however, is trying to get an extension of unemployment benefits for affected workers that will run out in fall.

“Their unemployment right now is not going to be extended unless there’s a special legislative session,” Zupancich said.”

The likelihood of a special legislative session appears remote, as Republican legislative leaders have not reached a deal with Walz and the DFL for one, but Ecklund hasn’t given up hope yet that middle ground can be found.

“I’m doing everything I can to get us back into session and get these extensions ironed out,” he said. “I’ve got a bill drafted and ready to go, so we’ll be ready as soon as a special session is called.”

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

The future of news

Minnesotans still rely on newspapers as their most trusted source of local information

Newspapers around Minnesota have been making a point in recent days, and we’re joining that chorus in a full-page advertisement that appears in this week’s edition. At a time when so much has been written about the imminent demise of newspapers, a recent statewide survey in Minnesota found that the vast majority of Minnesotans still regularly rely on newspapers, either in print or digital, to stay informed about their community.

We suspect that the percentage of regular newspaper readers is even higher in small towns and rural parts of the state, where residents are more community-focused than in larger cities. Despite all the changes in how we access information today, most newspapers still remain the most credible source of local news and information.

At the same time, we’ve reported regularly over the past few years about the closure of some longstanding newspapers in our region. Newspapers in Two Harbors, International Falls, Hibbing, Warroad, and Chisholm have disappeared, while the *Duluth News-Tribune* has gone from daily to twice-weekly.

There’s no question that the industry is in trouble, in large part because the basic business model of newspapers—which dates back to the mid-1800s—has all but collapsed for many papers in the Internet age. Yet, we know from the feedback we receive every day that residents in our region rely on, and look forward to, the arrival of the *Timberjay* each week. And because so many area residents continue to rely on this newspaper, business owners continue to recognize the value of advertising here, both in print and on our very active website.

In a very real sense, the traditional newspaper business model can still work, when newspapers make the commitment to quality news coverage. That was the message that *Timberjay* Publisher Marshall Helmberger brought last month to the National Summit on Journalism in Rural America, where he was a featured speaker. The event, sponsored by the University of Kentucky-based Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, brought about 50 invited guests together just outside Lexington to discuss the challenges that print journalism faces today and to highlight some of the ideas that are helping newspapers remain successful in today’s challenging environment.

Helmberger, and other speakers at the summit, talked about the many ways they had worked to build and maintain

their newspaper’s relevance to their communities. Newspapers that are engaged in their communities and that go beyond mundane reporting and reliance on press releases, are maintaining readership and advertising.

One key factor that helps newspapers maintain success is independence. Attendees at the recent summit were well aware of how profit-focused corporations were playing a major role in the demise of many papers. Too many newspapers have vanished as a result of a predictable downward spiral. Corporate vultures, like Alden Capital, swoop in as new owners and they quickly gut the newsroom in order to wring more short-term profits from the business. But as the newspaper’s coverage declines along with the number of reporters, readers lose interest and subscriptions dry up. Then the advertising follows suit and as the profits fizzle, the corporate owner shuts it all down, selling off the equipment and real estate to squeeze the last few bucks out of the deal. The impact on the employees and on the communities that have now lost their only reliable source of local news isn’t even part of the equation. It’s just about money.

This same process has left communities across our region and around the country without sources of local news—and that has consequences. Studies have shown that local officials in areas without regular news coverage are more likely to make questionable decisions. Taxes tend to be higher as well because the local watchdog died an ignominious death.

Our nation’s founders understood that accurate information was key to any form of successful self-government and it’s why they enshrined freedom of speech and of the press as the first order of business in the Bill of Rights. Thomas Jefferson viewed the press as just as important as the government in that it made it possible for voters to make informed choices about who would lead them.

While the internet these days is full of “information,” much of it is nonsense, generated by bad actors and bots to manipulate the gullible. Smart users of the internet know that when they want credible information online, they turn to newspaper websites. Despite the changes in the industry, Minnesotans still trust newspapers, whether in print or online, to deliver them the news they need to be effective, contributing members of their communities. Newspapers that live up to that trust still have a viable future here.



Letters from Readers

Rep. Ecklund has been there for schools

As a community, we have a big responsibility to educate our children and prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow. We also have a responsibility to do so without undue burden on our local property taxpayers. As a board member of the St. Louis County Schools, I try to balance these competing needs.

What has been most helpful is that the state of Minnesota has stepped up and provided increased aid to local school districts like ours. I credit this to the local leadership our schools have received from state Rep. Rob Ecklund. Rob has always worked to achieve adequate funding for our schools—from increased per pupil aid to support for innovative programs from our local development agency, the IRRRB. In fact, taconite taxes, the IRRRB, and its school fund have provided needed property tax relief for our residents while giving our schools the funding necessary to provide students with a good education.

I would encourage you this fall to support Rob Ecklund for state representative. He’s been a proven and trustworthy friend of education and taxpayers.

Dan Manick
St. Louis County
School Board Member
Cook

Stauber has violated his oath of office

Pete Stauber swore an oath to “protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” Pete Stauber broke that oath when he supported Trump’s big lie, claiming that the election was stolen, when in fact there was no evidence to support that claim. Stauber was an enabler, purporting this mythical claim.

Every time he had an opportunity to uphold his oath

and repudiate that false claim, Stauber aligned himself with the conspiracy theorists, the coup plotters and the insurrectionists, all determined to overturn the results of the election. Stauber continued to repeat the false claims that the election had been stolen and even went so far as to join a bogus lawsuit filed by the Texas attorney general to invalidate the election that the Supreme Court dismissed as meritless.

Stauber voted against the January 6 Select Committee, a bi-partisan committee investigating the details of the attempted coup, the attack on our nation’s capitol with the intent of stopping the certification of the electoral votes. Stauber stood against all attempts to unveil the truth and voted against enforcing Congress’ investigative powers. He put his political allegiance ahead of his obligation to defend the Constitution.

Stauber’s dismissive attitude towards the work of the January 6 Select Committee is chilling. As truth and facts continue to surface, it is unforgivable for any member of Congress to deny the truth and reality of what happened on January 6. It was one of the most tragic cases of political violence to occur in this nation and all those who supported it or promoted the big lie must be held accountable. As more information and facts are disclosed, it is clear that any member of Congress who continues to dismiss or minimize the reality of what happened and how it happened should be disqualified from office.

“During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.” -George Orwell.

I want honest and truthful leaders. Therefore, I will vote for Jen Shultz, a breath of fresh air with the depth of knowledge, education, and honesty.

“Truth in the end shall prevail.” -Ulpion Fulwell
Ellie Larmouth
Tower

EMS study should be a valuable blueprint

I am very pleased that Greenwood Township has agreed to hire a consultant to study our existing EMS system and make suggestions for improvement. We are blessed to have a number of ambulance services that make up a part of our EMS system. They are all experiencing the reality of increased cost and low reimbursement. We cannot afford to waste this valuable resource. The consultant will help to identify improvements that will address the financial issue as well as show us a blueprint for long term improvements that can benefit our regional EMS system. Every one of us, not just Greenwood residents, can be the benefit receiver of Greenwoods commitment for this forward-looking engagement of a consultant.

Chuck Richards
Greenwood Township

We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

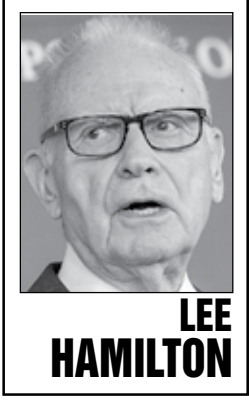
Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay*’s editorial page. We want to know what you think!

Remember what government can do

Here’s a question: When was the last time at least half of Americans said the government in Washington could be trusted to do the right thing all or most of the time?

It was right after 9/11, according to the Pew Research Center,



LEE HAMILTON

and that was really just a blip. Before that, you’d have to go back to the 1960s.

And after the 9/11 bump subsided? You won’t be surprised to hear that ever since the end of the George W. Bush administration, the percentage of those trusting government all or most of the time has been hovering in the low 20s or even the high teens.

This is not a good state of affairs. Trust is a bedrock requirement of democratic governance. When it’s gone, replaced

by suspicion and lack of confidence, our system cannot work. For representative democracy to function as it should, the public officials, politicians, and policy-makers who act in our name have to have the support of ordinary people—who can trust that our representatives will level with us without half-truths and that government can efficiently and effectively deliver the goods, services, and policy impact we expect.

There’s no question that over the past decades—starting with the Vietnam War and

Watergate—that faith has been put to the test. In many respects, Americans have taken a dimmer view of the effectiveness and relevance of government the more it has been hamstrung by partisan division just as they’ve been feeling left to their own in the face of economic and cultural dislocation. Globalization, the changes wrought by technology, skyrocketing income inequality, slow wage growth for working families, concern about hot-button social issues—all of this has ratcheted up a sense of loss of control. And that was before the

pandemic.

Yet despite all this, when I look around I’m reminded of just how much our government has accomplished—and how thoroughly it’s taken for granted by many Americans. People often question the value of government in their lives, even while depending on a monthly Social Security check, or driving on an interstate, or attending college thanks to a student loan, or going online, or relying on the overall safety of our food and medications, or

Letters from Readers

Help the UWNEMN fight child hunger in the North Country

Ah,summerinnorthern Minnesota! How remarkable, that each year warm, sunny weather replaces the frigid winters we endure. However, while there is much to enjoy this time of year, we at United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) also know that summer can be tough for many local families.

When school is out, families in need struggle even more with food insecurity. In addition to learning, schools are a place children can rely on

for food - both through free and reduced lunch and breakfast (nearly 50 percent of local students qualify) and through UWNEMN's Buddy Backpacks which are handed out at school each weekend and holiday break of the school year (1,000 local children are enrolled each year).

Six years ago, UWNEMN created the Meet Up and Chow Down free summer lunch program to fill this summer hunger gap. In the years since, we have expanded from one site to nine and have provided thousands of free summer lunches to children across our service territory.

This summer, with the help of an anonymous funder, UWNEMN is going

one step further in our fight against childhood hunger. At existing Meet Up and Chow Down sites, we are supplying kids not only with a fresh lunch Monday-Thursday each week, but every Thursday we also offer a "Summer Buddy Backpack" meal kit full of nonperishable, nutritious, child-friendly food items to eat over the weekend.

In addition, we are now operating summer food "pop-up" sites! For the remainder of the summer, meals and summer Buddy Backpacks kits will be given out to children on Mondays in Eveleth, Tuesdays in Gilbert, and Wednesdays in Keewatin. In our first week of these food distributions, UWNEMN staff

served nearly 40 children. One parent picking up meals for four children was especially grateful, thanking UWNEMN for providing the meals and Buddy Backpacks to take home, explaining that this summer has been very hard. Grocery prices continue to climb, proving that relief and assistance in the form of food for kids is critically important in our rural areas.

We've also added a new Meet Up and Chow Down site mid-summer in Cook. With the financial support of the anonymous donor, along with volunteer support from Scenic Rivers Health Services, Cook Hospital, Cook's Country Connection, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook,

and lunch preparation by Zup's, free lunch for children ages one year to 18 will be offered Monday-Thursday for the remainder of the summer at the Cook Public Library park.

Food is a basic need for us all and ensuring local children don't go hungry is one "food fight" I think we can all unite behind. To join UWNEMN's fight against childhood hunger, you can donate or sign up to volunteer at www.unitedwaynemn.org.

OR take part in the fight and take a chance to win cash by purchasing \$20 tickets for UWNEMN's \$10,000 Golf Ball Drop this month. One thousand tickets will be sold, which correspond with 1,000

numbered golf balls that will be hoisted above the putting green at Mesaba Country Club and dropped in two separate 500 golf ball lots on Aug. 17. If your ball lands in (or nearest) the hole, you will win big. Purchase tickets in one drop or both to increase your chances of winning! \$10,000 in cash prizes will be awarded, and all proceeds support Buddy Backpacks.

Get your tickets while supplies last by calling 218-295-2424 or emailing elizabeth@unitedwaynemn.org.

Mike Norton
2022-23 UWNEMN
Board President

CRIME

Former Ontario cop gets 10 years for Bois Forte child sex abuse case

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A former Ontario Provincial Police officer was sentenced to 10 years in prison last week in federal district court in Minnesota for sexually abusing two young girls while he was a guest at Fortune Bay Casino Resort in 2018.

Brady John Hillis, of Kenora, Ontario, previously pled guilty in January to two counts of abusive sexual contact with two girls, ages seven and nine, in the arcade and

pool areas of the resort on June 22, 2018. Hillis also stipulated in his plea agreement to inappropriately touching a third girl in the pool area, but he was not charged in that incident.

All three incidents, which occurred over the period of less than an hour, were captured on the resort's security cameras, according to court documents.

In the original indictment, Hillis was also charged with aggravated sexual abuse of a child under 12, a charge that carried a minimum prison sentence of 30-years to a maximum of life.

Prosecutors agreed to drop that charge in exchange for the guilty pleas on the abusive sexual contact charges.

U.S. District Court Judge John R. Tunheim ordered Hillis to serve ten years of supervised release after leaving prison and pay \$5,000 in restitution.

In a pre-sentencing filing with the court, defense attorney Arron Morrison had argued for a prison term of six-and-a-half years based on his admission of guilt, and for counseling he has received since being incarcerated.

"There is no justification for

what Mr. Hillis did in this case. Punishment is not just required, it is deserved," Morrison wrote. "Mr. Hillis did a horrible thing, but he is not a horrible person."

Under U.S. sentencing guidelines referenced in the January plea agreement, Hillis could have been sent to prison for up to 19-1/2 years and fined up to \$400,000. As the guidelines are advisory only, Judge Tunheim had full discretion to determine the final penalties.



Brady John Hillis

REMEMBER...Continued from page 4

escaping to a national park for vacation... You get the idea.

When many Americans think of the government's spending priorities, they imagine that outsized proportions of taxpayer dollars go to others—to foreign aid, say, or welfare. In fact, the biggest chunk of federal spending has traditionally gone to Social

Security, Medicare, and other programs for elderly Americans, surpassed recently only by the money for economic stimulus and family income support that kept the economy from crashing during the pandemic.

I'm not going to bore you with a long list of things the federal government has done well. But I do

want to say that it takes only a moment's thought to look back—at everything from the creation of the land-grant colleges to establishing the rules by which American businesses operate to Medicare and the civil rights legislation of the 1960s to, more recently, the Affordable Care Act, enabling the rapid development and approval of life-saving Covid vaccines,

and the continued safety provided by the world's strongest, most advanced military—to recognize the cornerstone role our government plays in shaping American life.

So yes, while government has its failings, it's also crucial to understand that it can be made to work effectively and fairly—and that we cannot address many of the challenges we

face as a nation without a government that has the public's confidence. The character, resourcefulness, and resilience of the American people have always been key to the nation's success, but so have key government initiatives that marshal our strengths, from good education to basic scientific and medical research to the physical and legal infra-

structure that undergird our economy.

In the end, there may be plenty of reason to worry about government's effectiveness, but government must also be part of the solution. Our charge as Americans is to ensure, through wise use of our votes and our voices, that it can be an effective force for meeting our challenges.

TREUER...Continued from page 3

fundamentally and permanently altered the landscape in many different ways."

Losing the ability to harvest anywhere in Minnesota created hard times for Native people, and many across the Iron Range turned to the timber industry for help.

"If you could get a job as a logger, that was a way that made it possible to make

ends meet," Treuer said. "It was part of adapting to their new circumstances and economy, so it wasn't all negative, but it was also complicated."


