



Inside:
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Eradicating buckthorn... See /4B

the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁰⁰

ELECTION 2022

Primary features several non-partisan races

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Will narrow fields for Nov. 8 general election

REGIONAL — The general election won't be held until Nov. 8 this year, but voters will help determine their eventual choices during the primary election set for this Tuesday, Aug. 9.

The primary ballot will feature a number of contested races, including three-way non-partisan contests for Ely Mayor as well as St. Louis County Sheriff.

Longtime Ely council members Heidi Omerza and Paul Kess are seeking the city's top job along with political newcomer Mark Haarman. Tuesday's contest will narrow that field to two candidates.

In the closely-watched sheriff's race, current St. Louis County Undersheriff Jason Lukovsky is facing off against

More election

► Three candidates vie for Ely mayor seat. **Page 10**

Gordon Ramsay, who previously served as police chief in both Duluth and Wichita, Kan. Moose Lake police officer and gun store owner Chad Walsh is the third candidate in Tuesday's primary,

which will narrow the field to the top two vote-getters.

In legislative contests, the real action is on the Republican side, where Babbitt Mayor Andrea Zupancich is facing off against former Iron Mining Association president Kelsey Johnson.

In District 3A, Ely Mayor Roger Skraba is seeking the

Republican nomination to challenge current Rep. Rob Ecklund. He faces competition from Blain Johnson, a Bigfork area resident with an extensive background in emergency management, including a master's degree in biodefense and homeland security from George Mason Univ.

Republicans will also face a choice for attorney general, where endorsed candidate Jim Schultz is facing a challenge

See...ELECTION pg. 10

ELY BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL

Back to normal

Ely's main summer event recently disrupted by COVID, epic storm

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Following the festival-canceling coronavirus pandemic of 2020 and an epic storm in 2021 that left Whiteside Park in shambles, the 41st annual Blueberry/Art Festival here last weekend signaled a return to normal.

More than 200 art, craft and food vendors and thousands of visitors descended on this community at the end of the road last weekend for Ely's premier summer festival.

"We had great weather all

weekend and record crowds in the park," said Ely Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Eva Sebesta.

The weekend wasn't without wary eyes to the sky as storms passed through northeast Minnesota late in the day on Sunday.

Organizer and Chamber Event Coordinator Ellen Cashman announced at the festival that this year it would be her final summer event.

"I've been at it for many years,

See... ELY pg. 10



At right, Five-year-old Allison Bajan, of Ely, licks a blueberry cheesecake ice cream cone Sunday morning at the 41st Ely Blueberry/Art Festival. Below, Ely artist Leah Reusch won first place in the art category. This was her first year exhibiting at the event. photos by K. Vandervort



NORTHSHORE MINE

Ecklund bill would extend jobless benefits for 26 months

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Rep. Rob Ecklund has drafted legislation to extend unemployment benefits for laid off Northshore Mining workers for an additional 26 weeks.

Cleveland Cliffs CEO Laurence Gonçalves announced last week that the Northshore Mine would be idled at least through April of next year. Cleveland Cliffs currently owns and operates the Northshore facilities, located near Babbitt and in Silver Bay.

Ecklund's bill would be up for passage in a special session, although it remains uncertain if such a session will be held this year. Legislative leaders and Gov. Tim Walz have so far been unable to reach an agreement on the parameters for a special session. The Legislature adjourned back in May without completing a number of spending measures, including significant bonding and tax measures critical to major projects in northeastern Minnesota.

"Learning that Northshore Mining will be shut down well into 2023 means workers and their families in our region will face an uncertain economic future

See...BILL pg. 9



Rep. Rob Ecklund

WORKING THE LAND

Flank Farm receives Century Farm award

\$700 investment in 1921 turns into family legacy

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BEAR RIVER- In 1906, Peter Flank, a 40-year-old Swedish immigrant, his wife, Anna, and their two young children, six-year-old Arthur and one-year-old Edith moved from their western Minnesota home of

Fertile to the lush countryside northeast of Bear River, establishing a farm in unincorporated Township 62, Range 21.

Two years later, Ruben and Fannie Dobson and their two young children became the Flanks' neighbors, moving

See...FARM pg. 11

Standing on the deck of their home overlooking the fields and trees below, Craig and Valarie Flank display the Century Farm sign from the Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau.

photo by D. Colburn



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Community notices



2022 Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships in Mt. Iron Aug. 13

MOUNTAIN IRON -The 40th annual Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships will take place at Mountain Iron’s Merritt School Auditorium, Saturday, August 13, 2022 starting at noon. This is the 10th year the competiton has been held in Mountain Iron continuing a tradition, that began 40 years ago in Cotton.

The contest is open to all US and Canadian fiddlers as well as all other stringed instrumentalists. The championship division is certified by the National Oldtime Fiddlers’ Association, and the State Champion will qualify to compete at the National Old Time Fiddle Championships at Weiser, Idaho. We have \$2,000 in cash and prizes for the top 4 fiddlers in four different age divisions. The non-fiddle and Twin Fiddle divisions are open to all ages and all bowed and plucked stringed instruments. Rules, online registration, and contact information can be found at www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/Fiddle-Contest.

Contestants should arrive between 10-11 a.m. on Aug. 13 to warm up and finish their paperwork; and the mandatory meeting with judges will be at 11:30 a.m. The show begins at noon with the judges playing first, followed by the contestants. Contestants in all categories will be playing a waltz, a hoedown, and a tune of choice, except for Twin Fiddlers who only need to play one tune. The show is open to the public. Admission is \$10. This year’s judges are Sara Alexander of Virginia, Mary LaPlant of Grand Rapids, and Cristina Seaborn of St. Cloud. For contestants who don’t bring their own back-up accompanist, we are fortunate to have Steve Phillips on guitar. These activities are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature’s general and arts and cultural heritage funds, and in part by a grant from Minnesota State Fiddlers Association.

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FESTIVAL FUN

2022 Festival of Skalds Aug. 13-14 in Angora

ANGORA- We’re so excited to once again open our gates for the Festival of Skalds! Immerse yourself in a world where historians, poets, and story tellers of the Old Norse join fantasy creatures of all sorts in a fun filled, family friendly, weekend of merriment. Patrons will enjoy over two dozen artisan merchants of handcrafted wares, archery and axe throwing, unique entertainment, and

tasty food. This event is hosted by Iron Ranger Arts and runs Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Festival entrance is at 8182 Carpenter Rd, Angora, MN. Admission \$5 per adult 13+, 12 and under Free with a nonperishable food item donation, or \$1. More information can be found on the Iron Ranger Arts website www.ironrangerarts.com.



Mustafa tells tales from long ago at Angora's Festival of Skalds

LIVE MUSIC

Jukebox Time Machine - A Tribute to the jukebox hits through the decade at Ely's Historic State Theater Friday, Aug. 5

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Pat and Donna Surface and their award-winning band, American Pie, are back with a new musical -

"Jukebox Time Machine, A Tribute To The Jukebox Hits Through The Decades".performing Friday, Aug. 5, for one night only. This unique show is a multi-media tribute to timeless artists from

the 50s through the 70s. The muscial features the songs of : The Beatles, Glen Campbell, Elvis, Buddy Holly, The Everly Brothers, Bob Dylan, Neil Diamond, Santana, (and more) as dynamic videos

play on the State Theater’s big screen

Proceeds benefit the Spiritwood Foundation a non-profit fighting Alzheimer’s, and working to enhance quality of life of seniors and veterans. For more information on the Foundation and SLN go to: www.Spiritwood-Foundation.com. Watch the trailer and purchase tickets online at elystatetheater.org or call 218-235-6300 or purchase tickets at the concessions area daily between noon and 10 p.m.



On left: Pat and Donna Surface and American Pie make music that brings back memories

THEATER

Mixed precipitation bringing family-friendly opera to the area in August

REGIONAL - Mixed Precipitation presents the second installment of their traveling operatic adventure. Unfolding on their pickup truck stage, this show is lively fun for all ages.

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

This futuristic telling of the opera is created by music director Gary Ruschman, playwright Francisco Benavides, and staging director Taous Khazem. Mixed Precipi-



tation tells the story with a cast of singers, puppeteers, and instrumentalists, featuring Mozart’s fiery arias, epic choruses, and the groovy beats of the 90s discotheque, including Dee-lite, Pizzicato Five, Icelandic pop star Björk, and other 90s hits.

Their 2022 summer tour includes performances in sprawling parks, nature centers, and

farms all over Minnesota. Audiences are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and beverages for their comfort. The performance lasts approximately 75-90 minutes. All performances are outdoors. Watch their website and social media for weather delays.

Area performances include:

►Thursday, August 4 at 7 p.m at Cook’s CountryConnection,1953

Vermilion Dr. Cook, MN 55723

►Friday, August 5 at 5 p.m. Tower Farmers Market (shortened version)

►Saturday, August 6 at 4 p.m Whiteside Park, 721 E Sheridan St. Ely, MN 55731 *Presented by the Ely Folk School*

►Sunday, August 7 at 2 p.m. Early Frost Farm, 7273 Palo Tia Rd. Embarrass, MN 55732

►Friday, August 12 at 7 p.m. Hovland Town Hall, 4957 East Highway 61, Hovland, MN 55606 *Presented by the North Shore Music Association*

►Sunday, August 14 at 1 p.m. Finland Heritage Site, 5653 Little Marais Rd. Finland, MN 55603 *Presented by Lovin’ Lake County.*

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This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and culture heritage funds.

ARROWHEAD REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

THE ARTS

Ely’s Reflections Dance Company presents Math in Motion

REGIONAL - Residents of Winton may have noticed some busy dancers rehearsing outside the Winton Community Center this summer as the Reflections Dance Company (RDC) prepares for their annual summer show.

This year’s performance, to be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 11-13 at 7 p.m., and Sunday Aug. 14 at 1 p.m., at the Fine Arts Theater on the Minnesota North College, Vermilion Campus, is shaping up to be a very engaging production with three acts filled with live music, dancing, and visual images, according to Director Molly Olson.

“The company has been renting the Winton Community Center this summer, and sometimes there are more dancers than can fit into the space. Battling the bugs, dancing in the rain, and sweating in the sun are just some of the ways these dancers have shown their dedication,”

Olson said.

“This show combines two of my passions, and provides a unique way to expose people to math. From zero to infinity, the show will tackle a number of math concepts. Audience members will have to approach the pieces with an open mind and may come away with a new way of looking at math,” she said. Olson is also the Northeast Area Gifted and Talented coordinator/math teacher based in Ely.

The show will be accompanied by a mixture of live and pre-recorded music. Led by musical director Irene Hartfield who plays keyboard, the Reflections Band includes Joey Kenig on guitar, Jef Cerniak on bass, Ellen Schertzer on cello, Howie Schertzer on sax, and Alan Phillips playing percussion and guitar.

Assistant musical director Karin Schmidt leads the choir, including Crystal Chopp, Andrea Strom, Emily Weise, Erin



Dancers Brooke Pasmick, Gracie Pointer, Cora Olson, and Charlotte Hegman rehearse their piece “Movement” for the upcoming show

Bremner, and Ian Lah.

“Come for the dancing, but stay for the music. This group of local talents will keep your toes tapping, and you’ll be humming the tunes for days after the lights go down,” Olson said.

Former Ely resident Zack Baltich recorded two original pieces for this production. Binary is a piece derived from the binary code translation of the words, ON, OFF,

ONLY?, ONLY!, and ! with the muted pipe representing “0” and the resonant pipes representing “1”. The drums switch roles throughout. Infinity Dreaming creates a soundscape that evokes repetition and continuity. Keiko Williams is featured playing violin in this unique composition.

“The dancers in the production range from youngsters just beginning their journey and learning their first steps, to adults

looking for a fun way to keep dance in their lives,” Olson said. Choreographers Johnnie Hyde, Cora Olson, Molly Olson, and Crystal Poppler found creative ways to express math concepts through movement. Many dancers also contributed choreography for the pieces. Attendees will see counting, space, shape, time, distance, and infinity featured in the performance.

There will be an art

exhibit in the theater lobby centered around the theme of math. Quilts, hanging ornaments, paintings, and photography from children to professionals will be featured. The exhibit will begin on Monday, Aug. 8, and remain up through the final show on Sunday, Aug. 14.

Tickets for the dance performance are available on the NLAA website, and are \$20 for regular, \$15 for NLAA members, and \$10 for youth 12 and under. Tickets will also be available at the door.

This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature’s general and arts and cultural heritage funds as well as a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

TOO CUTE!

Wolf Center’s new pups join exhibit pack

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The newest residents at the International Wolf Center, Blackstone and Caz, are now part of the Exhibit Pack.

After several months of getting acclimated to their new home and roommates, the new pups joined Rieka, Grayson and Axel late last week in the public exhibit area that is viewable through several large windows at the Wolf Center.

Grayson and their anxiety with coming into a smaller area of confinement such as the retired space. Rieka was very comfortable with this area and the pups were relaxed as well, Schmidt noted.

“The pups did a lot of chasing and jumping on the adults, which caused Axel some increased anxiety,” she said, “so we decided to move the arctics (Axel and Grayson) out and let Rieka have some time with the pups, then moved all of them to the larger Pack Holding Area gate rather than have more tension in the smaller chute area.”

Within a few hours, according to Schmidt, Grayson, Rieka and the pups were observed in some group activities on the pump house and the Explore.org camera captured some play behavior with Rieka and the pups.

“Axel continues to show some tension when pups approach or jump on him and Rieka has been guarding the pups when Axel approaches, adding to his tension,” she added. “This is

similar behavior that we saw through the fence when Rieka was at the pup yard.”

The Wolf Center has a behavioral team recording data when they are closed to the public and educators are keeping an eye on the wolves throughout the business hours.

“A member of the wolf care team is always available to provide distractions and to open up alternative areas to retirement and the Wolf Care Center if we need to disperse some of the activity,” Schmidt said.

“Wolf care staff’s focus is to distract Rieka’s defense drive toward Axel when the pups are near. Wolves are always challenged by changes to pack structure and the staff



The Ely Wolf Center’s newest residents, Caz and Blackstone, were allowed to joined the rest of the Exhibit Pack late last week and were getting acquainted with Rieka, Axel and Grayson over the weekend.

photos by K. Vandervort

See PUPS .pg. 5

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ANGORA This 6 BR recreational cabin includes a large common area w/spacious, stainless kitchen to cook and bar area for storytelling. Cabin has maintenance free exterior, wrap-around covered deck with a view of large meadow to watch wildlife and back porch that leads to the detached wood-fired sauna. **MLS#143805 \$425,000**

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

VNP law enforcement

Area residents have legitimate concerns about overzealous policing, recent tasing

As we reported last week, Voyageurs National Park officials received an earful at Crane Lake from local residents and the owners of resorts and other businesses that serve the park over what appears to be a dramatic change in the aggressiveness of law enforcement in the park. Park officials would do well to take the concerns seriously.

The Park Service could take a step in the right direction by mounting a full and transparent investigation into the recent tasing of a local business owner, Justin Ebel, of Ebel Houseboats, who was apparently attempting to assist clients in the park who had run aground with their watercraft. No law enforcement officer should tase anyone unless their life is in danger. Tasing is a serious escalation in any incident, particularly on the water, where a person can easily drown if they were to lose consciousness. At this point we don't know exactly when the tasing took place, where it took place, or what prompted such an aggressive move. We also don't know if there is any body camera footage that might help to clarify what happened. That's because the Park Service has refused our request for so much as a basic incident report, something which state and local law enforcement routinely provide.

The Park Service's lack of transparency is troubling, as is the fact that the law enforcement official now in charge at the park, Josh Wentz has been stationed at eight different federal parks or recreation areas over his 14-year career. There could be any number of reasons for such frequent job changes, but one of them could be that his overzealous approach to law enforcement rubs folks the wrong way wherever he goes.

Many longtime and sensible business owners in the area were outspoken at the recent forum at Crane Lake. Park officials had held the town hall meeting primarily as a debrief on this year's record spring flooding, but speaker after speaker wanted to talk about what they see as a noticeable change in both the nature and attitude of law enforcement in the park.

Resort owners were complaining that some of their guests have reported multiple stops during a week's stay, and that the law enforcement officials they've interacted with were belligerent and disrespectful. That's absolutely unacceptable. National parks are created to provide the public with quiet enjoyment of the natural world,

not so federal officials can abuse them without probable cause. We want to encourage more visitors to come to Voyageurs and that won't happen if their visit is likely to include a very unpleasant interaction with federal law enforcement. This has to end now.

Concerns about overzealous law enforcement is hardly a new thing. Most public officials, at least at the state and local level, have learned that transparency is the quickest way to resolve public concerns. That's why the lack of transparency that we've seen to date from the Park Service is so disheartening. Do park officials really not get it?

We understand that there may be personnel issues at play, but that's no excuse for what the public understandably sees as an unhelpful circling of the wagons. Other public police departments have similar personnel policies, which restrict the release of certain kinds of information. But that doesn't prevent them from releasing what they can when public concerns arise. Without transparency, the public can have no guarantee of accountability from law enforcement officials. Accountability is absolutely critical. Law enforcement officials are given a significant amount of legal authority and, unfortunately, some officers let that go to their heads. Yet there is too much at stake here. A couple bad apples is all it takes to send park visitors elsewhere and rekindle the distrust that long existed between the park and local residents and business owners. Park Superintendent Bob DeGross needs to make bloody well sure that doesn't happen.

The Park Service should issue a statement that speaks to the concerns recently expressed by Crane Lake residents, a statement that should include the steps the park is taking to address them. Park officials should also release a detailed report on the recent tasing incident. According to a family member, park law enforcement had sought to board the damaged watercraft that Mr. Ebel was in the process of towing back for repairs. What probable cause did park officers have for demanding to board the vessel? And if this happened on the water, what steps did park officers take to ensure that Mr. Ebel didn't fall overboard and drown after tasing him? The public deserves answers to this and many other questions related to the incident. It's up to the Park Service to provide them.



Letters from Readers

U.S. should work for peace, not foster war

Instead of sending weapons to the Ukraine fueling the fire, it would be wise to work for peace. This war could easily have been avoided but unfortunately war is exactly what the U.S. and NATO wanted. Russia only wanted no NATO in the Ukraine, no nuclear weapons that much closer to Russia, and for the Ukrainian government to stop killing Russian speakers in the eastern part of the Ukraine.

War is good for corporate profits. The U.S. government, whether Democrat or Republican, does NOT represent the people of the U.S. Wars against Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and economic wars against Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, Palestine, etc. are not in the hands of the people of the U.S. The U.S., as representative of ONLY the rich corporate interests, don't care what Americans think and will do what they damn well please internationally and try their best to brainwash us with the corporate-owned media. The U.S. is gambling that what it is doing will not start a nuclear war. Unfortunately, Americans are easily swayed.

We fight amongst ourselves on issues that don't matter to corporate greed and so they are left alone to work their criminal activities around the world. Corporate greed is represented by the American government-both parties included.

Tax money that could be used for better purposes (health care, infrastructure, global warming) is used to destroy and kill so corporate greed can make more profits. I don't want my tax money to be used for military purposes but I have NO say in the matter. America is a democracy for the rich corporate interests.

The U.S. supports the Israeli apartheid against the Palestinians, the U.S. killed 3 million Vietnamese who were never an enemy of the U.S. The U.S. killed over a million Iraqis so that the oil could be controlled by U.S. corporations, the U.S. supported coups against democratic governments in Guatemala, Chile, Grenada, etc. The list of crimes that the U.S. has committed against the world is very long. Misery is what America always leaves in its wake. Misery is America's export. We need to stop believing and supporting the lies that are fed to us by the American media.

Steve Johnson
Ely

Law enforcement urges your vote for Zupancich on Aug. 9

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the State of Minnesota.

We're writing to urge your support and vote for Andrea Zupancich for MN State Senate district 3 in the Primary Election on Aug. 9. The MPPOA wholeheartedly endorses Zupancich because she is an exceptional advocate for the citizens in the district.

Zupancich is a strong supporter of our public safety officials and first responders, holding them in highest regard. She will stand against attempts to defund and dismantle the police, and she promotes public safety legislation that keeps communities safe. She has significant experience in the public policy arena that will serve us all at the state Capitol. She understands the risks our officers face daily.

Please join us in supporting Andrea Zupancich in the Primary Election on Aug. 9.

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace
Officers Association

We need a sheriff, not a dictator

I am writing this letter to address my misgivings about to Mr. Chad Walsh. He is seeking the office of St. Louis County Sheriff. Mr. Walsh introduces himself as a Constitutional Sheriff. According to Wikipedia (a free online encyclopedia), Constitutional Sheriffs see themselves as the "highest authority in the county." Sheriffs of this mindset believe "they have the power and duty to defy and disregard laws they view as UNCONSTITUTIONAL," especially at the federal and state level.

The Constitution of the United States of America contains 27 Amendments. Most of these amendments have the following wording. "Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation." Wikipedia explains Constitutional Sheriffs see laws created by federal and state governments as overreaching into people's lives.

Mr. Walsh, as a Constitutional Sheriff, could at his free will decide not to enforce constitutional amendment laws. For example, the 13th Amendment-

Abolishment of Slavery, the 15th Amendment-Race No Bar to Vote, the 19th Amendment-Women's Right to Vote or the 26th Amendment-Voting Age at 18 Years Old.

Many newspapers report that Mr. Chad Walsh supports former President Donald Trump's claim of widespread voter fraud in the 2020 Election. I researched The Heritage Foundation, which is a "research and educational institution whose mission is to build and promote conservative public policy."

VOTER FRAUD FACTS:
from 2004-2022 (18-year period)

- 1,365 proven instances of voter fraud in the entire USA.
- 1,173 criminal convictions.
- 102 diversion programs.
- 48 civil penalties.
- 25 judicial findings.
- 17 official findings.

These voter fraud cases are broken down in alphabetical order by states. Minnesota had approximately 131 voter fraud cases during that same period, the most recent proven instance of voter fraud was in 2018. There was nothing in the 2020 General Election.

I see Chad Walsh, a Constitutional Sheriff, as a step toward a DICTATOR.

Deborah L. Saarinen-Fosso
Bear River

Want more babies? Try rewards rather than penalties

So far, the anti-abortion people are using only the stick of prohibiting abortion to accomplish their stated goal of achieving more live births. Wouldn't rewards work better?