For example, timber produced by Minnesota mills was used to build Indian boarding schools designed for the purpose of eradicating Native culture.

"Timber sales are being

used to assimilate your children, while some of that money still transferred into other kinds of activities that would benefit tribal members," Treuer noted.

With each dose of timber-related history, attendees also got a related sidebar from Treuer about a diverse number of topics ranging from the intricate sophistication of Native cultures that

have been largely dismissed by Western culture to the need for society to find ways to pursue restorative justice. Each time he brought people back in some way to the topic at hand, in its own way Treuer's verbal representation of a sacred circle and the completion of another phrase in his symphony of knowledge.



the
TIMBERJAY

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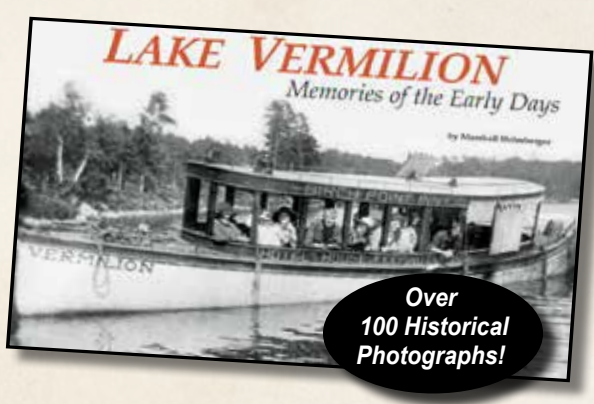
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Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay



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Week of Aug. 1

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 Aug. 16.

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

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

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

Fourth of July Donations
The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and families for their donations this year.
Donations are still needed and can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.
Thank you to:
Tower Zup's
Mary Ann Rot
Rolf & Laurie Anderson

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.



Fridays
4-6 PM
at the
Train Depot
in Tower

FIND SOME TREASURES

Sales galore in Tower-Soudan this weekend

Over 20 garage sales in Tower-Soudan on Saturday, July 30

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.

- Tower Garage Sale locations**

 - 6642 Highway 1 (just west of the Y Store on Hwy. 1)
 - 416 Pine St
 - 5616 Pine St
 - 707 Main St
 - 212 North Second St
 - 305 North Second St
 - 516 North Second St
 - 709 North Second St
 - 210 North Third St
 - 306 North Third St
 - 310 North Third St
 - 311 North Third St
 - 508 North Third St
- Soudan Garage Sale locations**

 - 16 Cedar St
 - 208 Cedar St
 - 39 Jasper St
 - 48 Jasper St
 - 25 South St
 - 19 Center St
 - 12 Third Ave
 - 15 Fifth Ave



Charlemagne's Attic Sale Friday & Saturday at the Historic Fire Hall on Main Street

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society's "Charlemagne's Attic Sale" is being held on Friday, July 29, and Saturday, July 30 at the historic fire hall at 504 Main Street in Tower. The two-day sale will feature donated antiques, unique, vintage, collectibles, artwork, cabin décor, and fun items for sale. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. All proceeds of the sale are dedicated to the Fire Hall ADA Restroom Project.

Named for mining financier Charlemagne Tower, who established Minnesota's first iron ore mine, the city of Tower is the oldest Minnesota city north of Duluth and became the first mining town on the Range in conjunction with its sister com-

munity, Soudan, directly adjoining the Soudan Mine. The fire hall played an important role in the region as the first fire station built on the Iron Range. The building was constructed in 1895 for multiple city purposes initially housing the fire department, city hall offices, and jail. It was used as a community center for social activities after 1935 and sold in the 1970s.

Preserving the Historic Fire Hall will bring back the story of early development of the Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion area. It is being transformed into a History and Education Center and will host the popular History Talks on Main Street series, a local art gallery and ethnic artisan retail outlet, and a community

gathering place for various vintage and pop-up events. The fire hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is being restored by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. The original doors and windows have been restored, roof replaced, and the exterior masonry rehabilitation project is underway this summer. Interior heating and masonry restoration are planned for 2024.

Donations are appreciated to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, Historic Fire Hall Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 465, Tower, MN 55790. TSHS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.

LIVE MUSIC

Free outdoor concert at the Marjo on Wednesday

TOWER- Kelly Kidd and his "2022 All-American Motel Tour" will be at the Marjo Motel in Tower on Wednesday, Aug. 3 for a free concert at 6 p.m.

Kelly Kidd with Mike Kindel will perform classic country songs you'll likely know and a few you wish you had known sooner. Everyone is invited to come and listen or sing-along to some acoustic country music.

The concert is sponsored by Marit and Orlyn Kringstad and the Marjo Motel. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and your own beverages and snacks. Parking is available at the Tower Harbor. Walk on the path that goes underneath the Hwy. 169 bridge to the Marjo. Parking is also available at the Your Boat Club marina.

In 2020 Kelly Kidd took a bold step amid the pandemic crisis and set out on a tour. With the conventional stages he normally played being closed at the



time, he reached out to motels, inns, ranches, and other independent hospitality venues between Los Angeles and Nashville and offered a live streaming show

that helped showcase their property during a very hard time.

The American Motel Tour was a success and Kidd has continued the tradition since playing at over

50 locations across the country.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Vacation Bible School in Tower, starting Monday, Aug. 1

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian and Immanuel Lutheran are hosting a joint Vacation Bible School the week of Aug. 1-5 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon each day. This year's theme is the tree of healing. We will explore healthy choices for mind, body and spirit. Games, snacks, Bible stories, international connections, crafts and more will make for a fun week. If you haven't preregistered, please arrive between 9 and 9:15 a.m. on Monday. All are welcome!

Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet Thursday, Aug. 4

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilt Guild will meet on the lower level of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower on Thursday, Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m. Those who are interested in attending the quilt retreat in Babbitt in October may register at the meeting. After the meeting, there will be a program about "Body Mechanics for Quilters" presented by Cheryl Anderson. Along with posture hints, members will learn techniques to avoid shoulder and neck pain when quilting. The show-and-tell theme for August is the color yellow. Visitors are welcome to attend.

Correction

Corrections were made to the online version of the article on Greenwood Township because quotes originally attributed to Mike Ralston were actually from John Bassing. The *Timberjay* apologizes for the errors. The corrected portion follows:

.....Township resident John Bassing, during public input, addressed concerns that were brought to the board by fire department member Jim "Jet" Galonski at the June meeting. He began by thanking Galonski for his years of service to the township, but then noted that many of the issues raised by Galonski were not accurate. He noted that ISO ratings are based on training levels of the department in addition to water pumping capability, and that in fact many of the largest insurance agencies no longer use ISO ratings to determine insurance rates. He noted that department members currently have the highest annual PERA pension of

any nearby departments.

"Jim wants more pension," he said, "but they are getting more than any other department in the area. That money comes from the homeowners insurance we pay. The fund is invested 95 percent in stocks, and if the stock market drops the township is responsible."

Bassing also said the town board has a vested interest in keeping the fire department meetings open and transparent.

"A case was brought to the state on the basis of a recording of a fire department meeting," Bassing said. "At the next meeting they ruled that no recording was allowed. This alone is why transparency is needed."

Little Church hosting Bible School Reunion on Aug. 13, service on Aug. 14

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township is holding their com-

mittee meeting on Saturday Aug. 6 at 10 a.m.

The church is hosting a Bible School Reunion on Saturday, Aug. 13, and anyone who attended Bible School at the Little Church is encouraged to attend. There is a Little Church Facebook page with more details.

The Little Church will host a service will also be held on Sunday, Aug. 14. Contact Jon Salo or Len Hujanen for more information.

We always welcome anyone and are looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. We have a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.

The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Co. Rd. 26/ Wahlsten Rd. If you have any questions on any of these events, please call or leave a message for Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

When gasoline was 29 cents a gallon in Ely

by DAVID KESS
Ely-Winton Historical Society

Most of us older than 65 years of age can remember when gasoline cost much, much less than today. Like maybe even \$4 or more per gallon. That 29 cents back in 1964 would be worth about \$3 today. Back in 1964 young people were, however, probably earning \$1 an hour waitressing, bussing tables, or pumping gas.

Cruising the main street was a favorite activity, particularly on weekends. There were many more tragic car accidents back then too. A favorite trip in the family car was down to Central Garage to see the wrecked cars. John Koschak, who owned the garage, always had stories to tell about the wrecks and other stories as well. He stayed open late, working in his office. Other gas stations closed early in the evening but one could almost always depend on John to be open for a late night purchase. A more chatty man could not be found.

What many have no doubt forgotten is the number of gas stations and the gas pumps at car dealerships. Today gas pumps are connected to convenience stores. In a stand-alone gas station of the past, a person would have found only chewing gum and candy bars for snacks, and motor oil, tire gauges, tires, and belts for a car engine.

One of the gas stations from the past was a Standard Oil station on Chapman Street, owned by George Lahti, then Bob Ellis, Charles “Pudgy” Kleemola, and Bob Colombo. That corner is now the home of the Ely Area Credit Union.

Another Standard Oil/Amoco station was owned and operated by Arlen Ladwig on the far west end of town. The site has become the Dollar General store (with no gas pump). There were once seven gas stations in town back in 1964. Now there are five.



One of two Conoco Gas Stations located in Ely in the 1960s.
photo courtesy of the the Ely-Winton Historical Society

Ely athletics to be discussed at History Night

ELY - Reed Petersen will speak at the final Ely-Winton Historical Society History Night talk of the year.

The History Night event on Wednesday, Aug. 3, will focus on Ely High School athletics. Petersen is an instructor of History and Government at Minnesota North College, Vermilion Campus (formerly Vermilion Community College), where he also helps coach basketball.

Covering a wide variety of varsity sports through the last 100 years, participants will see how athletics changed with the times, including new activities, more opportunities, as well as discussing some of the all-time great teams and athletes to have suited up for Ely Memorial.

History Nights take place in the Vermilion College campus Lecture Hall at 7 p.m. and are free to the public.

Car dealerships also had gas pumps. Everyone purchasing a new vehicle was given a full tank of gas as soon as the car deal was made. One such was Forest Chevrolet which has become the parking lot for the old Zup’s store. Still another was the old Ford garage on Conan Street. It is now an abandoned building.

Vic Thompson’s garage on Central Avenue just south of White Street sold Hudson and Kaiser Fraser cars. Vic later operated an ice business and then a beer distributing one. The building has the look of a car dealership garage even now but it is used only as a storage building. Besides being a general mercantile the Winton Co-op also sold gas.

Tony’s Conoco (now Your Boatworks) was originally Andy Jacobson’s Pure Oil station. It later

became a “76” station. Andy had a reputation of being honest, friendly, and jovial.

Pete’s Garage, the “Dodge Garage,” is now occupied by Legacy Toys. Albert Wiinikainen sold Dodge, Plymouth, and Chrysler cars and trucks. The “Pete” part of the name came from Jacob Pete who built and owned the garage. A gas pump was also part of the car dealership.

Mike Motors started in the Studebaker garage next to the old Ford garage on Conan. Later a new building was constructed on East Sheridan Street. Mike’s did a brisk business selling gas.

One of the more interesting “transformations” in regards to building change-overs is that of the Rothman Garage across from the old Ely Community Center. It originally had been a Ford agency. It sold gas under a Phillips 66 dealership and

offered complete service for maintaining and repairing vehicles of all makes. Eventually it became a fuel oil distributor. Later it was acquired by the Ely Senior Citizens who eventually rented space on Sundays and later the Oasis Church. Fuel for vehicles became fuel for the soul before the church bought the Amici Event Center on Central Avenue. “Shorty” Lenich had another Phillips 66 station on Sheridan Street.

A short way up the Fernberg Trail from Winton was a tavern and a gas pump operated by Charlie Pusovich. There is nothing of it standing today. The present Voyageur gas station and convenience store on East Sheridan Street, a block south of the college, was also Pusovich’s property.

There were two Slogars in the gasoline business in Ely, both Conoco stations. One was located

Correction

The new head coach of the football team at Minnesota North College, Vermilion Campus is Dick Brooks, and not Richard. The *Timberjay* regrets the error.

In Brief

Tuesday Group

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤ Aug. 2: Northern Nights, Starry Skies: Preview of a PBS documentary.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



set up the white tents
fill town to the people max

blueberry ignites

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.

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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

Ely-Winton Historical Society has too much stuff

ELY - The Ely-Winton Historical Society will host a deaccession sale this weekend during the Blueberry / Art Festival.

“It is very common for museums and historical societies to accumulate artifacts over the years that are duplicates or that have no historical provenance or story behind them, or that they simply have no use for and the donors made no stipulation for their removal,” EWHS Manager Paul Colwell said in a Facebook post this week.

“Deaccession” is the act of discarding or selling unneeded artifacts from a museum collection, he explained.

“The EWHS has many

such objects in our storage shed, and we are selling some of them to help raise funds for updates to our storage facilities. Come by during the Festival to take a look at the items, as well as our collection of books and local artwork for sale,” Colwell said.

The items will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 29 and continuing until 6 p.m. that day in the Minnesota North College, Vermilion Campus lobby, 1900 E. Camp St. The sale will continue on Saturday, July 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Additionally, the museum will be open free of charge during the Blueberry/ Art Festival.



AROUND TOWN

Some Ely streets closed this weekend

ELY - This weekend around Whiteside Park for the Blueberry/Art Festival, there will also be construction traffic coming and going from the Ely school project.

Because of this increased construction traffic, the city of Ely will close 7th Ave. E (Stukel Way) from Harvey Street to Pattison Street on Thursday, July 28, beginning at 12 a.m. until Sunday, July 31, at 4 p.m. This will keep congestion down and allow the trucks safe hauling to and from the school, according to the Ely Police Department.

In addition to the Stukel Way closure, 7th Ave. E (Linda Fryer Way) and 8th Ave. E from Harvey Street to Sheridan Street will also be closed Friday, July 29, at 9 a.m. until Sunday, July 31, at 5 p.m. Chapman Street, between 6th and 9th Ave. E will also be closed to traffic during the three-day event.

There will also be no parking allowed during the three-day event on the south side of Sheridan Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, which borders Whiteside Park.

Fall sports meetings set

ELY - Because of the construction project on the Ely school campus, sign-up meetings for fall sports will be moved outdoors this year. Instead of one event, school officials will hold two meetings on successive Mondays at Veterans Memorial Baseball Field.

A registration session for the high school football program is slated for Monday, Aug. 1, while sign-up for both volleyball and the boys and girls cross country teams are set for Monday, Aug. 8.

Both meetings will begin at 6 p.m., with students and parents asked to attend. Registration is for students in grades 7-12. Coaches will address their players with information about first practices, and registration forms will be available.

The girls swimming is part of a cooperative hosted by Northeast Range School in Babbitt. Girls swimming is holding a separate registration event. Girls swimming sign up and parent/student meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1, at the Northeast Range Pool. More information about girls swimming practices and the start of the season is available from head coach Cheri DeBeltz at 218-235-3644.

All students must have a physical examination on file in order to participate. Once an examination is completed, it is effective for three years.

Parents with questions about whether their child’s examination is up-to-date are asked to contact athletic director Tom Coombe at 218-235-1025 or tcoombe@ely.k12.mn.us.

YOUTH SPORTS

Cook Youth Baseball puts wrap on summer season

Dwindling number of players, coaches may force changes next year

COOK- The Cook Minors baseball team wrapped up their season last week by taking second place in the Larry Nanti League Minors tournament hosted by Cherry. The Minors team went into the tournament as the fifth seed out of eight with a 5-5-2 record. They took out the fourth seed in their first game and then knocked out the top seed for a berth in the championship game against third-seeded Mt. Iron. The Cook squad played tough but lost 10-7.