Let's look at something like the benefits available to the average military service member who receives an honorable discharge. (Medical care and education during and after their service, for starters.)

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

We welcome your letters

The Timberjay encourages letters to the editor. Please email letters to editor@timberjay.com. We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.



Sheriff Litman is voting for Jason Lukovsky

Voters will go to the polls on Aug. 9 to narrow down the candidates to be St. Louis County’s next sheriff. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your sheriff for the past 20 years. During that time, I have appreciated working with the county board of commissioners, county administration, the 260 dedicated colleagues within the sheriff’s office, the 100 volunteers, and the many professionals of our county’s 180 public safety agencies that keep you and your family safe.

These past 20 years have given me a unique perspective on what it takes to be a successful sheriff. That is why I know Jason Lukovsky is the best candidate to succeed me and is deserving of your vote on Aug. 9.

I’ve worked closely with Jason the past 24 years. I have promoted him five times and I know what he is capable of. He’s smart, builds relationships and is a respected leader within our county. In his current role of undersheriff, number two in command, Jason has a hand in directing all our divisions and operations on a daily basis.

This is no easy task in a county that spans 7,092 square miles. The sheriff’s office is responsible for boat and water safety, homeland security and emergency management, the rescue squad, law

enforcement services, 911 emergency communications, radio maintenance, and operation of three jail facilities.

There are also subdivisions which include administration, uniformed patrol, investigations, civil/warrants, and courthouse security. All these duties and responsibilities are handled from offices in Duluth, Hibbing, Virginia, Ely and Mt. Iron. Jason is closely involved with them all.

Of the three candidates in this race, none is as prepared as Jason. Without question, one of the most critical skills of a successful sheriff is to build, maintain and foster new relationships. If another were elected, it would take them years, if ever, to build the relationships and mutual trust with our citizens, community leaders, criminal justice partners and public safety personnel.

Jason already has all that. People in St Louis County already know and respect him for his intelligence, compassion for this work, and his ability to lead.

Perhaps you think I am biased. I am. I know it takes a special person to be an undersheriff, someone with the experience, respect and level-headed demeanor to be an excellent sheriff. I am proud of Jason’s performance as your undersheriff and of his candidacy for the office I hold.

I am not the only one with that opinion. More than 15 law enforcement and labor organizations in Duluth and on the Iron Range have officially

endorsed him. They include two Duluth Police union groups.

We all share the same desire of electing a sheriff who is fully prepared to protect and serve the citizens of St. Louis County the day they are sworn in and into the future. That person is Jason Lukovsky.

Ross Litman
St. Louis County Sheriff

Jen Schultz will represent our region well

As someone who worked with Jen Schultz at UMD and helped run her four Minnesota House campaigns, I read with pleasure the July 1 report on her campaign appearance in Ely. The Jen Schultz I have known over the years shone through.

She accurately describes herself as a problem solver. I recall a grateful letter from someone Jen had met door-knocking in 2014, as she campaigned for her first term in office. He had shared a problem he was having getting needed services from the government. She suggested avenues he could pursue, and his problem was quickly solved.

In the Minnesota House, she often has worked quietly behind the scenes, to help create needed legislation and to support colleagues in their efforts to find solutions to large problems. Likewise, she has worked

with legislators and senators to sponsor bills in both houses, a needed part of the process for a bill to ultimately pass.

Jen truly cares about helping people and serving the best interests of her region and its residents. Our current Representative in Congress has not helped make our lives better, as Jen notes in her comments in July. His votes in the subsequent month are as bad as previous votes: against the Right to Contraception Act, which would protect women’s rights to determine when to begin a family; or, in a partisan display of party over national (and regional) interests, against the Chips and Science Act, designed to increase both U.S.-made semi-conductor chips and innovations in science and technology (thus improving economic and national—as well as our regional—security).

As Jen notes in her comments in Ely (and likewise, wherever she campaigns for the Eighth District congressional seat), she wants “to ‘be the bridge’ between mining and the environment.” As her endorsements by labor, the DFL, and various pro-environmental groups indicate, Jen is the perfect person to be that bridge.

Jen also is the perfect person to represent us in the U.S. House, as legislators write bills aimed at solving all the other issues that confront us in our daily lives, and as they vote on issues protecting our political democracy. You will not see her seeking

to throw out the votes of voters here in Minnsota, nor elsewhere in the U.S., as Stauber did by signing on to the Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s lawsuit against Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. Her training in economics and health care, her emphasis on problem-solving, her proven ability to work with colleagues across the political spectrum, and her commitment to improving the lives of everyone and protecting our individual freedoms, will serve us well.

Eileen Zeitz Hudelson
Duluth

Americans want a voice in decisions

The New Deal created a safety net for economic stability and security that allowed workers a sense of belonging, esteem and dignity. Although Whites were dominant and women were subordinate to men, social conscience was awakening to actualize the American Dream. Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from fear and from want stirred our nation’s consciousness.

The U.S. population profile began to change. Unionized jobs vanished to low wage countries to maximize corporate profit. White male dominance receded as woman gained a place in the workforce and became prominent in public life. Religion lost influence as church attendance dropped dramatically. The political clout of working

men declined. Union membership in the workforce fell from over 33 percent to about six percent. Union busting and job relocation decisions are the work of corporations, the employers. Voter suppression measures have been enacted in state legislatures to severely limit democracy. The American Dream faded into a memory of a bygone era for working people who would fall for someone to be Commander-in-Chief intent on replacing political democracy with fascism.

The right-wing openly appealed to base emotion: racism, male chauvinism, xenophobia and religionism. Blaming immigrants takes attention from employers who hire them for profit. Abortion bans subordinate women to men. Faith systems mutated into conspiracy theories and belief in the lies of a cult leader. The Republicanism that destroyed the New Deal, ironically became home to white Christian male workers intent on violent insurrection to overthrow political democracy.

Corporate boards and their CEOs form an economic dictatorship with less than one percent of the population to control an economy that directly affects the remaining 99 percent. Political democracy is necessary for realizing economic democracy. The “eye on the prize” is our right to participate in decisions affecting our lives.

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

Ely’s Historic State Theater plans film festival

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY - Ely’s Historic State Theater (EHST), was recently awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board grant to host Ely’s first annual film festival.

The event is set to be held during the second weekend of Ely Winter Festival 2023, Feb. 8-12. Organizers said they look to build on the successes of past Ely Winter Festival and BeardFest events while aiming to attract a new audience demographic to Ely for the arts.

For those new to this type of event, festival director Jacob White, explained “A film festival is an organized, extended presentation of films in one or more venues, usually in a single city or region. Film festivals showcase films from outside Hollywood, providing audiences with

stories they might not otherwise have access to. Film festivals also enable independent filmmakers to showcase their work, connect with audiences, network with other filmmakers, and compete for awards, prestige, and sometimes cash prizes.”

The End of the Road Film Festival seeks to feature stories of adventure, advocacy, Indigenous traditions, rural economies, crafting in nature, mental health awareness, comedy, horror, and more, according to White.

Festival organizer Ryan Bajan, Ojibwe studies teacher at Nett Lake Elementary, added “We are especially excited to uplift Indigenous stories and perspectives in the festival. We’ll be coordinating opportunities for Bois Forte youth and families to participate in the festival.”

EHST’s board of directors endorsed White’s ini-

tiative and innovation in bringing this new event to Ely, anticipating that the End of the Road Film Festival will provide unique arts programming for our small, rural town and the surrounding area. EHST board chair David Wigdahl said “Watching films together as a community can entertain us, challenge us, and inspire us to imagine the world from different perspectives.”

Additionally, White, himself a filmmaker, noted that independent films often lift up stories outside the mainstream media narratives, and “in a small town like Ely, those are the types of stories we can best see ourselves reflected in.”

The EHST board envisions that inviting filmmakers to attend in person will allow the community to learn from professionals in the film industry and to highlight Ely as a thriving arts community by

showcasing its own local creative talent.

A burgeoning film industry already exists in the Arrowhead Region of Northeastern Minnesota. In 2021, lawmakers passed the St. Louis County Regional Production Incentive Program, which offers financial incentives to encourage the production of film, television, and digital media content in St. Louis County. It is funded by the county, and the Upper Midwest Film Office administers the program.

The concept of hosting a film festival was first discussed by board members of Ely’s Historic State Theater back in 2015, when work had just begun on renovating the theater. By 2019, EHST was ready to begin screening movies and hosting live events.

“In 2020, COVID-19 posed a challenge for audiences to safely gather in indoor spaces, but

the theater persevered,” Wigdahl said. “This year, EHST has a full slate of new movies and live events such as concerts, art shows, theatrical performances, and more.”

For more information on the End of the Road Film

Festival or to submit a film for review, visit elystatetheater.org/ERFF. People interested in volunteer or sponsorship opportunities with the festival may send a résumé and cover letter to festival@elystatetheater.org.

Freight train derails Saturday north of Cook

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Fourteen rail cars of a northbound Canadian National freight train derailed Saturday night about seven miles north of Cook.

The 123-car CN train was traveling through a remote area at about 7:47 p.m. Saturday when 14 cars

near the end of the train left the tracks, with some of the rail cars tipping over on their sides. Some of the cars contained hazardous materials, but a St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office press release issued about seven hours after the incident confirmed there were no leaks or spills. No one was injured.

Contacted Monday by

the *Timberjay*, a CN spokesperson confirmed that train traffic had resumed at the site of the incident, and that there is no danger to public safety. CN crews were expected to be on site for several days to remove the remaining rail cars.

The cause of the incident is under investigation. Train derailments are more common than gen-

erally known. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics, there are on average about 1,700 derailments per year in the U.S., a little over four per day.

St. Louis County Emergency Management assisted with the initial response to the accident.

options, through the help of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and found an acceptable facility in western Minnesota. They were a little bit older so we didn’t bottle feed them, as we normally start with that at 10-12 days of age.” The two new pups, born April 6 and brought to the Ely facility on May 10.

and one here in the United States. Pup welting is always a waiting game. One facility’s mating pair didn’t work out. The other facility’s just had a single pup available this year, and they decided to keep her. The third facility, where Rieka came from, had multiple breedings but each had just one pup,” she said. Schmidt said she looked for other wolf pup


PUPS ...Continued from page 3

will continue to help them work through that change. Dominance can be noisy, but the adults are using controlled muzzle bites and the pups are responding with appropriate submission,” she said.

The addition of the new wolf pups this spring happened very fast. The Wolf Center planned to add pups in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced officials to

delay those plans for one year. And last year, the Wolf Center was only able to procure one pup in 2021. “Adding pups this year was important for the health of the pack, and to allow our yearling wolf, Rieka, to experience some pup behavior she lacked as a singleton,” Schmidt said.

“We had three educational facilities lined up to work with, two in Canada



the
TIMBERJAY

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

Week of Aug. 8

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 8

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.

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 9


Wednesday
Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 10. Note change in date due to the Primary Election.

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.

History Talks to feature Olson's Grocery on Aug. 16
TOWER- Lynn Olson and Debbie Olson Shields will present a program on "Growing Up on Tower's Main Street: The Inside Story of Olson's Grocery and Hardware" on Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 1 p.m. The program will be hosted by Dianna and Terry Sundahl who own the building that housed the old Olson Store at 515 Main Street (across from Vermilion Fuel and Food), the location of the old Olson Store.

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



FIND SOME TREASURES

Sales galore in Tower-Soudan this weekend

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN- With over 20 garage sales in Tower and Soudan last Saturday, along with the two-day Charlemagne's Attic Sale, a fundraiser for the Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS), shoppers had no trouble finding treasures and bargains.

"The Charlamagne Sale was a huge success," said TSHS volunteer Nancy Larson. "We were very busy both days." The sale raised over \$3,000 that is earmarked for the construction of a handicap-accessible bathroom in the Historic Fire Hall building.

That sale will reopen, with plenty of new items, for one day on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., the same day as a fundraiser at St. Martin's Catholic Church. The sale will also be open on Sept. 9 and 10, in conjunction with Ely's Harvest Moon Festival.

The city-wide garage sales, organized by Paula Barnes, was also a huge success. Alleys were often plugged with cars cruising from sale to sale, and sellers reported success in ridding themselves of unneeded household goods. Several area children took advantage of the day to offer lemonade and treats.



Above: Katie Larson directed cars to her family's sale. photos by T. Trucano

Right: Mark Olson had his garage stacked with items for sale, most of which got snapped up by Saturday afternoon.
Below: Terah Rhinerson helped her mother Paula Barnes. Barnes organized the city-wide sale.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Filings for four Tower Council positions close on Tuesday

TOWER- The filing period for the upcoming November 8 election for the Tower City Council closes on Tuesday, Aug.16 at 5 p.m. There are four openings on the council:

- Four-year term for Mayor, seat currently held by Dave Setterberg, who was appointed to

the position after the resignation of Orlyn Kringstad. Setterberg had been a council member.

- Two four-year terms for councilor.
- One two-year term for councilor.

The three open council seats are currently held by Joe Morin,

Tom Suihkonen (appointed), and Robert Anderson (appointed).

As of Aug. 2, no one had filed, but no current council member had indicated they were not going to refile for office. For information on how to file for office, please contact Tower City Hall at 218-753-4070. Can-

didates need to file for a specific seat (Mayor, four-year, or two-year opening).

Other area townships who hold their elections in November and have filings closing on Tuesday are Embarrass, Eagles Nest, and Kugler.

TSHS Aluminum Can Project is on hold for now

TOWER- The aluminum can collection project of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society is being put on hold due to the high cost of transportation to area recycling centers in combination with the lower aluminum can price per pound at this time.

The aluminum can trailer has been removed from its location behind the historic fire hall. Please recycle your aluminum cans at your local landfill during

this time. TSHS will notify its supporters in the future when the project is reinstated.

Thank you to all who have donated your cans to this project as the proceeds were important to the support of our programming and depot train museum operations. We truly regret we have to put this project on hold as it is a big loss in revenue, but too costly for volunteers to cover.

How can you provide support

to the TSHS operations with this loss of revenue support? Please join as a member. Your \$10 Individual or \$20 family membership goes to support TSHS in carrying out our mission that is dedicated to community enrichment through education, preservation, and celebration of the rich history and the heritage of the Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion area through people, artifacts and stories.

Donations and annual membership support can be mailed to Tower-Soudan Historical Society, PO Box 465, Tower, MN 55790; made at our History Talk events, or at the Tower Train Depot Museum. The Depot Museum is open from 10 am to 4 p.m., Friday through Sundays through Labor Day weekend.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

St. Louis County Solid Waste Facility Area site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Summer Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am–3pm Tue: 9:30am–3pm Wed: noon–6pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am–6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Summer Hours Tues: 1–6pm Thurs: 8am–1pm Sat: 8am–5pm Sun: noon–6pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am–5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30–4:30pm Thu: 10am–5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am–4pm Tue, Wed: 10am–4pm Sat: 8am–noon
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am–1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th
For solid waste and recycling information go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

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



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

The church is hosting a Bible School Reunion on Saturday, Aug. 13,



Fridays 4-6 PM
at the Train Depot in Tower

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 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 pre-

served 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.

Pickup Truck Opera at the Tower Farmers Market on Friday

TOWER- Stop by the Tower Farmers Market on Friday, Aug. 5 for a free performance of Mixed Precipitation's family-friendly version of Mozart's "The Magic Flute." This is a shortened ver-

sion of their show, which will also be performed at other area venues (see story on page 2). There will be music, puppets, singing, and fun for all ages.

The Tower Farmers Market is open on Fridays at The Depot. The hours designated for selling are 4-6 p.m., as agreed upon with the city of Tower. The market board is asking vendors and customers to please respect those hours for doing business.

The cost for a space is \$35 for the season or \$5 per day. Just show up with your table; no preregistration required. Returning and new vendors with any questions can contact Janna at 218-749-2186 or Mickey at 218-984-3951.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Watercolor Club Art show returns to Ely

ELY – Thousands of original watercolor art pieces were on display last week at the 43rd annual Ely Watercolor Club’s Annual Show and Sale. The popular show ran July 20-24 at the city of Ely Miner’s Dry building

“This should have been our 45th show but we shut down the event for the past two years because of COVID,” said Sue Mischke, one the club’s show organizers. “So the club members were busy painting the last couple of years.”

“This is most art we’ve ever had at our show.”

Every watercolor piece produced by about 10 artists was offered for sale at the free show. “There were large pieces and small pieces, and lots of abstracts and landscapes,” she said. “Just about everyone here does some kind of wildlife and nature because of the beautiful place we live in up here in the North Country. Handmade greeting cards are always popular.”



Above: Watercolor art fans returned to Miner’s Dry building late last month for the 43rd Ely Watercolor Club’s annual show and sale. Top: Ely artist Cecelia Rolando provided watercolor painting demonstrations during the show. photos by K. Vandervort

AROUND TOWN

Pickleball courts resurfaced for better play



ELY - The newly resurfaced school courts opened late last month. Players were excited about the resurfaced courts. They said they were able to grip better, and the boldly defined play areas were a great addition to games.

The resurfacing project has improved overall play as well. The resurfacing will serve the growing Pickleball program for many years, organizers say.

Mary Mills took the lead in ordering the supplies and keeping track of the project’s progress. Halen Lundstrom headed up the planning and organizing of the resurfacing crew.

The volunteer resurfacing crew members included Craig Seydel, Jon Moe, Mike Magnine, Ed Finnegan, Matt Oberhelm, John Mills, Don Hedin, Ted Schlosser, Dennis Burns,

and Jeff Le Master.

Check class offerings at elyclasses.com. For those interested in learning the growing pickleball activity, sign up on the “Interest in Pickleball” email list.

What is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a paddle sport that was established about 50 years ago. It is claimed to be one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States. It is basically ping pong meets tennis on a badminton court.

Ely folks have been playing since 2011. It has grown from a dozen players to more than 80 players who signed up for Ely Community Education’s Summer Pickleball program.

Ely Pickleball players have formed the Ely Pickleball Club. The club

organizes events, fundraisers, and takes care of the courts. The club also provides instructors for the introduction to Pickleball classes, which are run several times a year.

This popular sport has grown in enrollment. The USA Pickleball Association estimates there are more than five million players, a 34 percent increase since 2017.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

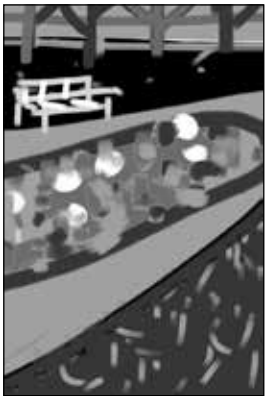
ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call her at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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤ Aug. 9: A Conversation About the War in Ukraine featuring Roman Polishchuk in Ukraine, as well as Tom Hanson, a diplomat in residence at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (Speakers will be presenting virtually, but audience members are still invited to the Grand Ely Lodge).

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



the tents now removed
park returning to itself

berries just to pick

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

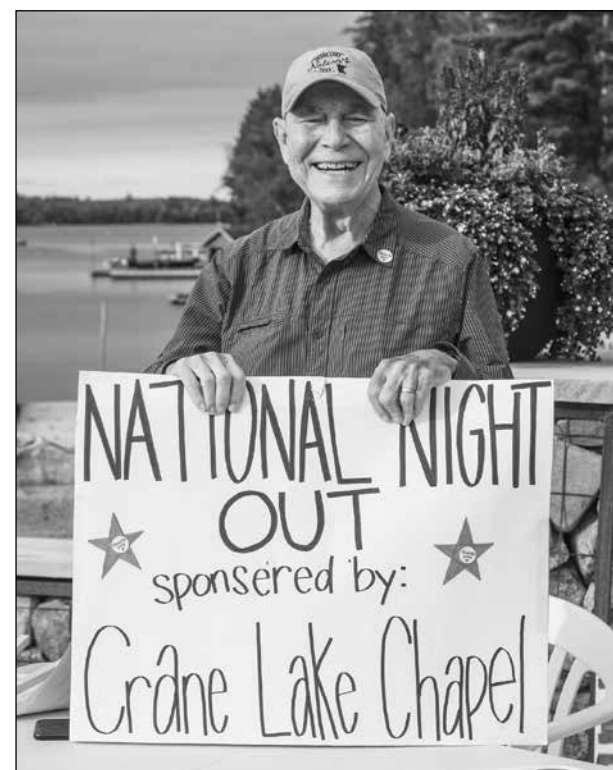
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30
p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
SUNDAY NIGHT AA -
at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church is canceled.
ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
CO-DEPENDENTS’ 12-step support group, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E Camp St, Ely.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED
Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:
Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living.
Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B



The Ely Golf Club’s Youth Golf Program wrapped up this week with lessons offered for young golfers ages 8-14. The camp focused on teaching and reinforcing golf skills and etiquette to beginning, intermediate and advanced players in a fun and encouraging manner. Students learned and practiced golf skills through repetitive drills on and off the course from experienced golf players and Ely Golf Club members. photo by K. Vandervort



The Crane Lake and Buyck communities came out in full force up and down Gold Coast Rd. on Tuesday night to show support and raise funds for their emergency responders.



Top left: Before crossing the flag-adorned bridge into town, visitors were greeted enthusiastically by Warren Bradbury.

Top center: Cohen Bell, 14, of Crane Lake, warms up the whiffleball equipment with a hit before the adults took the diamond. The Pine Point Lodge team won the adult conest, making good on the bold prediction by resort co-owner Jeff Erickson that they would win it all.



Top right: Connie Cowden's freshly cooked glazed donuts were in high demand, enough so that after putting these donuts down she used up the last of her batter for the evening.

Center right: Crane Lake's fire trucks were of interest to old and young alike, as was the department's rescue boat moored at a dock nearby.

Lower right: Jessa Quam kept busy scooping up ice cream and pouring root beer for floats, but her five-year-old daughter dispensed with the ice cream and went straight for a drink to quench her thirst.