The season started out a little shaky, as an already slim roster was depleted even farther when two players left the team before the team had played a game. Coaches Kelly Nuthak and Mike Fultz had to pull two eight-year-olds from one of the Cook Pony/Coach Pitch teams to fill out the squad. The team progressed from game to game thanks to the coaching of Nuthak and Fultz.

“The coaches, parents and Cook Youth Baseball couldn’t be any more proud of these kids,” said Jennifer Herdman, Cook Youth Baseball secretary/treasurer.

The Cook Majors team went into their sin-

gle-elimination tournament at Rock Ridge as the sixth seed out of 8 drew a tough opponent, Rock Ridge Purple. The Cook squad came out on the short end of a 2-1 squeaker. The Majors team has selected teammates Cedar Holman and Sawyer Glass to play with the South squad in an “All Star” game against the North. The matchup of elites will be held under the lights at the Ed Berdice Field in Aurora on Thursday, Aug. 4 at 8 p.m.

It was a pizza-fueled contest pitting players against parents to close out the season for the Tee-Ball and Pony teams, with another for the Minors and Majors.

“Everyone had a blast,” Herdman said. “We feel it is very important to give back to the coaches, players and parents as much as we can. It’s not a lot, but it’s something that everyone can enjoy together!”

League change

Cook Youth Baseball switched from the Central St. Louis County Baseball League to the Larry Nanti League this season to take advantage of more favorable age groupings in the Nanti League. The schedule also changed with

this new league. Instead of playing Mondays and Wednesdays, Tee-ball and Pony played games on Mondays and practiced on Wednesdays. Minors and Majors played on Tuesdays and Thursdays with practices on Wednesdays and Sundays.

“We had parents with kids on multiple levels so their commitment to getting their kids to and from the fields four days a week or more for two months did not go unnoticed,” Herdman said. “With the change in leagues, the kids from Orr and Crane Lake joined up with Cook Youth Baseball, which meant farther distances for them to travel but they all showed up to every game. We appreciate their dedication.”

Future challenges

Turnout for Cook Youth Baseball was low this year, even with the additions from Orr and Crane Lake, Herdman said. It was also a challenge to find volunteer coaches. One volunteer coached for three teams this summer.

“I’m not sure what has happened, but we just don’t see the numbers that we used to for sports,” Herdman said. “It was dwindling before



The Cook Minors team took second in their postseason tournament last week. Pictured are, from left, front row, Rowan Kirkpatrick, Brexton McCormick, Silas Nurmi, Luke Pretti, Ryker Nurmi, Gunnar Fultz, Brecken Cornelius, Landon Nuthak; back row, Brian Hannine, head coach Kelly Nuthak, Reece Whitney, Providence Ward, Jordan Herdman & assistant coach Mike Fultz.

COVID hit but has drastically changed since. We urge our current players to bug their friends to join the team, but I guess they aren’t bugging them badly enough. We want Cook Youth Baseball to keep going, but without numbers our children may have to travel farther to play the game they love. We would hate to see that as some are already driving far enough to keep their children playing.”

The registration fee for Cook Youth Baseball is \$50 per player and no more than \$100 for a family, but a child who wants to play who’s family can’t afford the fee is still welcomed to play, Herdman said.

Herdman also expressed thanks to the many supporters of Cook Youth Baseball, including the parents of the kids who play, the city of Cook for providing and tak-

ing care of the facilities, Matt Zupancich and Zup’s Market, and the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club.

“And last but not least, we want to thank the players who help keep Cook Youth Baseball going. Without the players we are nothing,” Herdman said.

LOSING ITS SIZZLE?

Burger Night threatened by volunteer shortage

COOK- The tradition of Burger Night at the Cook VFW never lacks for customers, but they’re lacking in volunteers, enough so that the popular event may have a hard time staying alive.

Burger Night was canceled this week because there weren’t enough people to staff the kitchen, said longtime volunteer Linda Lappi, but she’s hopeful that with some new blood the volunteer staffing rotation they’ve established this year will help to spread the load

around and keep the event afloat. But the list of potential volunteers has been dwindling, not growing.

“We don’t have that many people,” Lappi said. “We went through our backup list and had to take ten people off of it because of health or age or other reasons. That’s a huge number off our list. We don’t have the resources and manpower to make calls to get people.”

Lappi said that with the new rotation volunteers are asked to work only one Burger Night

per month, with four individual teams each taking a turn. Staffing Burger Night takes a minimum of six volunteers and missing just one makes it necessary to cancel if a sub can’t be found.

“I saw some notes on our bulletin board that said minus two people on one date, minus two on another,” Lampi said. “The whole C crew couldn’t make it last week for their week.”

As with other organizations that depend on volunteers, the pool for

Burger Night has grown older and smaller.

“I’m 73 years young and I don’t mind volunteering one night a month, but I don’t want to work every week, either,” Lappi said.

The VFW Auxiliary has been a main source of volunteers, but a majority of them are older than Lappi and many on the rolls live far away from Cook and can’t volunteer.

“They’ve done it for many years and they’re tired,” Lappi said. “I’m not sure what the solution

is.”

Some middle school students have helped out at Burger Night, but as they move into their teens other things like sports and being with friends become more important than busing tables or wrapping burgers, Lappi said.

The VFW has stopped operating the kitchen for Thursday Bingo Nights this year. Participants instead bring their own food or buy the only in-house meal available, a frozen pizza from the bar.

Sugarlicious Chees-

cakes and More, a new food truck operating out of Orr, stepped up to give Bingo patrons a fresh food alternative this Thursday, and has scheduled for two more Bingo nights in August.

Lappi said that a meeting was scheduled for Wednesday at the VFW to discuss the kitchen.

If you’re interested in volunteering one night a month for Burger Night, contact Lappi at 218-750-0301.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

New August exhibit at NWFA

COOK- The August exhibit “Expressions in Color” at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook will feature multimedia artists Kris Musto and Jeanne O’Melia.

These two artists have exhibited at NWFA before and taught classes since NWFA’s inception. They paired up in Sept. 2018 for an exhibit called “Adventures with Jeanne and Kris”.

O’Melia has actively contributed to events at NWFA each spring, summer and fall as an arts teacher and a creator of parade floats. Her art is profoundly interesting: paintings, sketch portraits, papier mache and “found object sculptures” created from objects collected on her canoe trips or from litter scooped up from the streets of Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica and San Cristobal de las Casas, or right here in Cook.

During the winter, O’Melia hails from Illinois where she spent a lively childhood on a farm near Princeton. After teaching at Glenview Jr. High in East Moline, she founded Villa Montessori School. Later she taught Spanish in the PATS program in Moline and art as part of the Illinois Arts in Education Artist Roster



Kris Musto and Jeanne O'Melia

program.

Musto is best described by the paradoxical phrase “Simply complex!” She is an explorer, using paint, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, handmade books, collage, fiber, fabric, aprons, printmaking, text and anything else within reach to create works about what she’s thinking and feeling. Kris has taught many a class at NWFA, recently the Frida Kahlo artist study class. She holds a BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and has worked in MCAD Admissions since 1999.

Unafraid to tackle new mediums while work-

ing full-time, Musto created the “Triple Apron” and dedicated it to the women of Cook.

The exhibit opens on Wednesday, Aug. 3 and runs through Saturday, Aug. 27. Patrons are welcome to view the exhibit during regular gallery hours.

A special reception to meet the artists in person will be on Monday, Aug. 8 from 4-6 p.m. at the gallery.

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

Music in the Park features new band

COOK- Bring a lawn chair or sit in your car to hear Cowboy Angel Blue play a wide selection of songwriters’ favorites and classic oldies for Cook Music in the Park on Wednesday, Aug. 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the park gazebo.

Bill Maxwell and James Paavala are the original members of this amplified acoustic group.

“We have been playing around the Iron Range and Duluth Minnesota for over 10 years,” the group writes on their website. “Mid-America Music Hall of Fame member Billy Bulinski joins us when possible on lead guitar and bass. We enjoy the music of Dylan, Young, Cash, Prine, Townes, Earle, Holly, Haggard, etc. When the occasion calls for it, we have a large selection of standards and favorites we can play for listening or dancing. We play good music at appropriate volumes.”

St. Paul’s (Alango) Lutheran Church will be selling burgers, brats, and hot dogs. In the event of rain, the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

Music in the Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1757, VFW Post 1757 Auxiliary,

Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and free-will community donations.

Book club to meet Tuesday in Cook

COOK- The Readers and Rappers Book Club will meet to discuss two books on Tuesday, Aug 9 at 1 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook.

Books to be discussed will be “Silenced to Death” and “Falling Silent,” both by Donna Graham. “Silenced to Death” and the sequel “Falling Silent” combine Graham’s passions of writing and photographing abandoned farms and houses. Set in Minnesota, they tell the backstories of people who are broken, forgotten, or thrown away, and how they found the courage to stumble along their crooked path to a better life. The litmus test for being a good person is to survive the ugly past, the wrong turns, and own those fears, lies, and resentments.

The September book selection will be “Frances Anne Hopkins: Hudson’s Bay Company Wife, Voyageurs’ Artist” by MaryEllen Weller. It is available for purchase at NWFA.

Cook High classes schedule reunion

COOK- The Cook High School classes of 1964 and 1965 will hold their annual reunion luncheon on Saturday, August 6, at 11:00 am at The Crescent. Please invite classmates who do not live in the area or who may not be aware of this event.

Towns join forces for National Night Out event

CRANELAKE- The communities of Crane Lake and Buyck will come together along Crane Lake Gold Coast Rd. on Tuesday, Aug. 2 to observe National Night Out 2022 and raise money to benefit the fire departments of both communities.

Festivities are scheduled from 6-8 p.m. and include free food, live music, games, a silent auction, and plenty of friendly fellowship.

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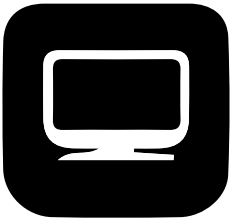
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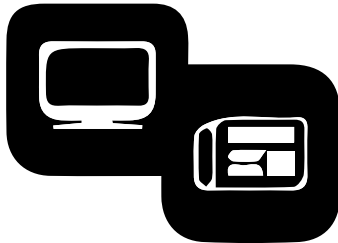
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(3,171,000)



69%
Total Print
Readers
(3,114,000)



54%
Total Print & Digital
Readers
(2,431,000)



ELY...Continued from page 1

Langowski added, “Any other legal work involving the incident will be handled by the League of Minnesota Cities and not our city attorney.”

Ely building official Doug Whitney confirmed on Monday that there was an incident at City Hall last week that involved Huberty who works in his department, and said the incident is under investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department. “There isn’t anything I can say about it,” he said.

Ely Police Chief Chad Houde confirmed to the *Timberjay* that he responded to the initial 911 call, and said the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department is

investigating the alleged incident.

Brett Shirley, who is the general contractor on a building renovation project located across the street from the Ely Post Office, complained that the city’s buildings office has been giving inconsistent and inaccurate information as they’ve undertaken inspections and the process has slowed work on the project and cost Shirley a lot of money. “But the real issue was when my agent went to the inspection office, an assistant inspector, David Huberty, I was told, shoved Tanner and put him in the hospital.”

Shirley said Smuda is working for him as a “glorified handyman,”

rather than as a licensed contractor. “Tanner said he was shoved out into the hallway and eventually was put in a headlock while (Huberty) tried to get his phone from him.”

Smuda told the *Timberjay* that while he was at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, he gave a statement to St. Louis County Sheriff Deputy Tyler Anderson, as well as the cell phone recording of the alleged assault.

Deputy Anderson told the *Timberjay* that he could not comment on an ongoing investigation, and referred all requests for more information to the Virginia office of the

St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department.

Smuda said he went to the city of Ely building inspector’s last Wednesday. “I went in to talk to (Doug Whitney) the building inspector because his assistant has been telling us multiple times to do things in the building that we don’t need to do, such as window opening sizes and other stuff.”

Smuda said while he was talking to Whitney about the inconsistent window measurement information, Whitney took another telephone call and Huberty came in from an adjoining office and joined the conversation. “After I accused him of harassment, Huberty came around from

behind the desk and shoved me onto my back into the hallway,” Smuda said. “I had my phone recording on video and told him I had recorded the assault. I then turned to leave to go downstairs to the police department. He then attacked me even more and tried to get my cell phone. He put me in a headlock, and got me to the ground. I yelled out a few times.”

At this point, according to Smuda, Whitney came out of his office and separated Smuda and Huberty. “I then went down to the police department. Nobody was there, so I called 911,” Smuda said. “The first one to show up was the chief of police. He watched the video on my phone.”

Smuda was taken by ambulance to EBCH. “I had an MRI. I gave the sheriff’s deputy my statement, and I was released. I ended up going back to the hospital on Thursday for my pain, and I talked to the sheriff’s department deputy again,” he said.

Smuda said he contacted a law firm in Duluth last week and was waiting to hear what his next steps should be.

He described his injuries. “I have big gash on my right hand. My left elbow was smashed onto the marble floor. My back and my neck are hurt. I can barely walk right now. I’m in a lot of pain. I can’t go back to work right now,” he said.

VNP...Continued from page 1

more concerned with “other issues.”

“I want to address the elephant in the room,” said former resort owner Jim Janssen. “My question is what has changed, because it seems as though there appears to be a lot of friction with the ranger staff and guests in particular. There are lots of reports where officers are not treating the guests with respect. They’re kind of derogatory. Aren’t they supposed to be the ambassadors of the park? Why are we harassing guests? I understand the need to stop boats and I understand the need to do safety checks, but don’t rangers want to be treated with respect? That seems to be a real problem.”

Janssen said he had been stopped himself a few weeks ago.

“I got pulled over on Namakan. That’s the first time in 30 years that I’ve been pulled over, not that I should have been. I wasn’t doing anything, they just stopped me. But my question is, is the change the head ranger? Because this didn’t (used to) happen at all.”

The “head ranger” referenced by Janssen is Chief Ranger Josh Wentz, who came to VNP last November with 14 years of NPS experience at eight national parks and recreation areas under his belt. Wentz had attended earlier public meetings, but DeGross said he was unable to be present for the Crane Lake meeting due to a personal issue.

Attendees were civil

with their remarks, but their emotional intensity was apparent as they took turns registering their frustrations and concerns with VNP law enforcement activities. A sampling of issues raised during the hour-long meeting included:

- ▶ A culture of unwarranted and excessive stops, based on guest reports.

- ▶ Guests who have been stopped multiple times in their boats by rangers during short visits to the lake.

- ▶ Rangers acting rudely or in a demeaning or belligerent manner to guests.

- ▶ Fear of retaliation among guests and businesspeople should someone register a formal complaint about being stopped or the conduct of rangers.

- ▶ Concern that Wentz is responsible for reviewing complaints about law enforcement rather than having an independent committee including community representatives do so.

- ▶ A lack of transparency from park officials about law enforcement activities, particularly with regard to the tasing incident.

- ▶ Creating a hazard by placing three bouys in a navigable channel in non-park waters.

- ▶ Rangers interfering with resort personnel when they are trying to handle a situation involving their guests and boats.

- ▶ Guests who may not return.

- ▶ The park is in danger of developing a negative

reputation for excessive law enforcement activity that will negatively impact businesses.