Lower left: More than a dozen collections of items were up for bid in a silent auction in just one of many activities intended to raise funds for the Crane Lake and Buyck fire departments.

photos by D. Colburn

Honoring our emergency responders

National Night Out 2022 in Crane Lake and Cook



While a late afternoon deluge dampened turnout a bit, Cook Fire and Ambulance crews hosted National Night Out activities at Cook Community Center on Tuesday. Left: Seven-year-old Chester Talberg waits out the rain by sharpening his skills with a cue stick. Center: The lights were on but nobody was home in either the ambulances or fire trucks during a torrential downpour at the start of the event. Right: St. Louis County Sheriff's Deputy Adam Marwick showed up with a variety of items for attendees.

photos by D. Colburn

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Art journal class is Aug. 20 at NWFA

COOK- Watercolorist Brenna Kohlhasse will offer a class on how to make a personalized watercolor journal from scratch on Saturday, August 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook.

Students should bring some recycled leather, a used U.S. Postal Service Tyvek mailer, blue jeans, and matte board or other heavy paper or fabric with which to design your cover. It is recommended students bring their favorite watercolor brush and apron as well.

All other supplies including bookbinding glue, paper and paint will be supplied.

To register, contact Alberta at 218-666-2153 or email nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Learn to paint with acrylics at NWFA

COOK- If you have the urge to create, the Acrylic Painting Class on Tuesday, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook

may be just what you're looking for.

Ely artist Cecilia Rolando will guide students through techniques of painting acrylics on canvas that are applicable to representational and abstract styles alike.

Call Alberta 218-666-2153 to register or email nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

NWFA Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. The gallery is located at 210 S River St. in Cook. More information about current and upcoming NWFA activities is available at www.nwfamn.org, on Facebook, by emailing nwfamn.org@gmail.com, or by calling 218-780-7130.

Cook library gets grant to buy new children's books

COOK- The Cook Public Library recently added 114 children's books to their collection thanks to a grant from The Pilcrow Foundation and financial support from The Friends of the Cook Public Library.

The Pilcrow Foundation, located in Cottage Grove, Ore., supports rural public libraries by contributing funds to purchase new books. Their investment encourages community-building, children's literacy and the library's future.

The Friends of the Cook Public Library gave \$400 toward this grant and the Pilcrow Foundation contributed \$800 for a total of \$1,200. Cook

Library staff selected 71 new hardcover books for ages 0 to 12, and an additional 43 titles focusing on math, science, health and wellness were provided through donor-sponsored programs.

The new books will be on display in the children's area. A list of all the books purchased is available on the Cook Public Library website, www.cookpubliclibrary.org.

Divas return for park series encore

COOK- The Cook Music in the Park series welcomes back "The Divas" for an encore performance on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. at the gazebo in Cook City Park.

Shannon, Sharon, and Rosie will treat attendees to all their favorites from their musical repertoire, performed as only The Divas can.

Food and refresh-

ments will be provided by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church. In case of rain the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW.



Area St. Louis County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility site hours

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Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am-1pm, Thu: 2pm-7pm Sat: 8am-noon, Sun: 10am-2pm	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Summer Hours Tue: 2pm-6pm; Thu: 10am-1pm, Sat: 1pm-5pm; Sun: 3pm-6pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Summer Hours Tue: 1-6pm, Thu: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: noon-6pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm </div> <div> 3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm </div> </div>		

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ISD 696

Ely teacher honored for special education work

Kelsey Borchert one of three nationwide recognized for work with autism

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The early childhood special education program at ISD 696 recently received a major boost because of the gratitude of a local parent with an autistic child who wrote a nomination letter stating that a teacher here “saved her life.”

Kelsey Borchert, who teaches early childhood special education at Washington Elementary School, was chosen as one of three teachers nationwide who won the “More Than a Teacher” Award which provides special education teachers sensory equipment for their schools.

This all came about because a local parent, Micah Perry, wrote a letter

about the help her son Gnarr received from Borchert just shortly after he was diagnosed with autism. The letter from Perry was so heartfelt and inspirational that Borchert was chosen for recognition.

“When I met Micah and Gnarr, they were just in the beginning stages of a diagnosis for him,” Borchert said. “It is a very overwhelming process, and I always try to take extra time and care with the families. There is so much to learn and it is so, so scary.”

She joined Ely K-5 Principal Anne Oelke last month for an online presentation and recognition program.

“They read the letter from Micah and it made me cry because it was super sweet,” Borchert said.

Borchert teaches a group of kids with mental and physical disabilities, including autism.

“I have an amazing job, I really do,” she said. This fall, she will start her seventh year working for the Northland Learning Center and is now assigned to the Ely school.

Borchert commented about the sensory materials the school will be receiving.

“These are things that help kids calm down, things that help kids wake up and get ready for their day,” she said. “It will feature lights, climbing walls, swings and more. Sensory equipment can help kids with different abilities learn more. And having a sensory room can help us, as teachers, learn about our kiddos and how we can help their bodies and

minds together. A room like this gives Gnarr and other children an opportunity to be in a place where they can be comfortable,” she said.

As part of the \$21.5 million Ely school building and renovation project, the Early Childhood and Family Education, Early Childhood Special Education and School Readiness programs will all have their own dedicated area in the Washington building.

“We have a sensory room as part of our expanded facility, and this award or gift of equipment will be a total game-changer for us,” Borchert said.

In the past, donations from the Ely Education Foundation, Lake Country Power Operation Roundup, and the Ely Jaycee Club helped support the program.

“This equipment is so expensive and we weren’t able to get everything on our wish list. Now, we will be able to complete our room,” she said.

Borchert added that Gnarr “was the one who helped the other kids” by getting this room.

“It is so cool that he can silently advocate for him and our other kiddos because that’s what you need, you need people to fight and push the boundary,” Borchert said.

Borchert marveled at how she came to receive the recognition.

“I was just floored when I realized what happened,” she said. “When we got off the Zoom meeting, I turned to Ms. Oelke and said something like this was just for three people

in the nation. That means the United States? Ms. Oelke just laughed and nodded. This whole thing was so shocking. It is pretty amazing.”

The More Than Project was co-founded in 2021 by Kate Swenson and Amanda DeLuca. With both women being special needs mothers, they understood the stress, exhaustion, and struggle that comes with special needs caregiving and wanted to serve others with the support they wish they had years ago.

They established the More Than Project as the overseeing body for More Than a Caregiver, More Than a Sibling, and More Than a Diagnosis.

For more information, go to www.findingcoopersvoice.com.

ISD 2142

Costs keep growing for concession/restroom rehab at North Woods

District commits \$72,000 more than original bid with more to come

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA – The \$300,000 sports field concession stand and restroom rebuilding project at North Woods is going to cost even more, but how much more is yet to be determined.

A portion of the extra cost was known but overlooked at the board’s June working meeting. When board members approved the June bid from Max Gray Construction for \$300,697, they failed to notice and act on three alternate items that were on the second page of the company’s proposal. Those options included a 50x12 concrete slab for a food trailer, a 25x15 concrete slab on the north side of the building, and replacement of the waste line from the concession building to the lift station, at a total cost of \$37,395.

Those items were on the July 26 agenda, and board members approved all three. That brings the

minimum expense for the repairs to \$338,092. The original bid for the work submitted by Max Gray last November was \$265,396.

But new ISD 2142 Director of Facilities and Grounds Mike Vieau had some more bad news for the board that came with additional dollar signs.

“I talked with Max Gray last week. They busted out the existing concrete floors inside the bathrooms, the mechanical room, and concession stand area. And in doing so, they dug down a little bit and found the water table about a foot underneath the current flooring,” Vieau said. “So, there’s going to be some additional costs to deal with that. They’re in the process of drawing up some options for us.”

Vieau said the best-case scenario for a completion timeline for the project is mid-September,

although possible delays in dealing with the new issues could push that back to the end of the month. With football season in full swing in September, Vieau said the Grizzlies might need to play some additional road games to accommodate the construction.

Once finished with the discussion of the concession stand, district finance director Kim Johnson, with supporting comments from Vieau as needed, walked board members through a list of facilities maintenance projects throughout the district. Some would be funded by the district’s long-term facilities maintenance budget, others from alternative state and federal funding sources. Some projects, like the deteriorating football field at North Woods, are known to be needs but the district has yet to develop plans or specs for them.

In other business, the board:

➤ Approved the purchase of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt science curriculum for sixth through eighth grades at a cost of \$76,043 for a six-year license.

➤ Approved the purchase of McGraw-Hill social studies curriculum for seventh and eighth grades at a cost of \$36,083 for a seven-year subscription.

➤ Approved the purchase of McGraw-Hill social studies curriculum for ninth through eleventh grades at a cost of \$54,625 for a seven-year subscription.

➤ Approved the previously discussed sale of the Cotton bus garage and access parcels.

➤ Awarded propane bids for North Woods and Northeast Range to Como Oil and Propane for \$1.536 per gallon.

➤ Accepted the minimum bid of \$10,900 from Gary Martinson for Lots 21-24 in Art’s Addition in Cook.

➤ Approved a purchase of service agreement to transport children and youth in foster care to preserve school placements whenever feasible in the event of relocation.

➤ Hired Makenzie Sokoloski as a full-time elementary teacher at North Woods.

➤ Hire Elizabeth Oberstar as a full-time elementary special education teacher at North Woods.

➤ Hired Dawn Poppema and Jani Jordan as part-time preschool teacher assistants at Tower-Soudan, and Becky Smith and Laura Hauta to similar positions at North Woods.

➤ Hired Jeff Poppema as part-time library assistant and bus driver and Heather Anderson as part-

time paraprofessional, both at Tower-Soudan.

➤ Hired Jessica Plassmeyer as full-time nutrition employee at Tower-Soudan.

➤ At Northeast Range, hired Jennifer Pallin as nutrition manager, Sena Bissonette as site secretary, and Julie Smith as part-time nutrition employee.

➤ Approved fall sports coaches at North Woods, including head football coach Joel Anderson and assistants Mark Fabish and Dan Reing, head volleyball coach Kandi Olson and assistants Kaileen Redmond and Becky Lappi, and cross country assistant coach Dan Squires.

➤ & Approved the retirements of North Woods Title I teacher Nathan LeBeque, NER nutrition manager Cheryl Nelson, and Tower-Soudan bus driver Donald Doroff.

BILL...Continued from page 1

through no fault of their own,” said Ecklund in a press statement issued this week. “A special session would give us the opportunity to not only help these folks get through this tough time, but to finish other critical work left incomplete from the regular session.”

Without a special session, many of the 410 laid-off Northshore workers are expected to exhaust their unemployment benefits in November, well before the next legislative session begins in January 2023. The benefits would also

apply to those who worked for firms that served the Northshore Mine and lost their jobs due to the shutdown.

The future of the Northshore Miner remains in

doubt as a result of changes in Cleveland Cliff’s operations and an ongoing dispute over royalty payments to the Mesabi Trust, which owns mineral rights at Northshore’s

Peter Mitchell Mine, near Babbitt. Goncalves has indicated that the Northshore facility is now considered a “swing” plant that will only operate when Cliffs has a need

for additional taconite pellets. Such a change in status could indicate a more permanent disruption in employment for the Northshore workers.

CORRECTION

A recent story in the *Timberjay* incorrectly referred to the website for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. For more information go to mncenter.org. The *Timberjay* regrets the error.

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ELECTION 2022

Three candidates vie for Ely mayor seat

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Aug. 9 primary will narrow the field for Nov. general election

ELY – Three candidates are participating in the Aug. 9 primary for Ely mayor. The top two vote-getters will advance to the Nov. 8 general election. Two incumbent Ely city council members, Paul Kess and Heidi Omerza, along with newcomer Mark Haarman, are running. The current mayor, Roger Skraba, is running for a state legislative seat and is not on the ballot.

The candidates were each asked three questions by The *Timberjay*. Their answers appear below.

1. What is your background and how does that qualify you to be mayor for the city of Ely?

Haarman: Being an alumnus and awarded best in the candidate course of Wellstone Action (Camp Wellstone) aka Paul Wellstone, community public service rates higher than personal interests, as in service before self. Fund development study at St. Thomas Business School, personal friendships with educational, political and business leaders benefits a mayor in great ways. Listening skills are so very important, and making time to do that is vital.

Kess: I am a lifelong resident of Ely with deep roots in our community. Over the years, I've served on many boards and committees and have always strived to make Ely a better place. As a City Councilor

for more than 20 years, I have served on the Budget, Airport, and Sanitation committees, as the City rep on the Lodging Tax Board, and as President of RAMS. I have been a voice for the Range at the Legislature. I have built a reputation for integrity in public service.

Omerza: Serving her 16th year on the Council, Heidi graduated from Hamline University and is a fifth grade teacher at Ely Public Schools. Heidi Omerza is married to Tom Omerza, president of Frandsen Bank, school board member and assistant girls basketball coach. They have four children, Elliot, Evan, Eric and Elizabeth. The boys all graduated from Ely High School, Elizabeth will be a senior this year. Locally, she serves on the following boards: Ely Economic Development Authority as President, Park and Recreation, Library, Employee Relations, Insurance, and Negotiations. Statewide she serves on: Coalition of Greater MN Cities Board and Greater MN Partnership, and past president of the League of MN Cities. I am passionate about our community and have a proven track record of achieving positive results. I strive to listen to concerns, in order to find common ground and the best path forward on issues.

2. What are the key



issues and challenges facing Ely today, and how will you address them?

Haarman: Challenges and issues facing Ely are determined by the citizens, and the mayor and council sorts, categorizes and focuses leaders to action and resolutions. Do residents wish for a friendlier and more respectful police department? Will face-to-face meetings with the mayor be important and welcomed? Is far less ice on city sidewalks the entire winter and spring a value to community, and a good representation of pride in our city? Will our "community" radio station WELY with new ownership have a large volunteer base, offering live on-air personalities while entertaining, educating and enlightening listeners locally and throughout the world to the gifts and products the area offers? And town-hall-style meetings, will voters be in favor? A qualified mayor will choose to make this happen.

Kess: First, we must ensure that our budget stays

affordable to the people and businesses of Ely. I've always been a budget hawk, advocating for low taxes. In a time of inflation and increasing costs we need to focus on maintaining our core services. Second, we need to work at creating more housing. This is a tough nut to crack and we should learn all we can from places like Ottertail County and Roseau who have done some creative things. Our Housing and Rehabilitation Authority (HRA) is one way and the proposed West End housing project deserves our support. Of course, there are other issues that need our attention (streets, parks, trails, airport, etc.) but overall the City is well managed.

Omerza: The lack of housing, lack of workers, and childcare shortages have high priority. The Ely HRA is in the process of developing a new housing project in the west end and the City is extending utilities to new lots available for purchase in the Spaulding area. I will continue to

support housing development efforts. There is an active childcare working group in Ely which many community members have become engaged in. I have appealed to legislators that it is important to keep our children safe, but many state statutes regarding licensing are "one size fits all", which have an unnecessary burden to any at home or licensed childcare facility. As a teacher, I am passionate about finding a solution. To increase our workforce, we need to increase our reliable internet capability and hold our local provider accountable. I will continue to protect the jobs that we currently have and ensure the City is fiscally responsible.

3. What do you want the city of Ely to be in the next decade, and what steps need to be taken to accomplish your vision?

Haarman: Ely's future, restored to 'The Canoe Capital of the World' it once was, coupled with more multiple use of our Boundary Waters and a restoration forestry initiative the late Jack Rajala (Mr. White Pine) and Jack Pine Bob Cary agreed with, within our Wilderness is doable. The Ely-Winton History Center deserves a main street entry, and fund development for its new location should commence. A performing arts curriculum at our college and high

school will increase the population and highlight the extraordinary base of artists living here and nearby. A win-win for all, well within five to ten years. The mayor's role helps bring this to fruition, and all of this is why I am running for mayor of what will always remain the "coolest small town in America."

Kess: I'll work to ensure that Ely continues to be an attractive place to live and work. We have a high quality of life and a spirit of community that makes Ely a unique place. We need a dynamic mayor with experience, knowledge, and commitment. I intend to be that person.

Omerza: As Mayor I will provide steady and sound leadership that makes sense to all of Ely. I will continue to promote the use of technology and infrastructure to better our community. Our current high-speed fiber downtown internet project can and should be expanded to help service individual homes within the community. The ability to work from home is a key to the new economy and Ely's future. Additionally, the proposed west end housing development project along with the new Trailhead building will be a great place year-round for residents and tourist alike. I am committed to moving these and other key projects forward which will help build an economic base to lead Ely to a bright future.

ELECTION...Continued from page 1

from Doug Wardlow and Sharon Anderson for the right to challenge DFLer Keith Ellison in the fall.

On the DFL side, Hermantown City Council member Grant Hauschild is running unopposed for the

District 3 Senate seat. Rep. Ecklund faces no primary challenge as he seeks to win his fifth contest for the District 3A House seat he's held since late 2015, when he won a special election to replace the late David Dill.

In the Eighth District congressional contest, both Republican Rep. Pete Stauber and DFL challenger, state Rep. Jen Schultz face no significant challenge for their party's nomination.

Most polls will be open on Aug. 9 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., although townships with a population under 500 may opt to open at 10 a.m.

Voters who are currently unregistered or who have moved since they last

registered can register at the polls. You will need to bring proof of residence, such as a driver's license or learner's permit. You can also bring other forms of ID, such as a passport, or a photo ID from a school, a tribe, or

the military. You should also bring a utility bill, a rental agreement or some other document showing your current address if your existing ID doesn't reflect your current residence.

Three people injured in fiery one-vehicle crash Sunday night

COOK- Three individuals were taken to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries on Sunday as a result of a truck crash about five miles east of Cook on Sunday evening.

At approximately 8 p.m. Sunday,

July 31, Michael Egan, 23, of Chanhassen, was driving westbound on Hwy. 115 just east of the Nylund Rd. intersection when his 2016 Ford truck veered off the highway into the south ditch. The truck hit a power pole with enough force to break it off, then

overturned and started on fire.

Egan and his two passengers, Liam Arnar, 22, and Cole Shipman, 23, both of Excelsior, were transported to Cook and Essentia Health-Virginia hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries.

According to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office release, alcohol was a contributing factor to the crash.

Cook Fire and Ambulance, Tower Ambulance, Virginia Ambulance, and the Minnesota State Patrol assisted with the response.

ELY...Continued from page 1

and it is time to do something else," she said Friday.

The Ely festival is a juried show and new applicants are reviewed by a panel of area artists and crafters. Those same jurors judge all the vendors on Friday morning and award the top three winners in both the art and craft categories.

Ely artist Leah Reusch, a first-time participant this year, took first

place in the art category. She was featured in the July 29 issue of the *Timberjay*. Second place art category honors went to Watercolors by Bonnie Dufresne, of Virginia, and third place went to Shelby Bork's Botanical Creations, of Port Clinton, Ohio.

In the craft category, first place went to Morning Glory Creations by Annette Mattingly, Ely, followed by Origami by Kannika Brueske,

Hudson, Wis., in second, and Collin Clough Wooden Bird Art, Grand Rapids, Minn., in third.

"We were excited to have such a diverse group of artists this year," Cashman said.

The Ely Kiwanis Club made 600 blueberry pies during the weekend and sold every one of them by mid-day on Sunday.



Ginny Stage, top right, of Ely Northern Stitches, arranged her embroidery items just before the Ely Blueberry/Art Festival opened last Friday morning. There was plenty of maple syrup available from Three Rivers Farms, below left. Jewelry shoppers, below right, had plenty of choice. photos by K. Vandervort



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FARM...Continued from page 1

from Iowa to homestead a 160-acre tract just across the road to the southeast of Peter Flank’s land. The Dobsons owned the property free and clear when the government awarded them a serial land patent in 1913.

But it was difficult making a living on a farm that size, particularly since half of it was covered with forest, and by 1920 Ruben Dobson was working at and living with his family near the Dunwoody Mine in Chisholm.

Auburn-haired, blue-eyed Arthur Flank was by then a young man of 20, ready to strike out on his own, and when the opportunity presented itself the following year, Arthur bought the Dobsons’ 160-acre tract for \$701, about \$4.38 an acre.

That farm, located today on the northeast corner of Hwy. 5 and Leander Rd., about two miles north of the Viking Bar, has been in the Flank family ever since.

This spring, Arthur’s grandson, Craig Flank, and his wife Valarie, celebrated over a century of family farm ownership by being recognized as a 2022 Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau Century Farm, the only such awardee in St. Louis County this year. Nearly 11,000 Minnesota farms have received the award since it was established in 1976, with 78 recognized this year across the state.

Craig said the farm his grandmother grew up on was previously recognized as a Century Farm, and a neighbor’s farm received the designation last year, so he was somewhat familiar with the designation when he saw it mentioned in a newspaper earlier this year.

He did a little calculating and figured his farm would certainly qualify. So, Valarie filled out the application documenting the farm’s family history and sent it in, and the Flanks were notified in March that the application had been approved.

The lineage

Arthur Flank was single when he bought the farm in 1921, but on Aug. 20, 1925, he married Bessie Urdahl, about two-and-a-half months after his mother Anna passed away. Together they operated the farm until Arthur’s death in 1954.

Craig said his grandfather started out raising sheep.

“They used to have a hundred head of sheep here,” he said. “There were a lot of sheep farmers up here.”

And as with many farmers, Arthur had another job to make ends meet.

“My Grandpa Art drove a school bus for many, many, many years,” Craig said. He pointed toward one of the buildings on the property as he said, “That’s the bus garage where he did all his work on it. We’ve still got one old bus that they took the back off and took part of the cab off and they hauled loose hay with that.”

Arthur and Bessie had four children, daughters Dolores, Lois, and Sharon, and son Raymond, Craig’s father. The farm passed



Above: Arthur Flank bought the farm in 1921, and married Bessie Urdahl in 1925. submitted

Top: This barn, built in 1954, was know for the barn dances held here in the 1950s and 60s.

Right: A 1920s visible gas pump that Arthur Flank used to fill his school bus was once encased in glass. Hand cranking filled the glass container with gas which was then drained into the gas tank. photos by D. Colburn

to Raymond in 1982, just before Bessie’s death in 1983, and he never lost the passion for farming he developed as a kid.

“He grew up here,” Craig said.

But Raymond left the farm after he graduated from Alango High School and was drafted by the Army, serving overseas in Germany and France. While he was still overseas in 1954, his father died, and when Raymond came back to the U.S., he took over his father’s bus route, driving school children to Bear River, Alango, and Cook schools until 1966.