“We know Crane Lake is on board for a visitor center, and I’ve got to be honest, there are some people in town who are saying we don’t want them here if that’s the way they’re going to treat guests,” Janssen said.

As the hour-long litany of concerns, complaints, and suggestions for improvements unfolded, DeGross declined to comment on any specific incidents or personnel but actively responded to the general concerns expressed by the group.

“Primarily, we’re going to be talking about high level things here and feedback like that are the things that I want to hear,” DeGross said. “And I will be working with the staff, because the objective is that all of the staff work in a professional, respectful manner with the visitors and businesses. We’ve heard it at the other meetings as well, and obviously that means we have to be looking at what we’re doing and what we can improve.”

Drake Dill told DeGross that the responsibility for fixing the conditions attendees described lies with him.

“You have a whole generation of hard feelings that have lived in this community and Ash River and in all the neighboring communities that have finally warmed up to the idea that this (VNP) is going to work,” Dill said.

“Visitorship is up, people are happy. It’s great. But your enforcement actions come straight from you. You’ve got families out enjoying your park and you tased an innocent man. This has to stop. This is garbage. We can do better than that.”

Taser incident

What most of those at the meeting know about the taser incident, and what the rest of public knows as well, has had to come through word of mouth. VNP officials have kept a tight lid on any official information about the encounter earlier this season with Ebel Houseboat’s owner Justin Ebel. No statement or press release has been issued, and no details were forthcoming from DeGross at the meeting. Multiple subsequent requests by the *Timberjay* were met with the message to contact the Minnesota U.S. Attorney’s Office.

But there was one person at the meeting who would know as much as anyone might, Katy Ebel, Justin’s mother. As the meeting was about to wrap up, Ebel made a final statement that included some details.

“I have been at every single meeting that has been put on in each one of the gateway communities. Many of you know who I am. I am Justin Ebel’s mother,” she said. “He was the person that was tased not once but twice. He was taking a boat off the rocks in the wind, and he was trying to get that boat into Sullivan Bay or back to our base to be checked for any holes in the pontoons. He was stopped and told that they were boarding the boat. He told them that he wanted to do safety first. He wanted his customers back into at least Sullivan Bay if not back at the dock because he checks each and every boat that goes onto a rock for whether or not it has been damaged. This boat had damage. Now this boat they wanted

to board. They never did.” “Justin is a good kid” Ebel continued. “He’s met personally with you, Bob in the wintertime, and has said that he wants to meet the rangers. He also has met with you and Josh Wentz at a houseboat operators meeting and asked to meet the rangers. Now guess what? Justin met the rangers. That’s all I have to say.”

But earlier in the meeting, others had things to say about it, including Rob Scott. He questioned the lack of transparency about the incident and the steps the park has taken to address it, saying that the lack of information has created a serious problem with peoples’ perception of the park. “You have law enforcement as kind of a banner in Voyageurs National Park right now, and it shouldn’t even be on the flagpole,” Scott said. “What the **** is this enforcement stuff? You don’t have a bunch of folks from Chicago from the mafia hiding out here. You’ve got tourists, people with kids and whatever. I’m assuming, because I haven’t seen anything different, that that individual who did the tasing is still meaningfully employed, not on leave of absence, not in jail, just doing his assigned job in the park. That says to the outside people looking at it that he didn’t do anything wrong. The action of the tasing is not a normal thing.”

Scott said the situation is giving the park a bad name. “That negative perception makes people who want to come to the park to escape all of the challenges with law enforcement issues in the Twin Cities or other urban areas think twice about coming. This whole thing is a systemic extension of law enforcement in Minnesota, disguised under a national park uniform, and you’ve got to take care of that

perception. In my years in the military, if anything like that happened, the first thing that you do is you put that up on the marquee that you’re on top of it, that you’re handling the situation,” Scott added. “I haven’t seen anything in the press, I haven’t seen any emails as far as that level of action. I’m talking about a park ranger that tases an individual twice. You can’t say ‘We can’t talk about it.’”

Steve Bergerson piggy-backed on Scott’s remarks. “People used to come up here and they go to the park to relax, like you said, get away from ... whatever city,” he said. “This year, for the first time, it seems like people are going into the park walking on eggshells, right or wrong. Something’s got to be done to fix that perception.”

Follow up

DeGross re-emphasized that the feedback from all four meetings would be considered thoughtfully and that he would issue a follow-up summary around Aug. 15 that also includes corrective action plans the park would try to implement. But he also said he’s been working with staff after each meeting to review the feedback received and talk about what they can do to make changes.

“I feel like the meetings have gone well,” DeGross said after the meeting. “Obviously there’s frustration out there and that frustration is probably compounded because of some recent incidents, and also the stress that people are under from dealing with the flooding incident and two years of COVID. I hope that residents, visitors and business owners know that they can reach out to us at the park to discuss those frustrations and hopefully find a path forward to resolving any issues that might be identified through this.”



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BEARS...Continued from page 1

summer, and that has raised questions about whether the changes at the nearby Vince Shute sanctuary could be playing a role in the increased bear activity in the village.

The recent bear activity has longtime Nett Lake resident Gordy Adams on alert.

“They’ve been coming back up here to the village and just getting into garbage and yards and everything,” Adams said. “I myself, personally, we’ve had three different bears here in our yard here in one day.”

The third bear was the biggest and most disruptive of the three, Adams said.

“This guy was huge,” he said. “He had to be a good 300–400-pound bear that was getting in the back end of my pickup. I put my aluminum cans back there, and he tore up all the aluminum cans looking for stuff.”

Adams said he hadn’t seen any bears during the daytime for the past couple of weeks, but he said he’s seen them toward dusk. “They’ve been coming around in the evening and get my dogs barking out there,” he said.

He said his daughter lives next door to him and has also seen more bears this year than normal. Adams said he hadn’t talked to others about it, so he wasn’t sure if other Nett Lake residents were experiencing the same thing.

The Timberjay contacted Bois Forte officials via email requesting to talk with someone familiar with the issue but did



A visiting bear to the Vince Shute sanctuary enjoys a snack. Timberjay file photo

not receive a response. An individual who works for the tribal government who spoke off the record with the Timberjay did say there had been more bear activity in the area this year.

Adams said he had three young children staying with him that he worries about.

“I don’t let them go outside alone anyways, but now I’m even more wary of where they’re at,” he said. “They’re not allowed to go to the edge of the yard because they’ll just sit right at the edge of the yard and wait for people to go inside or something.”

Sanctuary bears?

There’s been a long-standing concern in Nett Lake, Adams said, that the Vince Shute sanctuary a little less than four miles away could be contributing to the bears being more comfortable around humans, making them less fearful of coming around residences in Nett Lake.

He also alluded to the

sanctuary’s limited open schedule this year due to staffing issues. With the sanctuary open to the public only on Saturdays and Sundays, he wondered if the bears were only being fed on those days. A lack of food at the sanctuary, he reasoned, would make it more likely that the bears would wander into Nett Lake looking for food.

American Bear Association Executive Director Steph Horner, who oversees sanctuary operations, responded to those concerns on Tuesday.

“We’re feeding the bears seven days a week from sunup to sundown like we always have for 27 years now,” Horner said. “None of that has changed. It’s the same food that’s going out.” Horner said she made the decision to open to the public only on the weekends because with limited staff and volunteers she wanted to make sure enough food was going out and that it was being

done safely.

“I didn’t feel like we could be open to the public and feed the bears properly,” she said.

Having stepped in when the director hired to replace her abruptly quit in early June, Horner has been scrambling ever since to assemble a cadre of volunteers to supplement the few paid staff and interns on hand to keep the operation going and still provide the public with limited viewing hours.

“There are about eight of us who are on the ground during the week and then that jumps up to 12 to 15 people on the weekends,” Horner said. “We are fully staffed to capacity as far as feeding, so that is not a concern for me at all.”

The sanctuary isn’t the sole source of food for the bears, either. They’re wild bears that forage for food in the wild like any other, but in the summer, they supplement their diets with the food the sanctuary provides. During last summer’s drought, the bears were more dependent on the sanctuary because there was far less of what they normally eat in the surrounding woods. The opposite is true this year.

“I’m seeing more berries on bushes and trees than I think I ever have up here other than one other year,” Horner said. “There’s been a prolonged period of natural food that’s been available this year.”

That’s good for the bears, but Horner noted it

could also bring them into closer contact with people.

“If you have those plants that bears like to eat in your yard or just on the edge of your property, they’re absolutely going to be taking advantage of that,” she said. “We live in the middle of the woods in bear country, so bears potentially may use your yard as a travel corridor to be from one berry patch to the next.”

And as they’re traveling, anything that could potentially be a food source for them is worth investigating, Horner said.

“Things like bird feeders can attract bears, trash, if you feed your pets outside, if you have a chicken coop and the food is just out and about, bears are going to investigate those things. Just having bears out and about exploring natural food sources combined with some of the stuff that we forget to clean up will definitely create more visibility of bears in an area.”

Horner also said that sanctuary staff have always worked to make the bears that come to the sanctuary feel wary of humans when they are not in the two-and-a-half acre safe zone, or magic circle, surrounding the viewing platform where they are fed.

“When we see bears outside of that two-and-a-half acres we do negative reinforcement,” she said. “We yell at them, we honk air horns, and if the bears do not leave fast enough we scream our heads off

like crazy people to get them to be afraid of people outside that boundary.” Peanut, a 32-year-old bear that’s been coming to the sanctuary since it opened, is a prime example that the technique works, Horner said.

“She knows the drill. She’ll slowly walk up to that boundary as if to say ‘Well, you can’t yell at me yet,’ and then when she gets over that line she suddenly scurries into the woods,” Horner said. “Because of negative reinforcement, we hardly ever see a bear near our cabins or in the parking lot, or even where we store the bear food. Essentially, our goal is to terrify them, to remind them that people outside of that special feeding area are to be feared. This is what has allowed us to be successful for 27 years.”

Horner said she also talked to some Bois Forte tribal council members when she came back on board and asked them to spread the word that the bears were still being fed as usual. And she said that the sanctuary has always looked to have good relationships with their Nett Lake neighbors. “We had some of the council members out here last year for the first time in a while and I was able to meet with several of them personally,” Horner said. “It’s something I want because instead of calling other people I would love for them to call me and ask me those questions.”

FIBER...Continued from page 1

vider in Ely, Tower, and a number of other northeastern Minnesota communities. Midco has offered high-speed internet service, including speeds of 200 megs download, 20 upload, for some time in Ely and Tower. But with their latest upgrades, part of a \$500 million investment in their network, Midco will be offering lightning-fast internet, with promised speeds of at least 1 gigabit download and 200 megs upload.

That’s according to Melissa Wolf, government relations manager for Midco.

The company’s investment looks poised to solve a problem that has rankled residents in Ely for years. After the Lake Connections project—which was supposed to provide direct fiber optic connections to residences in Ely — ran out

of funding before getting that far, city officials have explored any number of possibilities. Working with Baxter-based CTC, they completed a relatively modest broadband loop in a portion of the city’s downtown about a year ago. They’ve worked with an Ely-based startup, known as Treehouse Broadband, to provide a wireless connection in places where the trees and terrain cooperate, and that’s had some success according to Langowski.

But the speeds and price range that Midco should soon be able to provide to residents in Ely will be tough to beat. With the planned upgrade, Wolf said Midco is planning to begin offering its current 200/20 service for just \$49 a month beginning in August.

Its one-gig/200 service, which will be available to customers on a rolling basis beginning later this summer, should be priced at under \$100 a month, according to Wolf. They expect to have all of their current customers who wish to upgrade connected by late this year, or possibly early next year.

A similar upgrade is planned for both Tower and Soudan beginning next year, which will upgrade Midco’s current top speed of 200/20 to the same one-gig/200 speeds soon to be offered in Ely.

Given the previous false starts and disappointments, Langowski said he was a bit skeptical when he got the call from Midco alerting the city of their plans. But he said he’s become a believer since all

Midco crews are stringing high-speed fiber in Ely this month. photo by K. Vandervort

the equipment and work crews started showing up in town. The company also purchased property next to the Holiday station for its communications hub. “They’ve pretty much been busy all summer,” he said.

The new service should be a boon for businesses needing high speed access, although Langowski wonders how many residential customers will need the kind of speeds that Midco will soon be able to offer. “Two-hundred megs is spectacular for 99 percent of the population,” he said.

Midco is one of at least three internet providers now serving these area communities. Frontier and CTC also offer internet services, although CTC is currently focusing its attention on business customers.



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TRIBAL NEWS

Chippewa Tribe votes to end blood quantum requirements

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

New enrollment criteria could slow or eliminate membership decline

REGIONAL- Since the 1800s, federal and state laws have legally defined Native Americans in fractions of “Indian blood” – one-half, one-quarter, one-eighth, and so on – to determine their membership in tribes.

Last week, members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) soundly rejected that system in a nonbinding referendum that set in motion a series of events that could lead to changing the membership requirements for six member Ojibwe bands and reverse a projected decline that threatens their future existence.

The six-nation MCT includes the Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage, White Earth, and Leech Lake Bands, and the constitution drawn up and prescribed for them by the U.S. government decades ago dictates that someone must have 25-percent Indian blood, called blood quantum, to be a member of any individual band.

The referendum ballot, sent out to about 32,500 eligible MCT voters, asked members to vote on two questions. The first, to remove the blood quantum requirement from the con-

stitution, passed with 64 percent of the vote. Voters also approved, with 57 percent of the vote, a provision to let individual bands determine their own enrollment requirements.

“The vote was higher than any other secretarial (constitutional) election and higher than any other vote that we had for office for our regular elections,” MCT Executive Director Gary Frazier said.

But the vote had a second purpose, which was to update the addresses of tribe members, as about half of MCT’s enrolled members live outside of Minnesota.

“We sent out just over 32,000 ballots and over 8,000 came back undeliverable,” Frazier said. “We got about 2,200 updated addresses and sent them out again and we got about 500 to 600 back. We did correct about 1,500 addresses, but there’s still 6,500 people that we don’t know how to contact.”

Those numbers are critical to consider as the process moves forward. A secretarial election, so called because the Secretary of the Department of the Interior has the final say in approving changes to tribal constitutions, has

a minimum threshold of 30-percent participation of eligible voters, and the turnout for the referendum didn’t reach that.

“It’s a challenge right now. How are we going to count them as a threshold when we can’t even reach them to tell them we’re having an election? We’re going to have to talk about that,” Frazier said.

Still, Frazier is optimistic that they will reach the threshold when the time comes.

“I really think there will be a lot of people who will vote,” he said. “I’m thinking we’ll be pushing 7,000, and we can get another 500 over that.”

Before another vote, however, there are a number of things that have to happen, Frazier said.

First, the constitutional committee that has been working on the issue will bring it forward to the MCT Tribal Executive Committee at its next meeting in October. If the group decides to move forward, then MCT has to craft the language for the changes they want and send that to the Interior Secretary for approval, who can also make changes to the language. If the final draft is acceptable to the Executive

Committee, then the election has to take place within 90 days.

Halting decline

Before Europeans came to the Americas, there was no such thing as blood quantum. Indigenous tribes defined themselves in a variety of ways, from lineal descent to social, cultural, and territorial definitions. Some tribes granted tribal citizenship to those who married or were adopted into tribes. It was only after colonization and the founding of the country that Native peoples began to be defined by the particular level of Indian blood that they had.

However, such definitions have the long-term effect of reducing tribal membership. As one expert, Maya Harmon, wrote in 2021 in the *California Law Review*, “The government hoped that using blood quantum would eventually eliminate Native peoples, that intermarriage would ‘dilute’ the amount of ‘Indian blood’ in the population, causing descendants of Native peoples to become indistinguishable from the rest of the population.”