Raymond married his wife Jeanette in 1955, and after having two daughters, Marla and Deanne, and two sons, Craig and Ross, the family moved from Bear River to Cook in 1966. Raymond went to work for Reserve Mining in Babbitt until 1986, and then for St. Louis County until his retirement in 1997. But Raymond was proof that while you could take a man out of the farm, you can never take the farm out of the man.

“Cook is all the further Mom got him away from the farm,” Craig laughed. “He still had that long

drive to work, but we were up here at the farm every weekend.”

But when Craig graduated from Cook High School in 1979, a third generation of Flank Farm ownership didn’t seem to be in the cards.

“In the early 80s when the economy was so bad up here, I was working in the woods a little bit,” Craig said. “I’d worked at a grain elevator down in Hastings but they folded. And farming? A lot of farms were lost in the early 80s. Mining had pretty much kind of shut down.”

So, Craig and a couple of buddies headed to North Dakota to work in the oil fields, and then they moved on to Colorado, just north of Denver, for six years. And Craig found himself in a somewhat familiar environment.

“I was working on a dairy farm out there,” he



said. “When I left, they were building apartment buildings right next door to that dairy farm.”

And when he left, where did he go next?

“This place,” he said. “I just wanted to get back home. There was never really anything that was ever said. Dad and I started going to auctions buying some equipment and we just started getting bigger and bigger and bigger.”

Craig took over ownership of the farm in 1990, and a year later he married Valarie, who was originally from Buyck.

“She was in a wedding with my brother. That was the first time I met her,” Craig said. “A good friend of hers said we ought to get together, so we finally met one time and went out and”

Valarie cut in. “And that was it. He proposed three months later. We were engaged for a year, but he proposed in three months,” she said.

In the years since, the farm operation has shifted with the times.

They started growing a lot of grain, but the prices weren’t very good, particularly for a small operation. Then they added 20-25 cattle.

“But then we started getting drought and we were getting less and less hay, and then last year was just a disaster,” Craig said. “So, I sold most of my cows, and now we’ll just rebuild again.”

But like those who came before them, the Flanks haven’t been solely dependent on the farm. Craig and Valarie have both worked other jobs, investing most of what they earn back into the property and its operation. Valarie has been a dental hygienist with Scenic Rivers Health Services in Cook since 2003. Craig just retired in May after 22 years with HibTac.

While many of the smaller original sheds

and buildings remain, the Flanks replaced the old farmhouse with a new one in 2000, moving it a bit west for an even better view of the fields sloping gracefully to the south. The property is accented with various pieces of old equipment that was used in the early days of the farm, while some of the equipment Craig uses could also be considered vintage.

As the Flanks walked the property on Sunday they shared dozens and dozens of personal memories and tidbits about the farm, but one in particular is a memory shared by many, many folks across the Iron Range.

The gleaming white barn with its beautiful huge loft and new roof was built in 1954, and for about the next decade it became the home for the locally famous Flank Farm Saturday night barn dances.

“When they built the barn, I don’t know if it was to raise money or what the deal was,” Craig said. “I heard they just liked music and that was the reason they had barn dances.”

Held in May and June, the dances drew people from near and far until they ended in the early 60s after a decade-long run.

“I’m a hygienist and I worked in Hibbing over 20 years ago,” Valarie said. “I had this older gentleman say ‘You’re too young for this, but when I was your age, I used to go up to Bear River to the Flanks for barn dances.’ I said, well, that’s where I live. To this day, people, when they find out we’re the Flanks, they say they remember coming up here to those barn dances. It was a big well-known thing.”

But the celebration in the barn Craig and Valarie will likely remember most is the wedding of their son Davis there last year, and it’s a story Davis and his wife will someday pass on to a fifth generation of Flanks who may someday inherit the farm. It’s already a given that the fourth generation, Davis and his sister Gena, will take it over from Craig and Valarie when the time is right.

“It’s been a hundred years, so why not continue it,” Valarie said. “And hopefully one of our kids will have kids that will continue with it. But if not, oh well.”

But even if the farm should someday pass out of the hands of the Flank family, the legacy of a family farm started with a \$700 investment and a dream a century ago will surely endure.

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CITY OF ELY

Trailhead Facility soon to be a reality

City officials discuss components of tourism showpiece

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – With \$3 million nearly in hand and after years of planning, city officials here are looking forward to beginning construction of the Ely Regional Trailhead facility at the west entrance to this city at the end of the road. But how will the building be used? Ideas recently bantered about include developing the showpiece as a welcome center, rest stop, tourist information booth, parking hub and staging area for multiple recreational trails, canoe adventure permit station, and more.

The city-owned facility is not likely to be staffed by city employees, but according to city council members who discussed the project last week as the Ely Economic Development Authority, talks are underway with other entities who might consider staffing the building.

The city’s economic developer, John Fedo, reported to authority members last week that “engaging a process” of planning to construct the facility restarted in earnest last week. “We will work on reengaging the bidding process and determine how this project, we have been waiting several years for, will become a reality. We are looking forward to that happening as quickly as we can,” Fedo said.

He noted that the city of Ely’s success in procuring both the state and federal grant dollars for



An architect’s rendering depicts the design of a Trailhead Facility and welcome center that will be built on the west side of Ely. City officials hope to open the new building next year.

the regional tourism growth effort was due largely “because the program fit us like a glove.”

The American Rescue Plan entertained almost \$750 million worth of similar projects across the country. The Minnesota Legislature and Governor’s office awarded nearly \$1.3 million to the Ely tourism project last year.

“We took the experience that we had in making that (successful) application with the state bonding bill and used that for the federal application,” Fedo said. “There was no coasting. This was a difficult application process, and it was extremely competitive. It took into account four states that dealt with the federal EDA office in Chicago. Those officials were extremely helpful. We were able to reallocate the information that we used on

the state level, allowed us to apply that in new context in order to be successful on the federal level.”

City officials were floored last summer when the original bids for the Trailhead facility came in at nearly twice what they expected. With just the \$1.3 million in state bonding money available, the project was put on the shelf until more dollars could be procured.

“We are hoping that the bids that were received last time will be slightly less than where we are at this time around,” Fedo said. “Based on our conversations with both architects and engineers, that in fact, has happened. Until you actually go to bids, you don’t know what you’ve got. We are hopeful that by the end of this (construction) season that we will still be in a position to put

this project out for bids.”

Ely mayor Roger Skraba said the original working plans for the building that are in hand will essentially be used as planning goes forward for the tourist facility.

“We have been in talks with Cindy Smyka and the Ely Tourism Bureau and how that can fit in it,” he said. “She is currently working with the U.S. Forest Service and the district ranger is trying to get a full-time person in that building. This is all preliminary.”

If the prospect of other entities staffing the building indeed happens, the original layout of the floor plan of the building may need to be altered.

“There are three offices in the original plan, and they are not very big,” Skraba said. “They were planned to be storage

offices for three different groups, including the trails people from the snowmobile and ATV clubs.”

Skraba said he wants all entities to be involved in planning for the building use.

“At least then everyone can understand, and maybe all have the same vision. I understand the USFS wants to be able to write (Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness) permits out of there, too, so they would have a staff person in there. Formally, none of this has been brought forward yet. That was kind of the intent from the beginning, that this would be that sort of a building. We are trying to create a positive (place) with restrooms, a trailhead for people to park their vehicle, community meetings, and whatever. There can be so much more for that building.”

He welcomed community members to come forward with ideas, and suggested city council members continue the discussion during a study session or a future council meeting. “Information is key. In the last week, a lot of things have been happening that not all sides may not be aware of,” Skraba said.

He noted that Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, who was absent from the July 26 EEDA meeting “does not want to go back through a whole architectural scheme because it cost a lot of money to get where we are.”

Fedo noted that in the early planning stages for the facility, officials went through “a fairly long and involved process” about usage and activities.

“We clearly established that the city will own and operate the building, and that was under the direction of the State Department of Natural Resources,” he said. “We are going to be held to that same accountability by federal mandate. In that context, we are not changing the ownership. What we are looking at is flexibility and utilization. We are fairly well committed to the design based on affordability.”

The Trailhead facility construction represents the second phase of an extensive west-end development project envisioned by city leaders. The completed first phase, through more than \$1 million in state bonding support, included infrastructure, new roadway and pavement in the vicinity. The trailhead parking and welcome center of the second phase was initially envisioned to serve as an entry point for the Prospector Loop Trail, Mesabi Trail and David Dill Taconite Trail. The future third phase of the project, perhaps costing an additional \$3 million, would include expansion of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital campus, construction of workforce housing for the city, and redevelopment of the former city garage property.

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TRAINING

Over the edge

Former Soudan mine pit provides training opportunity for county’s rescue squad

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SOUDAN MINE— Almost two dozen members of the St. Louis County Rescue Squad went down in the Soudan Mine the hard way last Saturday. It was all part of a training exercise that the volunteers who make up the squad regularly take part in to maintain their rescue skills.

In this case, it was ropes

skills, as the volunteers set up to rappel down more than 200 feet into one of the earliest mine pits here. For the volunteers who turned out, it was more of a play day, said Rescue Squad Captain Rick Slatten, the culmination of a number of more serious training sessions focused on specific skills. “This showed how a number of small systems can come together into a larger operation,” he said.

Right: Members of the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad prepare to rappel hundreds of feet into the former Soudan mine pit.

photo by A. Jean

For some members of the squad, the high-level ropes training is one of the highlights of their job. For others, said

See **TRAINING...pg 2B**



TRANSITIONS



Left: Even cowboys behind the fence look apprehensive as a huge and angry bull explodes out of the gate leaving its rider quickly off balance. Score one for the bull.

Below: Colton Arvila, of Embarrass, hangs on as his bull goes airborne during the North Star Stampede held last weekend in Effie.

Lower left: A competitor in the steer wrestling tries to wrestle a reluctant steer.

all photos by
D. Colburn



Dan and Greta Burandt outside the Good Ol' Days Bar and Grill in Tower. The couple took over ownership of the popular establishment last month.

photo by R. Brophy

Re-imagining the Good Ol' Days

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

TOWER – Anyone who’s ever stepped foot in Tower’s iconic bar on the east end of Main Street most likely left with a belly full of good food and fond memories of Marilyn on the wall, Elvis in the corner, Hamm’s beers signs adorning every wall and the model train that makes its way around a track perched just below the beautiful pressed-tin ceiling. This has been the scene at Good Ol’ Days for the 18 years that it was owned and run by Randy and Carol Semo, but time marches on, and it’s time for someone new to captain this ship.

As of July 1, a pair of high school sweethearts, Greta and Dan Burandt are the new owners of the popular bar and restaurant along with the adjoining laundromat and upstairs apartments. The Burandts moved to the area from Shakopee after their two children were grown. They now call their place on Eagles Nest Lake One home and couldn’t be happier to be embarking on a new adventure in the North Country.

While bar ownership is a relatively new experience for the couple, they have both worked firsthand with the public: she as a casino floor supervisor, and he as a dealer in Reno. Dan mentioned that in his experience he found that the “regulars become like family,” and he’s optimistic that the same will be true in this new endeavor.

The burning question many might have about this change in ownership, is “what’s going to change?”