While far from being eliminated at present, if MCT were to continue with

its current enrollment criteria of one-quarter blood quantum, the devastating effect would be in line with the trend asserted by Harmon and others, according to a study conducted in 2014 by Wilder Research. Utilizing 2013 membership as a base and projecting out to the year 2098, MCT membership would fall from 41,410 to only 8,893, a drop of nearly 80 percent. As an example of the effect on a single band, Bois Forte would see its 2013 membership of 3,375 fall to only 1,109.

Under two other scenarios, keeping the 25-percent blood quantum requirement but broadening who it applies to, tribal membership would drop anywhere from half to 75 percent of 2013 numbers.

Membership would remain stable throughout the modeled time period if the blood quantum requirement was changed to one-eighth.

Under the most liberal scenario, in which blood quantum was eliminated entirely and enrollment criteria changed to demonstrating lineal descent based on the MCT 1941 base roll of members, the numbers would skyrocket in the other direction,

reaching between 122,000 to 205,000 by the year 2100.

The study reflects what could happen under certain scenarios, but the possible combinations of enrollment criteria are far greater.

Some argue that expanding membership would stretch already scarce resources for housing and other services. Others are concerned that regular payments from casino revenues that some bands distribute to members, known as per-capita payments, could be reduced if membership grows.

On the other side, proponents of eliminating blood quantum say that it will strengthen families and communities by allowing traditions and culture to be passed on to the children. Blood quantum works against that when parents have children who are below the 25-percent threshold and don’t qualify for membership.

For now, though, it’s one step at a time. MCT Tribal President Cathy Chavers told MPR News that the tribe’s 12-member Executive Committee will decide what step comes next at its October meeting.

“For many years enrollment has been on the table. And nothing’s really been done,” Chavers said. “I think we’re on the right track.”

Northland Foundation supports Main Street projects

REGIONAL — The Northland Foundation has received funding from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to support Main Street revitalization projects in three targeted areas across northeast Minnesota and is working with Northspan to

administer the program.

A community engagement workshop to determine priorities unique to Tower and Ely will be on Tuesday, Aug. 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center, 404 Pine St.

This program will offer both leveraged grant and loan guaranty oppor-

tunities for eligible projects up to \$2 million for communities. The flexible nature of the program allows for robust community input to determine project priorities unique to each area, with a focus on revitalizing the main street corridor.

Leveraged grants and/or loans can be used by eligible recipients for the following:

- Repair, or renovation of real property
- Building construction
- Landscaping
- Demolition or site preparation
- Predesign or design
- Engineering

► Non-publicly owned infrastructure

► Related site amenities

Eligible project expenses do not include the purchase of real estate or business operations or business operating expenses, such as inventory, wages or working capital.

The session is free to attend, but we ask that you register to help us plan for attendance: www.surveymonkey.com/r/TowerEly8_2_22.

Those unable to make the session can provide feedback online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MainStreetPriorities2022.

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ECR Childrens Garden corner of S 2nd Av and W Pattison Street

Ely Community Resource and Gardner Humanities Trust welcome all to attend the annual Breakfast in the Garden event. Art activities for all ages. Come and enjoy scones and cookies provided by Brainstorm Bakery.

Capture Ely in Chamber photo contest

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

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

First, second, third, and honorable mention Chamber Buck prizes will be awarded in each category as follows: first place \$200, second place \$100, third place \$50, and honorable mention \$25. That's a total of \$1,500.00 in Chamber Buck prizes.

Photographers can enter more than one photo. If print copies are provided, we will also need to receive a digital copy too. Email submissions should be sent to director@ely.org. Submissions may be sent to the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731, or dropped off at the office. Again, digital copies of images must be included with the submission.

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

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SULFIDE MINING

PolyMet, Teck Resources launch joint venture

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Canadian-based PolyMet Mining and Teck Resources have launched a joint venture to bring two of the largest known deposits of copper-nickel and precious metals on the Duluth Complex under single management.

Under the agreement, PolyMet and Teck will become equal owners in PolyMet Mining, which will be renamed NewRange Copper Nickel LLC. Combining the resources of both the NorthMet and Mesaba deposits, the new company will control measured and indicated resources of 795 million tons and 1,740 million tons,

respectively, and further inferred resources of 458 million and 1,612 million tons, respectively.

“This extraordinary venture links the expertise, experience and financial resources of PolyMet, Teck and Glencore to develop the NorthMet mine when the remaining permit proceedings are complete, and study the mine development options for Mesaba,” said Jon Cherry, PolyMet chairman, president and CEO. Following closing of the transaction, Glencore will retain its majority equity interest in PolyMet.

“With both projects representing approximately half of the known resources of Minnesota’s Duluth Complex under NewRange Copper Nickel, Minnesota

emerges as a global leader and major force in developing strategic minerals to feed the North American supply chain for clean energy technologies, electric mobility and modern societal use,” said Cherry. “The total assets of the NorthMet and Mesaba deposits make this one of the largest clean-energy mineral resources in the U.S. and globally.”

PolyMet is continuing to deal with a wide range of post-permitting litigation and there is no time frame for when the project might move forward.

Teck’s Mesaba Project is progressing baseline environmental studies, resource definition and mineral processing studies. Further studies and com-

munity and tribal consultation will be required to fully define long-term development potential, according to a PolyMet statement.

“The total assets of the NorthMet and Mesaba deposits make this one of the largest clean-energy mineral resources in the U.S. and globally.”

Mesaba is said to be one of the largest undeveloped copper-nickel precious metals deposits in the world.

The NorthMet copper-nickel-PGM mine development project is in the Mesabi Iron Range in northeastern Minnesota.

The NorthMet and Mesaba projects are estimated to hold measured and indicated resources of 795 million tonnes (Mt) and

1,740Mt, respectively, and further inferred resources of 458Mt and 1,612Mt, respectively.

NewRange will have a management committee comprising an equal number of representatives from PolyMet and Teck.

Canadian-based Canadian diversified miner Teck Resources and Glencore-backed PolyMet Mining have agreed to form a joint venture (JV) to advance their copper and nickel mining projects in the established Iron Range mining region of Minnesota.

The new 50-50 JV, named NewRange Copper Nickel LLC, is expected to help unlock a new domestic critical metals supply for the low-carbon transi-

tion through responsible mining.

The two firms will fund the JV with \$170 million of the initial budget for permitting and engineering work for PolyMet Mining’s NorthMet Project and Teck’s Mesaba mineral deposit.

Glencore will continue to hold a majority stake in PolyMet and provide financial support to the JV for its share of the funding commitment.

PolyMet chairman, president and CEO Jon Cherry said that the venture will develop the NorthMet mine upon completion of the remaining permit proceedings, as well as study the Mesaba mine’s development options.

MCEA: ‘Jobs’ mantra transitioning to ‘renewable energy’ argument

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Sulfide mining companies are subtly shifting their rhetoric and messaging about the proposed projects in northern Minnesota.

“No one is probably more familiar with this rhetoric over sulfide mining than the good folks of Ely,” said Kathryn Hoffman, chief executive officer of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), who spoke at a Tuesday Group gathering last week.

MCEA has joined forces with a number of other environmental organizations in a series of challenges to permits issued to PolyMet Mining’s proposed NorthMet mine near Hoyt Lakes, challenges which have left a number of key permits suspended by the courts.

Hoffman said it comes down to the risks posed by mining the sulfide-bearing rock that contains the metals companies like PolyMet and Twin Metals are after. That includes copper, nickel, and other high-value metals like palladium, platinum, and gold.

“We don’t really have good examples of clean sulfide mines, and the pollution could tend to last for centuries if not permanently, so we don’t have good strategies for cleaning up these sites,” Hoffman said. “MCEA wants to make sure the standards are set very high.”

As the debate over sulfide mining in the North Country continues, the mining companies have shifted their arguments for why the public should support their proposals. “I don’t think I need to tell you that for many years the mantra has been jobs, jobs, jobs,” she told the Tuesday Group audience. “That is the thing that people have sought from these mining operations.”

Numerous employment studies and economic



Kathryn Hoffman

projections have largely muted the jobs argument for sulfide mining operations in northeastern Minnesota, said Hoffman. And the instability of mining as an economic driver for the region was highlighted once again by last week’s announcement that the Northshore Mining shutdown would last at least through next April, a development guaranteed to bring a economic hit to places like Babbitt and Silver Bay.

“Increasingly, we are seeing these mining companies talk about the need for their operations in order to fulfill metals demand to support the shift to renewable energy,” said Hoffman. “They talk about the needs for wind turbines, and lithium, nickel, cobalt and, copper all needed for electric vehicles.”

Hoffman said she remains skeptical of these arguments. She said PolyMet has, for years, ignored MCEA’s suggestions that the company install solar panels or wind turbines to help offset the mine’s carbon footprint, should it eventually open. “There are mines around the world that do this, and it helps improve the carbon impacts of their operation. This is something that PolyMet has never really responded to. We don’t have legal tools to make that happen but we always thought that would be a good idea.”

Hoffman argued, as well, that the country is better off focusing on improving its recycling capacity for such metals.

“We do have a ready supply of domestic metals that we are simply landfilling, over a billion tons every year,” she said. “Focusing on policies to reclaim and recycle metals is cheaper. It is faster because we already have those metals. And it is cleaner than any mining proposal. In many ways, this is a materials demand that we deal with like any other materials demand. We reuse. We reduce. We recycle. And only if we absolutely need to, we can get to a responsible mining operation.”

Hoffman pointed to a series of articles on MCEA’s website (mncdenter.org) titled, “Mining the Climate Crisis,” which dive deeper into the issue,

and she encouraged the audience to seek more information on why sulfide mining is not necessarily a good answer to improving the green economy.

Hoffman argued that the United States has not even begun to explore reusing, reducing and recycling options. “Our recycling rates are low here in Minnesota and across the U.S. We do have a lot of policy options in other countries as models to improve those recycling rates.”

Mining proposals themselves have climate change impacts, she continued. “In the wetlands permits, a lot of those lands are peatlands that are a tremendous carbon storage

sink, and digging those up releases that carbon which is not a good thing to do.”

The mining operation proposals also use a lot of energy. “Here in northeast Minnesota, we see Minnesota Power actually justifying the need for fossil fuel plants based on the projected future demand for proposed mining operations,” Hoffman said. “They are actually saying we need to keep our coal plants open longer and we need to build a new fossil fuel plant in Superior, Wis., in order to support that (energy) demand. It makes the mining industry a pretty carbon-intensive prospect.”

MCEA’s position continues to be that mining should be a last resort. “It

is destructive, wherever it happens, even if it is done under the best of circumstances. It is better for us to look at recycling and reuse first,” she said.

“It is important to pay attention to the products we use, and an important conversation to think about is how demand and climate change intersect. We appreciate that there is attention being paid to this, but we want to be careful that it is not used to justify destructive mining practices. We can have both, metals for a renewable energy transition as well as protecting our clean water. As the climate changes, water is going to be one of our most precious resources and we want to protect it.”

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Ely school construction project finish line looms

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The \$21.5 million building and renovation project on the ISD 696 campus here is quickly headed for the Labor Day completion finish line, and with about a month to go, just seven percent of work remains to be completed, according to project managers.

School board members were updated on the project Monday night and were hit with the surprising news that the \$1 million contingency fund, used for unplanned expenditures during the last 15 months of construction, is wiped out. Additional expenditures anticipated to complete the project will likely send the final cost closer to or beyond the \$22 million mark.

Portions of the project, such as the boys and girls locker rooms in the Memorial High school building, will still be under construction after Labor Day, according to Todd Erickson of Kraus-Anderson.

Superintendent John Klarich, who assumed his part-time administrative leadership duties about five months ago, read a prepared statement outlining his observations on the overall project and the challenges he faced when he took over following the resignation of Eric Erie last winter.

“My first priority was to get a handle on the building project and the financial shortfalls,” he said. “I began researching the costs and I wasn’t clear until this last week on some of the major issues. It appears that there were some supply issues, COVID-related cost issues, many change orders prior to my arrival, continuing change orders, and a lack of workforce among other issues.”

Klarich described his efforts in working with the district’s lobbyists and area legislators to get the project back on a solid financial footing.

“We received some major funding to get us back on track, however, the legislature adjourned before passing a majority of the bills before them, including two bills that were somewhere between \$4-5 million, to help us. So, we are sitting in limbo not knowing what is going to happen.”

He told board members that he continues to work with the Costin Group lobbyists about finding additional financing to complete the building project.

“We have between

Work likely to continue after school year begins



An excavator hauls rock across the east parking lot on the Ely school campus Tuesday morning as work continues on \$21.5 million building and renovation project. photo by K. Vandervort

\$4-5 million out there and will have to continue hoping that the (tax bill) legislation will pass when they come back into session next January,” Klarich said.

Klarich said the project quickly went over budget because of unforeseen supply chain issues and increased construction costs due to inflation, along with renovation challenges in retrofitting 100-year-old buildings.

He noted that the ledge rock encountered in the water and sewer line construction “greatly increased” the cost of the project. “That wiped out any contingency funds we had left,” Klarich said.

Hemaintains that board members were “given wrong information” when they were considering increasing the size of the school building addition to include the new gymnasium, vocational education areas and media center.

“I believe my predecessor underestimated that. He had a price of about \$1 million and I think it is at \$3 million-plus, if I’m not mistaken,” Klarich said.

“We are getting close to the opening of school as this project is really going full force on all fronts. It is really busy around here in all buildings,” he added.

Erickson updated the school board on the status of the project. The ledge rock removal process hit another snag last week as work proceeded on the north side of the campus along Harvey Street.

“They found the old foundation from the former (Ely Junior) college building that was located here years and years ago. Today, they drilled down through that concrete foundation and got to the ledge rock beneath. They had to blast

that rock as well,” he said.

The original bid documents indicted that any ledge rock encountered would be removed at a rate of \$300 per cubic yard.

“The estimated quantity is at 1,000 yards,” he said. “We are pretty certain the quantity will exceed 1,000 yards. As of last week, construction crews had documented blasted and excavated about 650 yards of rock.”

In the existing water line that was installed in 1905, all the joints were put together with lead, Erickson said, noting that, “With your lead issues in the water, this was potentially the source.”

Erickson said the new kitchen equipment is in place. The new gymnasium floor was about half installed as of Monday. The new power supply in the basement of the Washington building, that will power that building and the new addition, “will be running by Saturday night,” he said.

Erickson presented a punch list that indicated that parts of the new addition, including the offices and media center, are scheduled to be complete and turned over to school officials for cleaning by Aug. 3.

The kitchen area in the new addition will be fully complete by Aug. 10.

“We have a lot of inspections to be completed in that area,” he said.

By Aug. 17, the commons area, and industrial arts and music education areas are scheduled for completion.

Some areas of the parking lots around the campus are newly graded following the water supply

and drain work. The bus drop-off loop should be complete and graded by the end of next week, according to Erickson.

“The parking area on the south side of the Memorial building is scheduled to be graded by Aug. 12,” he added.

Curb and gutter work for the parking lots should begin by Aug. 8. Landscaping will then start during the week of Aug. 15. “Asphalt and paving will start on Aug. 29,” he said. “We are pushing to get the lots ready on time for school opening. We have commitments for everything. Barring weather and more unforeseen structures out there, we’ll have three days of paving, then we’ll have the time to get it striped and signed.”

The original \$1,094,000 in contingency funding was slowly chipped away as the project progressed. About \$674,000 of the fund was expended as of last month, leaving about \$419,000 remaining. The rock blasting, estimated to cost about \$300,000, along with pending additional expenditures for bracing for the HVAC systems, locker room floor completion and other recent expenditures quickly zeroed out the account.

Additional expenditures are anticipated, according to Erickson, for more ledge rock and old building foundation removal.

“There are still more things coming in dealing with these hundred-year-old buildings,” Erickson said.

As school board

pulled. Sprinklers and lighting are in place. Door frames are all placed on the second floor. That second floor could easily be ready for final cleaning in a week to 10 days. And the first floor is just a couple days behind the second floor.”

The biggest concern Erickson said he has with both (existing school buildings) is the HVAC system upgrades.

“We ordered material in December with a six-month lead time. We wanted them in June. The last I heard was that they were supposed to ship by the end of this week. We may end up getting them by the first of August. The wiring and duct work is set in the (Washington building) and crews are ready to execute that,” he said. The Memorial building is nearly ready to receive the HVAC units, he added.

Board member Chad Davis inquired about contingency plans in place for final cleaning of the buildings before occupancy.

“We are looking at having other employees come in to help with the cleaning,” Klarich said.

Erickson added, “It might take a cleaning contractor to step up and do it. As I understand, at one time that was in the (construction) budget and then taken out.”

Erickson admitted the school locker room renovations will not be complete by Labor Day and added that a back-up plan is in place to go forward with alternative locker areas as the school year begins.

“My best guess for the locker room completion is at the end of September or early October. The supply chain is still messing with us. After the shower bases are here and placed, the tile goes in and then all the plumbing has to be hooked up,” he said.



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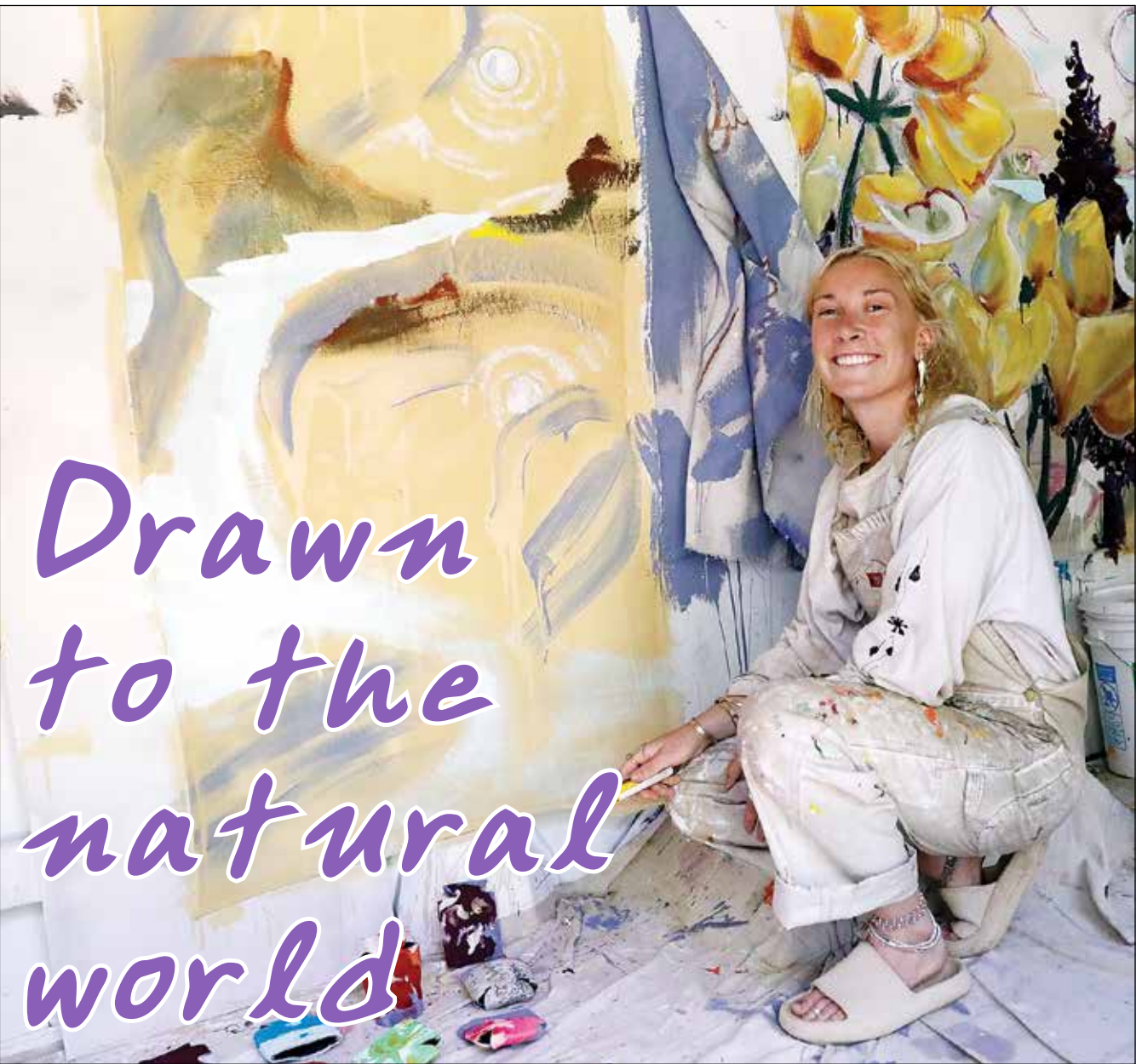
Blueberry/Art Festival

❖ July 29, 30, 31 ❖

Whiteside Park, Ely

Fri & Sat 10 AM-6 PM, Sun 10 AM-4 PM





Ely artist uses light and space in her oversized works

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – A local artist visited the North Country for the first time when she was a 15-year-old camper at YMCA’s Camp Widjiwagen, and she never really left. Leah Reusch worked at Widji off and on for the past ten years and finally decided to make her home here. “I just fell in love with this place,” she said. She

and her partner are building a permanent year-round home on the shore of Fall Lake and until then spend winters in Colorado. A small, unheated cabin with a deck, a screen house, and a woodshed look like a natural North Country hideaway. Parked nearby is a vintage passenger bus. The interior has been gutted to make room for Reusch’s art studio. Huge fabric paintings hang from the structures and trees, looking perfectly natural in this setting.

“I’ve been making art since I can remember. My grandparents were painters. My parents are both doctors, and my mom works with ceramics, and dad is a musician. They are definitely artists at heart and fostered in me the will to just go for it,” Reusch said. “I was taught my whole life that art is a huge tool for communication that is

See...ARTIST pg. 4B

Blueberry/Art Festival is back better than ever

Over 30 new artists and vendors adding their work to many festival favorites

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – With Mother Nature’s cooperation, more than 200 art, craft, and food vendors will fill Whiteside Park starting at 10 a.m. Friday, July 29 and stay until Sunday, July 31 at 4 p.m. “They will be joined by thousands of visitors to our wonderful community,” said Ely Chamber of Commerce Event Director Ellen Cashman, who has spent hundreds of hours planning the event layout featuring many of the favorite vendors, plus at least 30 new ones. “Our festival is a juried show, so each new applicant is reviewed by a panel of area artists and crafters,” Cashman explained. Those same jurors judge all the vendors on Friday morning and award the top three winners in both the art and craft categories. “We are excited to have a very diverse group of artists and crafters including some fantastic ones from the Ely area,” she said. “We have Tom McDonald from Bear Island Art Factory who does recycled metal art, Dafne Caruso who does both jewelry and mixed media paintings, Ginny Stage who does embroidered textiles, Annette Mattingly who does pressed flower art, Ben Pawlak who features wood crafts, and many more.”

Several of the new artists are also from Ely, including Brian and Jill Siegel who work with mixed media and Nina Wray who creates beautiful pottery. “Our food court is filled with many popular vendors offering tasty treats including turkey croissants, fresh seafood,

See...FESTIVAL pg. 3B



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Your guide to the 2022 Blueberry/Art Festival

Use the map below to locate all your favorite artists and food booths

Booth#

Organization Name

111

A & B Lawn and Deck Furniture

85

AK's Homemade Treats

73

Angry Tomato Salsa

31

Arkstone

32

Arkstone 2

38

Artistic Mud Pottery

113

Bear Island Art Factory, LLC

A

Becky's Oriental Foods

54

Bedangled

91

Belden Woodworking and Metal

Q

Best Way

135.136

Bett's Pottery

36

Big Aspen Design Co

L.M.N

BoB-a-Q

59

Bork's Botanical Creations

90

Boundary Waters Journal

93

Brian Dean Miller Glass

21

Buckthorn and Birch

167

Bunyan's Reclaimed Wood Designs

29

Burly Babe

12

Carson Pillow

110

Charcuterie Boards by Soren

151

CHB Custom Fillet Knives, LLC

140

Cici's Creations

106.107

Classic Creations

43

Clough Wooden Bird Art

134

Crafted by Amalia

122

Crow Wing Country Furniture

86

Custom Barnwood Creations

62

Dafne Caruso Artist and Jeweler

69

Dakota Mae Design

22

Daniel Bailey Fine Art

39

David Johnson Cabinet Maker

160

Debra Zubrod

94.95

DeerTshirts.com

149.150

Diamond Willow Dreams

44

Dragonflies and Cards

180.181

Easy Times

99

EBCH Foundation Ely

Bloomenson Community Hospital

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Elevated Spores

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Ely Chamber of Commerce Information

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Ely Hoop Club

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Ely Kiwanis Club

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Ely Northern Stitches

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Ely Rotary Club

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Emerson Expeditions

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Enchante

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Eric Helland Creations

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Felicity's Closet

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Felixery, L.L.C.

D

Finn Loki's Funnel Cakes

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Finn's Way Books

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Flock Duluth LLC

120.121

Flying Carpet

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Fredrick's Forest

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Gifts Made By Hand

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Gio Stay Alive

H.I

Go Figur's

Y.Z

Gobbler Concessions

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Heavenly Designs

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hey boo Creations

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Hidden Grains Creations

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Homespun Traditions

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International Wolf Center

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Into the Wild

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Jeff Renner Wildlife Art

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Jenifer LeClair, Author

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Jennifer A Murphy

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Jim the Carver

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Kettle Mania

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Mario's

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Millie's Corner Gifts

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Monkey Bandit Shop

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Moon Dog Studio

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Morning Glory Creations

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Mr. G's Legacy

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Mystic Sparrow LLC

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Naena Jewelry

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K.J

Now That's Waffles, LLC

125C.125D

Oak Outlet

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Oasis Del Norte

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Orange Tree

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Orr Acres Farm, LLC

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P & L Construction

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Paul's Porch Pots

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Pretty Doll Collections

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Pretty's N Paw's

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PYNG Paint Your Nails Girl

O.P

QFI - Quality Food International

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Richard Yacelga

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Rustic River Mosaics

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Ryan's Rustic Railings and Furniture

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Sassy Girl Studios

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SB Concessions

F.G

Schweiby's Concessions

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Silverfish 'N' Things

Sheridan Street

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Beer Tent

Bandshell

Seventh Avenue

Pavilion

Children's Play Area

Whiteside Park

Harvey Street

Restrooms

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DETAILS

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f

FESTIVAL....Continued from page 1B

corn dogs, brats, cheese curds, authentic Mexican food, BBQ, waffles, funnel cakes, oriental food, and frozen yogurt,” Cashman said.

The Ely Kiwanis is in the pavilion again this year with their delicious blueberry pies, ice creams and sandwiches. The beer tent is also back this year, and the proceeds will go to support the Ely Fire Department and their activities.

Pengal’s Basswood Trading will have the Blueberry/Art Festival t-shirts, sweatshirts, and blueberry pop. “There truly is something for everyone,” she added.

Visit the Ely Chamber of Commerce booth for their first annual Blueberry/Art Festival button. The buttons are only \$5 each and funds go to support the



festival. Buttons are also available at the chamber office at 1600 E Sheridan St. in Ely.

The third annual Operation Blueberry event kicks off on Thursday, July 28. A map and list of participating businesses will

be available on Friday, July 22. Some businesses are offering blueberry-themed sales and specials, while others are doing special events. Maps will be available at the Ely.org website, at the chamber office, and at the chamber festival

booth. The chamber booth will also have the coveted “Blueberry List” featuring blueberry art, crafts, food, and many other items offered by vendors at the festival.

VENDORS... from page 2B

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 98 Simple - Trends | 132 Treeghost, LLC |
| 177.178 Simply Homemade | 84 True Vivid Stone |
| 77.78 Simply Nuts | 83 Turquoise Feather Designs |
| 47.48 Smokey Photo | 154 Twice Woven |
| 64 Spinning Wheels Publishing | 123.124 Ultra Bubbles |
| 96 Standing Buffalo Knives | 128.129 UNEEK Tie-Dye Apparel |
| 124D Sunde Sound | 74 Vermilion Range |
| 7.8 Superior Photographs | Amateur Radio Club |
| 152 Suz and Roo | 4 Vug Jewels |
| 138 Suz's Country Candles | 58 Walking Wood |
| 25 TC Hollister | 92 Watercolors by Bonnie |
| 157 Terris Treasures | 141.142 Wearable Coinage |
| 81 The Ely Adventure School | 105 Well Being Development |
| 169 The Kernel's Best Kettle Korn | 101 WICOLA |
| B The Rolling Yo | 71 Wild Fern Herbal Soaps |
| 26 The Studio Candle Co. | 124E Wild Galleries |
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ARTIST...Continued from page 1B

just as valuable as anything else,” she said. “When I went to school and tried to study other things, I was an English major, I was a math major, and in the end, I was a studio art major because it was just coming out of me.”

Reusch’s love of art will be on full display this weekend as she makes her debut at the 2022 Ely Blueberry/Art Festival in Whiteside Park. The festival runs Friday through Sunday, July 29-31 and features hundreds of arts and crafts for sale.

On her website biography, Reusch said she works in interdisciplinary performance art and installations, making paintings with light and space, collages with painting and body and poetry.

She earned her studio art degree from Lewis and Clark College. “I developed my art style through exploring how to take the space between realism and abstraction and expand it out to a livable space,” Reusch said. “I think a lot about communication between people. Everyone has their own perceptions. Every plant and animal and landscape has its own life.”

She said she hopes that her work provides a strong connection with those who view it. “I try to look at those things, such as the smallest flower, and paint it so large with some areas of abstraction and other areas of realism. Any person can look at that painting and have something to grasp onto and enter the painting and become a part of it. To me, I would like for my work to create a space for people to communicate and connect with themselves and with nature.”

She continued, “I explore the human environment of art pieces, the healing energy that is hidden in the disconnect between moments of common ground and moments of abstraction. My work shares a space and energy with my body such that presenting it can feel all-consuming. Such a connection makes me passionately intrigued. I can paint something which is just barely abstracted to me, but if I show it to someone else they might not see it at all, and yet, practicing art has become how I interact with and connect energetically with other people, both physically and emotionally.”

At Ely’s Blueberry/Art Festival, Reusch will have some of her large-sized artwork on display and for sale, as well as painted woven blankets that are basically large-scale prints that can be used as a blanket



Above: Leah Reusch outside of her studio, created from a renovated old passenger bus. Right: One of Reusch’s tapestries. photos by K. Vandervort

or hung as a tapestry. “They’re like a painting you can snuggle with,” she said.

Reusch will also feature other painted objects like hand bags, purses and pouches. “Similarly, as I like to paint large, I also like to paint objects,” she explained. “Art is something you can live with, to have art more present in your life.”

Reusch works with youth and with disabled adults in wilderness settings and on farms, teaching and learning and practicing healing methods through





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The neighbors you trust.

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- Immunizations
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Obituaries and Death Notices



Carrie Cazares

Carrie Henrika Folz Cazares, 59, passed away on Thursday, June 30, 2022, surrounded by family at her home in Hillsboro, Ore. A memorial service will be held on what would have been her 60th birthday, Thursday, Aug. 4 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. followed by an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass. Carrie will be interred with her parents at the Ely Cemetery. A celebration of Carrie’s life and 60th birthday

will take place after the service at Zaverl’s Bar in Ely. Carrie was born on Aug. 4, 1962, in Ely, to Jon and Carolyn Folz. She was a graduate of Ely Memorial High School and Duluth Technical College. Carrie was united in marriage with Efen Cazares on July 10, 2004. Carrie was a loving, fun, and spirited wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, and a special friend to many. She was an adoring mother to her many fur baby Schnauzers and cats. She spent her career working in the hospitality industry in Minnesota, North Carolina and Oregon. She enjoyed retiring to St. Petersburg, Fla., before moving back to Oregon last year to be closer to family. Carrie was a warrior, having battled

several forms of cancer beginning in 1993. She never let her illness define her and she lived a very active life, filled with travel, family, friends and fun. Carrie had a zest for life like no other. In fact, her illness hospitalized her in Duluth in December 2019 where she unexpectedly passed away, and to the amazement of her doctors, she came back to this world to fight back her cancer and live a full and active life for another two and a-half years. She was an indomitable spirit and such a special person to so many. Carrie is survived by her husband, Efen Cazares; daughters, Paula Wideman and Amanda (Ryan Vuylsteke) Cazares; grandchildren, David McGee, Conner McGee, Isobella Wideman and Mia Wideman, all of

Hillsboro, Ore.; siblings, Barbara Folz of Duluth, Virginia Anderson of Ely, Joan (Peter) Weckman of Ely, Jon Folz Jr. of Ely, Jamie (Russell Lende) Folz of Vernonia, Ore., and Kathleen (David) Hood of Aloha, Ore.; special aunt, Karon Mobilia; special uncle, Jim Folz (Lorene Pucel); many nieces and nephews; and many dear friends. She is also survived by her beloved dogs, Trixie and Buddy. She was preceded in death by her mother and father; niece, Alison Folz; brother-in-law, Brian Anderson; and several aunts and uncles. Gerald Morrison Gerald Lloyd “Gerry” Morrison, 82, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, July 24, 2022, at Carefree Living in Virginia. A special thanks to all the

caregivers at Carefree Living who took this colorful personality into their hearts and made him feel part of a family. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook, with visitation held one hour prior to the service at 1 p.m. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook. He is survived by many close friends.

Harold Leustek Harold F. Leustek, 77, a lifelong resident of Ely, died on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, doing what he loved to do...moving dirt. At his request, there will not be a Funeral Mass at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church. A gathering will be held at his home in Ely, 1336 Hwy. 169, on Saturday, Aug. 13 from 1-6 p.m. with a Taps tribute at 4 p.m.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mercedes “Cissy” Thompson Leustek; sons, Aaran (Vicki Himmelright) and Mark; sisters, Mary Pryatel, Geraldine Corsiatto and Patricia Marty; grandchildren, Nathan (Ashley), Nicolette, Patrick and Preston; great-grandson, Ronan, whom he was anxiously waiting to meet; sister-in-law, Candy; brothers-in-law, Timmy and Joe; and many nieces and nephews.

Ange Bernard Ange Bernard, 92, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 24, 2022, at Beehive Homes in Frisco, Texas, with family by his side. Family and friends will hold a celebration of Ange’s

life at Nelson’s Resort on Crane Lake on Thursday, Sept. 8. A committal service and burial will be held at the Eveleth Cemetery at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 9. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Ange’s name to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (alzfdn.org), 322 Eighth Ave., 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001. Cron-Sheehey Funeral Home of Eveleth is handling arrangements. He is survived by his children, William Bernard (Debra) of Red Lodge, Mont., Robert Bernard (Maria) of El Paso, Texas, and Joan Johnson (Stuart) of Prescott, Ariz.; sister, Andrienne (Bernard) Keennon; grandchildren, Katie, Michael, Kate, Erin, Kristen, Elizabeth, Alex and Lauren; and great-grandchildren, James, Jackson and Eli.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION KUGLER TOWNSHIP
State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in all election precincts in Kugler Township at the KUGLER TOWN HALL, 9072 Highway 135 N, Tower, MN

On Tuesday, August 9, 2022. Polling places will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

FEDERAL OFFICES
United States Senator
United States Representative, District 8

STATE OFFICES
State Senator
COUNTY OFFICES
Office will appear on ballots only in applicable district

Federal Offices
United States Representative District 8

Legislative Offices
State Senator
State Representative

State Offices
Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Attorney General

County Offices
County Commissioner District 6
County Sheriff

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk.

Published in the Timberjay, July 29, 2022

FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Public Accuracy Test for the Auto Mark and DS 200 voting machines for Field Township will take place Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 7 pm at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Highway 25.

Pat Chapman/
Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 29, 2022

KUGLER TOWNSHIP

The Public Accuracy Testing of the voting machine for Kugler Township will take place on Monday, August 1, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Published in the Timberjay, July 29, 2022

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP Notice of Candidate Filing

Notice is hereby given Eagles Nest Township will be accepting affidavits of candidacy at Eagles Nest Town Hall 1552 Bear Head State Park Road from August 2, 2022 to August 16, 2022. The Eagles Nest Town Hall will be open on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Friday, August 12, 2022 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Appointments to file may also be made by contacting the Clerk at eaglesnestwp@citlink.net. Filling fee is \$2.00.

The following seats are open for candidacy this election:
Town Supervisor A- (4) four-year term
Town Supervisor D- (4) four-year term
Town Supervisor E- (4) four-year term
Treasurer- (4) four-year term
Special Election Town Supervisor B- (2) two-year term.

Published in the Timberjay, July 22 & 29, 2022

NOTICE OF TESTING OF AUTOMARK VOTING SYSTEM MORCOM TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Morcom Township shall perform a public accuracy test of the AutoMark Voting system to be used in the Primary on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. The test shall be conducted at the Bear River School 12512 HWY 22, Cook, MN 55723, on Monday, August 8 at 5:00 pm.

Interested individuals are authorized to attend and observe.

If you have any questions, please contact Sasha Lehto, Clerk at 218-969-5812 or email: morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com

Sasha Lehto, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 29, 2022

NOTICE OF 2022 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION Morcom Township ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Notice is hereby given to the voters of St. Louis County, Minnesota, that a State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, in all election precincts within all cities, towns and unorganized areas of St. Louis County. Polling place hours for Morcom Township will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Bear River School / Community Center 12512 HWY 22, Cook, MN 55723.

(Polling place hours with the exception of townships having a population of less than five hundred residents that have adopted a resolution establishing a later poll opening, but in all cases polls will open no later than 10:00 a.m.)

Federal, State, Judicial and County offices to be nominated at the State Primary Election are as follows:

Federal Offices
United States Representative District 8

Legislative Offices
State Senator District 3
State Senator District 7
State Senator District 11
State Representative District 3A
State Representative District 8A
State Representative District 8B

State Offices
Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Attorney General

County Offices
County Commissioner District 6
County Sheriff

Sasha Lehto, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 29, 2022

NOTICE OF 2022 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION CITY OF TOWER ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Notice is hereby given to the voters of St. Louis County, Minnesota, that a State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at the Tower Civic Center, 402 Pine Street, Tower, MN 55790. Polling place hours will be from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Unorganized areas **NOT** voting by MAIL BALLOT will vote at the following polling locations:

- Unorganized 14 (T57-R16)- Lakeland Volunteer Fire Hall, 4667 Vermilion Trail, Gilbert, MN
- Unorganized 15 (T60-R18)- Sand Lake Chapel, 9038 Biss Rd., Britt, MN
- Unorganized 16 (T60-R19)- Evergreen Volunteer Fire Hall, 10233 Hwy. 65, Britt, MN
- Unorganized 17 (T56-R16)- Makinen Community Center, 6601 Wilson Rd., Makinen, MN
- Unorganized 22 (T63-R14) Breitung Twp Garage/Fire Hall, 33 1st Ave., Soudan, MN
- Unorganized 18 (T59-R16)- Pike Town Hall, 6862 Hwy. 68, Embarrass, MN
- Unorganized 24 ((T64-R12)- Morse Town Hall, 911 S Central Ave., Ely, MN

Federal, State, Judicial and County offices to be nominated at the State Primary Election are as follows:

Federal Offices
United States Representative District 8

Legislative Offices
State Senator District 3
State Representative District 3A

State Offices
Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Attorney General

County Offices
County Commissioner District 6
County Sheriff

Michael Schultz, City of Tower Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, July 29, 2022

CITY OF TOWER SAMPLE BALLOT

Official Ballot

State Partisan Primary Ballot
Saint Louis County, Minnesota
August 9, 2022

Judge _____
Judge _____

Instructions to Voters:
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ●

This ballot card contains a partisan ballot and a nonpartisan ballot. On the partisan ballot you are permitted to vote for candidates of one political party only.

Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party	Legal Marijuana Now Party	Republican Party	Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party
State Offices Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One Team <input type="radio"/> Steve Patterson and Matt Huff <input type="radio"/> Darrell Paulsen and Ed Engelmann	State Offices Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One Team <input type="radio"/> James McCaskey and David Sandbeck <input type="radio"/> Chris Wright and L.C. Lawrence Converse	Federal Offices U.S. Representative District 8 Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Pete Stauber <input type="radio"/> Harry Robb Vialty State Offices State Senator District 3 Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Andrea Zupancich <input type="radio"/> Kelsey Johnson State Representative District 3A Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Blain Johnson <input type="radio"/> James J. Staba Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One Team <input type="radio"/> Scott Jensen and Matt Birk <input type="radio"/> Joyce Lynne Lacey and Kent Edwards <input type="radio"/> Bob "Again" Carney Jr and Captain Jack Sparrow Secretary of State Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Kim Crockett <input type="radio"/> Erik van Mechelen Attorney General Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Sharon Anderson <input type="radio"/> Doug Wardlaw <input type="radio"/> Jim Schultz	Federal Offices U.S. Representative District 8 Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Jen Schultz <input type="radio"/> John Munter State Offices State Senator District 3 Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Grant Hauschild State Representative District 3A Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Rob Ecklund Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One Team <input type="radio"/> Ole Savior and Julia M Parker <input type="radio"/> Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan Secretary of State Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Steve Simon <input type="radio"/> Steve Carlson Attorney General Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Keith Ellison <input type="radio"/> Bill Dahm

Continue voting on the nonpartisan ballot. Continue voting on the nonpartisan ballot. Continue voting on the nonpartisan ballot. Continue voting on the nonpartisan ballot.

City of Tower 0940 Type:01 Seq:0136 Spl:01

State and County Nonpartisan Primary Ballot
Saint Louis County, Minnesota
August 9, 2022

Instructions to Voters:
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ●

This ballot card contains a partisan ballot and a nonpartisan ballot. On the partisan ballot you are permitted to vote for candidates of one political party only.

County Offices
County Sheriff Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Chad Walsh <input type="radio"/> Gordon Ramsey <input type="radio"/> Jason Lukovsky

Vote front and back of ballot

City of Tower 0940 Type:01 Seq:0136 Spl:01

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

Published in the Timberjay, July 29, 2022

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Published in the Timberjay, July 29, 2022

Dated: June 28, 2022
SIGNED BY: Jemma Baker

Published in the Timberjay, July 29 & Aug. 6, 2022

More legal notices on

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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.

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VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhdirector@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.

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HELP WANTED

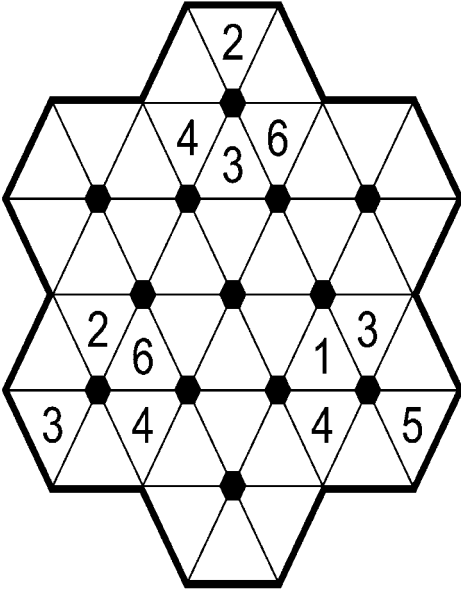
HELP WANTED- LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, painting, some demo work and cleaning. Pay based on experience. 20 to 30 hrs a week. Please call or text 218-290-5370. 7/29

COOKS & BARTENDERS NEEDED: Apply in person at Good Ol' Days, 316 Main St., Tower. 7/29



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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Answer

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

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ACROSS
1 Yeamed (for)
7 Zion National Park locale
11 Fracas
14 Domino's order
19 Colorado River tribe
20 Quarterback Tony
21 Bible book after Exod.
22 PC letter
23 Bought an expensive Camaro?
26 Desert plants
27 "— all true!"
28 Hit the slopes
29 Crooning while standing atop a Rio?
31 Glimpses
33 Large African antelope
36 Pianist Schiff
37 Request to your Accord when you need to get somewhere in a hurry?
42 Triton's realms
43 Snake noise
47 — Lingus
48 Traffic jam
50 Funny
52 Color ranges
56 City where the Model 3 is produced?
59 Adjust
60 Land in eau
62 Raggedy —
63 Tripled trio
64 Why you don't want to give up your beloved Q??
70 Has food
71 Sparkly stone
72 From long ago: Abbr.
73 Once-big news agcy.
74 "Silkwood" co-star
78 Declaration when a Regal stalls in traffic?
82 VIP roster
86 London loc.
87 Clink dweller
88 Shire of "Rocky"
89 Charger being dismantled for scrap metal?
94 Permitted
96 San — (city WSW of Sacramento)
97 Unceasingly
99 Up to, in brief
100 Pace
101 Don of talk radio
104 Things provided by joyrides in a Grand Cherokee?
109 Crude shed
111 Knightly title
112 Caulk, e.g.
113 Action words used in Continental ads?
119 Forest hooter
122 Rapa — (Easter Island)
123 Large city in Nebraska
124 Put a wheel boot on a Mustang?
128 Cato's language
129 Ocean east of Fla.
130 Burn balm
131 Main course
132 Nerve cell projections
133 Pekoe, e.g.
134 Oxen connector
135 Vocalizes Alpine-style
DOWN
1 Mischievous
2 Just so
3 Chipping tool
4 Was ill with
5 Gabor and Longoria
6 Pack of cards
7 Suffix with depart
8 "Mazel —!"
9 Schumer and Sedaris of comedy
10 Pueblo tribe
11 Trues up
12 Make a choice
13 Pull-out part of a range
14 — Bill (Old West folk hero)
15 Somalian supermodel
16 Astros pitcher Greinke
17 Rigatoni relative
18 Et — (and more)
24 Lofty
25 Stranded cellular stuff
30 NBAer Pau
32 Gap-creating gizmos
34 NSFW part
35 Joins up
38 D.C. subway
39 Goof up
40 65% or so, gradewise
41 Vienna's nation: Abbr.
43 Cracker brand of old
44 Holy likeness
45 Equivalent
46 Louver piece
49 Physics Nobelist Max
51 — -pedi (spa option)
52 NSFW part
53 "Guilty," e.g.
54 Louisiane, par exemple
55 Mann of pop
57 "Gemini Man" director Lee
58 Acting instinctively, informally
61 Long- — (rangy)
65 E followers
66 Capital of South Vietnam
67 "Ltd." cousin
68 Winning by a point
69 Salsa, say
74 White wine
75 Fiery realm
76 Pennsylvania city
77 Use a book
78 Texter's "ciao"
79 Sturm — Drang
80 Backdrops
81 Flight unit
82 Slightly open
83 Moon, in Italy
84 Research ctr.
85 — -Ball
90 "Entrapment" director Jon
91 Headwear in the title of the first Ellery Queen mystery
92 FBI's govt. division
93 "Gosh!"
95 — degree
98 Print quality abbr.
102 Gen. Assembly procedure for a resolution
103 McCartney of fashion
105 Medium gait
106 "The Raven" maiden
107 Hardy's pal
108 Declines
109 Bank offers
110 Munic. law
113 Dancer Falana
114 Huge-screen format
115 Defense gp.
116 Facial feature
117 Yrly. gift-giving occasion
118 Aviate alone
120 Milk serum
121 Jokey Jay
125 Asian pan
126 Born, to Fifi
127 Co. bringing bouquets

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Is a state ban the only way to get the lead out?

When we think about the changes we can make to lessen our impact on the environment, tossing our lead-based fishing tackle and making the switch to non-lead alternatives would seem to be well up on the list of the easy things to do.

And it just got even easier thanks to a new program by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, which is offering



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

rebates of 35 percent to retail tackle shops in order to encourage them to stock and promote the sale of lead-free tackle alternatives.

The alternatives have long existed, but they’ve been slow to catch on. They tend to be somewhat more expensive and, let’s face it, most of us resist any kind of change, even simple changes that can

make a difference. The MPCA’s grant program could help encourage anglers to give the lead-free options a try. If retailers can save money on the purchase of alternatives, they can offer them at a lower price, and that could make the difference with some anglers. As more anglers turn to safe alternatives to lead, the cost of those products will naturally decline as manufacturers can ramp up production.

To date, despite a number of statewide promotional efforts, tackle shops in our area have

mostly continued to stock lead sinkers because the public simply has been reluctant to make the switch.

That’s a shame, because we know that most anglers want to protect the resources they’re out to enjoy. We know that lead is deadly and the more of it we put out into the environment, the bigger the risk it poses to wildlife. According to the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, an



A DNR x-ray reveals the lead sinker (see pointer) that killed this loon.

See LEAD...pg. 9B



LAKE VERMILION

Monsters of the reef

For anglers seeking big musky, there’s been plenty of action this summer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION—For years, musky were known as “the fish of 10,000 casts,” but that no longer applies, at least on Lake Vermilion when the musky action heats up.

Just ask Scott Urhammer, a musky fishing fanatic from Somerset, Wis. He’s been after trophy fish for years, working the top lakes across Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario. Until this past week, that list did not include Lake Vermilion—although that’s changed since his visit here last week.

“It was pretty amazing,” said Urhammer, who came up for a few days after a trip to Lake

Above: Brett Vetterkind, of Somerset, Wis. hoists a 51-1/2 inch musky he caught late last week on Lake Vermilion.

submitted photo

of the Woods was canceled due to continuing high water. “It was a last-minute deal, and the only one who could come along was the son of a friend of mine.”

Urhammer and his fishing companion, Brett Vetterkind, also of Somerset, didn’t get their 10,000 casts in, but they saw plenty of action. “We moved a lot of big fish the first two days,” said Urhammer. “We ended up with a total of six muskies, 51-1/2 inches was the biggest. The rest ranged from the mid-30s to a 46-incher.”

They also landed a number of big northern pike, up to 39 inches.

Their experience wasn’t a fluke.

“We’re getting good reports from fishermen staying at the Marjo,” said Orlyn Kringstad, who operates the Marjo Motel in Tower with his wife Marit. The motel has been busy with anglers this summer, and they’ve mostly been raving about the fishing, said Kringstad. “Especially the musky,” he said.

Vermilion’s reputation as an exceptional musky lake has only grown since the Department of Natural Resources confirmed a state catch-and-release record of a 57-1/4 inches caught last July 23 on Vermilion. That actually

tied the previous catch-and-release record, also caught on Vermilion.

Longtime musky guide Matt Snyder agrees it’s been an active bite this summer, but he attributes much of that to the dramatic decline in competition on the lake this year. With Canada now open, anglers who were working the reefs on Vermilion the past couple years have headed north of the border. “We are having success, that’s for sure, but we’re not having to share the water this year. I only saw two other musky boats yesterday,” Snyder said Wednesday morning. “During the pandemic, we were seeing

See MUSKY...pg. 9B

IN THE GARDEN

Compost the easy way—directly in the garden

by MELINDA MYERS
Contributing columnist

Don’t toss those imperfect lettuce leaves, onion tops and strawberry tops into the trash. Instead, convert them into compost right in the garden.

Worm and pile composting are great ways to manage these scraps. But if these methods aren’t for you, try trench composting. This

centuries old technique is low effort and effective. The process is basically invisible, eliminates the need to turn a pile of plant debris, requires minimal space and doesn’t smell.

Simply dig a 12-inch-deep trench between the rows of vegetables, in the pathway, or in any vacant spot in the garden. Be careful not to damage the plant roots. Add about four to six inches

Right: Harvest trimmings and kitchen waste can go right back into the garden, where it contributes to better soil.

of kitchen scraps, mix with soil and cover with at least eight inches of soil that you removed from the hole. Covering with this much soil helps prevent animals from digging. Repeat until

See COMPOST...pg. 9B



Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
EVENING PRIMROSE



You know we’re on the downhill side of summer when the **Evening Primrose**, *Oenothera biennis*, comes into bloom. These prominent yellow, four-petaled flowers grow atop plant stalks that can frequently grow five feet high or taller. You’ll find them mostly in sunny, dry, disturbed areas, like roadsides or fields.

This plant will flower at the top of the stalk and new blooms will develop as the stalk grows higher. The old blooms form bottle-like pods as the seeds develop inside.

As its name suggests, the evening primrose flowers tend to close up during the day and open back up toward evening and will generally remain open through mid-morning.

Outdoors briefly

DNR taking wolf plan comments thru Aug. 8

REGIONAL—The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be welcoming comments on the agency’s draft wolf management plan through 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 8.

People can review the plan on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/WolfPlan). Comments can be submitted a number of ways: by completing an online survey (engage.dnr.state.mn.us/WolfPlan); emailing written comments to wolfplan.dnr@state.mn.us; or sending written comments to Wolf Plan, Box 20, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155.

The updated wolf management plan includes summary information about Minnesota’s wolf population and a history of wolves in the state. It details the diverse and changing public attitudes about wolves, the legal status of wolves, tribal perspectives on wolves, and ways to support a healthy and resilient wolf population while minimizing conflicts between humans and wolves. The draft plan also sets out a framework for future decisions about whether to hold a wolf hunting or trapping season, should the wolf be removed from the federal threatened species list in Minnesota.



After three years of poor berry crops, Mother Nature is making up for lost time this summer, with an abundance of large, juicy blueberries now ripe for the picking. Go out and get your share!

photo by M. Helmberger from his secret spot

Outdoors briefly

Bear permit lottery winners must buy license by Monday

REGIONAL — Bear hunters who entered the lottery for bear hunting licenses should check to see if they were selected for a license. The DNR has mailed postcards to lottery winners and hunters can also check the DNR website to see if they were selected. The deadline to purchase a bear license is

Monday, Aug. 1. Surplus licenses will be available at noon Thursday, Aug. 4. Bear baiting may begin Friday, Aug. 12, and the hunting season is Thursday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Oct. 16. Find more details on the DNR bear hunting page (mndnr.gov/Hunting/Bear).

Group offers bonus payments for livestock losses to wolves

REGIONAL — A Minnesota-based non-profit wolf advocacy organization has launched a “Wolf Forgiveness” bonus program designed to limit the trapping of wolves over possible connection to livestock predation. The group, Howling For Wolves (HFW), is offering a direct bonus payment to livestock producers in Minnesota wolf range who suffer a suspected loss due to wolves, and choose not to engage a trapper to kill wolves in the vicinity. The bonus payment would be in addition to any government indemnity payment. Predator losses within wolf range, as well as atypical cases outside the defined wolf range, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Eligible producers can contact Howling For Wolves directly to initiate the process for payment of \$600 per calf and \$750 per adult. Basic information, such as the age of the lost livestock, a photo, and the last time the animal was seen, should be included.

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Friday

71 51

Saturday

80 60

Sunday

80 57

Monday

73 51

Tuesday

75 53

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.
07/18	87	60	0.21		07/18	86	52	0.32		07/18	85	61	0.29		07/18	86	63	0.32		07/18	85	61	0.40	
07/19	88	62	0.01		07/19	87	61	0.04		07/19	86	62	0.05		07/19	79	63	0.04		07/19	87	60	0.02	
07/20	82	58	0.03		07/20	83	56	0.06		07/20	81	59	0.41		07/20	79	61	0.29		07/20	80	60	0.00	
07/21	80	59	0.02		07/21	80	60	0.00		07/21	78	58	0.04		07/21	79	61	0.00		07/21	81	56	0.12	
07/22	79	54	0.16		07/22	78	53	0.04		07/22	78	58	0.27		07/22	79	57	0.17		07/22	78	54	0.40	
07/23	82	53	0.00		07/23	81	52	0.03		07/23	80	58	0.01		07/23	70	54	0.00		07/23	81	52	0.00	
07/24	74	56	0.03		07/24	73	55	0.08		07/24	71	55	0.07		07/24	64	54	0.00		07/24	72	54	0.06	
YTD Total			12.71		YTD Total			15.30		YTD Total			15.92		YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total				19.52

LEAD...Continued from page 8B

organization of professional fisheries managers, nearly 15 percent of loons in Minnesota suffer from various levels of lead poisoning and between 100 and 200 individual loons die in the state each year from ingesting lead tackle, mostly small sinkers.

Most birds need grit to digest their food, and aquatic birds, like loons, obtain their grit by picking small pebbles up off lake bottoms. If a loon ingests just a single sinker, it can release enough lead into its system to kill it. Every year, anglers lose literally tons of lead sinkers and some of those end up killing loons.

Ultimately, if Minnesota truly wants to address the issue, it will probably take a ban on lead tackle, as has been proposed for the past several years in St. Paul. State agencies, like the MPCA, have been trying to use educational methods to encourage the use of non-lead tackle alternatives for years, without any detectable success. Most New England states, including Maine,

have already enacted lead bans to protect loons there. Given the amount of tackle made and sold in Minnesota, action here would likely be enough to get much of the industry to make the switch. One thing we know for sure— once a switch is made, it will have no impact on our ability to go fishing. We’ll simply be reducing the threat to loons and other diving birds.

It’s like back in the day with leaded gasoline. If it had been up to drivers at the time, unleaded would have never caught on. The knowledge that the lead in gasoline was causing health problems, particularly in kids, clearly wasn’t enough to convince most drivers to switch to lead-free options. In fact, it wasn’t enough for the federal government to act on the issue, either. It was only the introduction of catalytic converters, which were mandated to reduce a highly visible form of pollution—smog— that prompted the phaseout of lead. It turns out that the lead quickly clogged the

converters, rendering them useless. Otherwise, who knows, most drivers today would probably still be happily pumping lead into the air as they sit stuck in traffic. As it was, many Americans were upset when lead was finally banned from most of the gasoline sold for cars and trucks. Some drivers actually added lead back to their gasoline for years because, well...just because.

In the end, of course, the lead-ban resulted in far less lead in the environment, which was a huge benefit for the nation’s young people. A recent peer-reviewed study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, concluded that Americans born in the 1960s and 70s lost an average of six to seven IQ points as a result of inhaling lead from gasoline. With the benefit of hindsight, it now seems positively insane that we used to allow lead in gasoline.

Hopefully, eventually, we’ll come to see the use of lead tackle in the same light.

COMPOST...Continued from page 8B

the trench is filled with plant debris and covered in soil.

Just like other composting methods, use plant-based materials only. Do not add meat, dairy and fat that can attract animals and rodents. And this is no place for perennial weeds like quackgrass, annual weeds gone to seed, or invasive plants that can survive the composting and take over the garden.

You can also trench compost one hole at a time. Just dig a hole in a vacant space in the garden, toss in the materials, mix, and cover with soil. I grew up with this method. After dinner or once we had a bowl full of kitchen scraps, we were sent

to the garden to dig a hole, dump, and cover.

For those that want to rotate plantings as well as compost, you may want to try one of these two methods. Plant in wide rows and trench compost in the pathway. Next year, move the garden to the path location and make last year’s garden the path. You will be rotating your plantings while improving the soil.

Or designate separate adjacent areas for planting, paths, and composting. Next year, rotate so last year’s composting area becomes garden, the garden becomes the path, and the path is the new section for trench composting. In three years,

you will have rotated crops and improved the soil in all three areas.

Start by contacting your local municipality to make sure there are no restrictions on any type of composting. Then get out the shovel and dig your way to healthier soil and a more productive garden.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

MUSKY...Continued from page 8B

20-25 boats a day.”

Snyder said the intense pressure of the pandemic years appears to have pushed musky off the reefs,

where anglers have typically focused their quest for the trophy fish. Now, said Snyder, he’s finding the musky in deeper water, which can make

finding them a bigger challenge. So far, anyway, Snyder’s been up to the challenge.

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

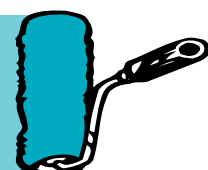
DRY

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

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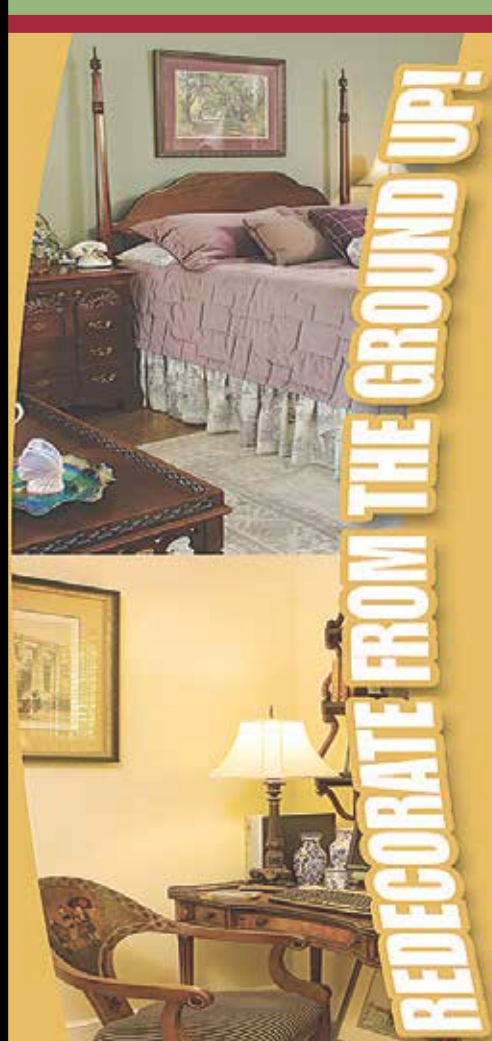
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