Much will stay the same – the train is not going anywhere, and Dan says he has a passion for beer lights, so if anything, the collection already in place will get some new additions. Dan also pointed out that while he loves Marilyn, it stands to reason that what were considered Randy’s “Good Ol’ Days” predated his own.

“My good ol’ days were more the 70s and 80s,” he explained. “I might have to add Eddie Van Halen alongside of Marilyn.”

Beyond décor, and a complete redo

See **GOOD OL’ DAYS...pg. 2B**

WESTWORLD

Ride ‘em Cowboy

Focus returns to rodeo at this year’s North Star Stampede



REGULATIONS

County board delays action on dispersed camping rules

Commissioners seeking clarification that new rules won't impact hunting camps

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- County commissioners recently delayed acting on proposed rules regulating dispersed camping in St. Louis County's state tax-forfeited properties and county-owned lands, asking for additional consideration of the policy's potential impact on hunters.

The St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department administers approximately 900,000 acres of state tax-forfeited land and oversees several thousand acres of county fee lands that are open to public use, including dispersed camping. The activity is popular among those who shy away from developed campgrounds in favor of a more wilderness-like experience and among hunters who establish camps from which to operate during hunting season.

While the Department of Natural Resources has policies governing dispersed camping in state forests, St. Louis County has never had anything similar for land it owns or manages. Land and Minerals Deputy Director Jason Meyer, who's been with the department since 1995, said

one reason is that there hasn't been a history of serious abuse of county land.

"We know a lot of dispersed camping happens on our lands throughout the year, and while we've never really had a formal policy, we haven't had any real problems," Meyer said. "Occasionally we've had to address individuals that pop up that have camped on our lands and have been there for quite a while. We've had a couple of occasions where someone's abandoned a camper at a site and we've had to track them down or dispose of the camper. We've had an informal policy of around two weeks and we haven't had an issue with it, but it's something we've tossed around."

Meyer said litter also hasn't been a problem with dispersed camping.

"Someone might have left some wood or a little bit of litter, but for the most part people have been respectful out there and they take their garbage with them," he said.

Working in collaboration with other partners, the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association and the Minnesota Land Trust have donated around 6,000 acres of

forest land to the county, Meyer said, for both ongoing forest management and public access. Those gifts helped to stimulate more thinking about possible distributed camping policies, as have the phone calls the Land and Minerals office receives from people inquiring what the policies are.

"This is an attempt to provide some clarity for the public," Meyer said.

Clarifications sought

The proposed policy is duplicated nearly word-for-word from the Minnesota Administrative Rules DNR uses to regulate dispersed camping in state forests, but what works for the state might need a little tweaking when it comes to the county.

The proposal was included in the consent agenda for the July 26 Board of Commissioners meeting, meaning that it would have been approved without comment or discussion. But Sixth District County Commissioner Keith Nelson asked that the proposal be removed from consideration for the time being and asked the Land and Minerals staff to determine the potential impact on deer hunters.

Meyer said the department is

more than happy to oblige.

"They just want to make sure the policy and protocols work for everybody," he said. "The intent is not to create a policy that hinders (hunting). We are fully in line with our hunters' use of the land. We just want to make sure we get the policy right for St. Louis County."

One issue needing clarification is how the proposed limitations on occupancy relate to hunters. Between the second Sunday in September and the first Saturday in May the following spring, distributed camping is limited to a total of 21 days in any one section, township, and range. If a camp location changes in a calendar year, the new camp must be established at least 15 miles away from the old one.

Meyer noted that the 21 days would provide time for deer hunters to set up a camp a few days before the season started but agreed that the language was unclear as to how it might impact a hunter who wanted to use the site for other game hunting seasons. A person who obtains both bear and deer permits in a given year and wants to use the same place for a dispersed campsite for both seasons is an example of a situation the current wording may not

accommodate, he acknowledged.

"The intent here is to allow that hunter to go back to the same spot, just as long as they're not tying up a spot an unreasonable amount," Meyer said. "We're considering things like that – is there a language tweak there that allows that hunter to use that same spot but not be a hindrance."

With the proposed policy off the table for the moment, Meyer said there will be plenty of time to hone the language, as he said that the department isn't inclined to enact new regulations right on top of or during this fall's hunting seasons. They want to avoid the possibility of any confusion, he said, so the best route is to take their time with an eye toward having them in place early next spring.

Meyer said he would welcome comments on the proposed policy, although a formal public comment period wasn't set prior to it being sent to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Interested parties can obtain a copy of the proposed policy from Meyer by emailing MeyerJ@stlouiscountymn.gov. He can also be reached by phone at 218-726-2605.

TRAINING...Continued from page 1B

Slatten, "they don't want anything to do with it."

It's a specialized skill set to be sure, and not one that the rescue squad is called upon to use on a regular basis. But for the handful of times a year such skills are necessary, it's critical training, and not the kind of thing to learn on the job. "Things can get pretty intense on a rescue like that," said Slatten.

It isn't the first time the squad took advantage of the Soudan Mine pit to test its skills. The training had become an annual event for several

years, but it had been a couple years since the squad had made it back. Slatten said Soudan is ideal for this kind of operation, because it's convenient and has an abundance of large trees and rocks, which make good anchor points for the ropes. He said the rock faces are also pretty stable, without the kind of loose rock that can quickly elevate the hazard level for this kind of work.

Besides, said Slatten, "It's so beautiful there. It's a geologist's and a historian's dream."

It's also a good place to visit on

a warm summer day. It's noticeably cooler at the bottom of the steep pit, so much so, in fact, that there was still some ice and snow left over from the previous winter. That's not uncommon, said Slatten, but this year had the most snow and ice remaining of any prior year. That could be due to the abundant snowfall this year, or simply because they typically train in September or October, which gives the snow a couple more months to melt.



Left: The Soudan Mine pits "mini-glacier" was still very evident during last week's trip to the pit's bottom. Rescue squad officials have noted the presence of ice in previous visits to the pit.

Right: Members of the rescue squad at the bottom of the pit.

photos by A. Jean

GOOD OL' DAYS..Continued from page 1B

of the kitchen that will enable Dan to make diner-style flat fry-top "smash burgers," the most significant change is that Greta and Dan will be adding an additional business to the entire enterprise. In fact, that was one reason why they bought the place to begin with. The Burandt's are planning to launch Tower E-Bikes, rental bikes that will be available right at Good Ol' Days.

Tower E-Bikes

The E-Bike is a trail-legal power-assisted bike that makes pedaling uphill a bit less arduous and opens the sport to more than the most athletic trail enthusiasts. The couple first discovered the beauty of E-Bikes when they tried them out at Lake Itasca State Park. They knew immediately they wanted their own, and it wasn't long after that



Greta Burandt with her e-bike, something that she and Dan plan to have available for rental as part of their new business venture centered on Good Ol' Days. submitted

along the Mesabi Trail, two properties came up for sale and sold before they had a chance at them. "When Good Ol' Days came up for sale, we knew this was the place," Greta said. She explained that timing-wise, they thought the transaction would be complete prior to smack dab in the middle of tourist season, and they would have an opportunity to ease into things, but as it turned out, they took ownership on what is likely the busiest weekend of the entire summer. Dan added, "It would've been impossible to do this without Randy and Carol's help. They've been invaluable, and he's a real-life MacGyver!"

Busy summer

In addition to having Randy and Carol's help and blessing as the couple moves forward, they're grateful to have pretty

much all of the 10-person staff staying on. Greta said that once the busy season calms down, they'll likely be able to host a sort of grand reopening.

"Maybe late fall we'll be able to put our official stamp on it," she said.

For now, the couple is white-knuckling through the busy season working 12-18-hour days, seven days a week and learning as they go while also getting everything geared up for the launch of the new E-Bike venture. They're optimistic that their location along the Mesabi Trail and on

Tower's main drag will make them the one-stop shop for people looking to have a good time either visiting with friends inside or traveling down the trail.

Greta and Dan said that they're most excited about meeting lots of new people, and with businesses that appeal to people of all preferences that should be no problem. They've found the initial response from the community to be "positive and welcoming" and from the looks of it, the Burandt's will be forging some Good Ol' Days of their own.



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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Board setting sights on reducing blight in Soudan

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

Soudan – The Breitung Town Board continued discussion on what can be done to remedy blight problems that continue to plague some area properties at their meeting on July 28.

“We’ve got to keep talking to them,” Chairman Tim Tomsich said in regard to three area property owners who have been notified of blight issues on their properties, but have not completed the requested work. In reference to one property owned by Casey Richards, Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing said, “I’ve spoken to him. He’s in the process of getting those vehicles licensed. I told him it’s looking like a car dealership over there.” Matt Tuchel from the fire department suggested that the department may be interested in taking a few of the old cars as a donation

to their training programs as one way to help clean up the mess at the property.

The owner of another blighted property has been given notice that clean-up will be undertaken by the township if they don’t deal with it. Officer Reing pointed out that there’s hazardous materials on at least two of the blighted properties which then becomes a matter requiring state involvement.

Breitung Town Clerk, Dianna Sundahl read the current language for the board stating that junk autos are prohibited (in city limits) and this shall include motor vehicle(s) not licensed for use upon the highway.

“The next step in the ordinance allows us to go in and clean up and charge back to the property owner,” Tomsich pointed out. Reing stated that he will make contact with the property owner.

The board also ad-

ressed a request for a letter for a homeowner interested in starting a new upholstery business. A motion was made and passed to prepare a letter for the homeowner stating there’s access to her address on Echo Narrows Road, off Swamp Road.

Overnight parking was another concern addressed at the meeting. No permission had been requested or granted to someone who had placed a camper in a township parking lot with a “For Sale” sign. The owner was contacted, and the camper was removed. Discussion then turned to the Wayside Rest Area and other township properties. “People can’t find places to camp,” Tomsich said. Ideas were discussed on how to fix or prevent people camping overnight at the Wayside Rest area. “We could put up a sign that says, ‘No overnight camping’,” Supervisor Chuck Tekautz pointed out, but he added

that the wayside rest is for the purpose of not having tired motorists on the road.

The board also discussed creating an ordinance regarding overnight parking. Chairman Tomsich suggested no overnight parking without prior approval. Supervisor Dostert added, “That’s an agenda item for another day. We’ll straighten out all our summer problems in the winter.”

Police report

Police Chief Dan Reing reported that July was another busy month. Officer James Vukad, formerly of the Chisholm Police Department, joined the force to fill the opening left by Officer Burger, who moved to Arizona. Chief Reing reported that ATV complaints are up. Officers continue to remind kids to have their registration with them and to wear helmets. The department investigated a

burglary at Iron Ore bar. Reing reports thinking it was kids based on size of the point of entry. There were three reports of thefts – two of which were catalytic converters, a report of vandalism graffiti, and a tire punctured by knife. Other citations issued in July included: one no proof of insurance, one no seatbelt, three speeding citations, one driving with a revoked license. In addition, there was one arrest made for DWI that included an impaired driver traveling down a one-way street with numerous pedestrians present.

Other business

In other business, the town board:

► Heard that the fire department voted to approve Detton Koski for training officer to replace Cade Gornick, who resigned from the force.

► Made a resolution to accept donations from Tower-Soudan Agency for

the 4th of July picnic and Your Boat Club who provided use of a side by side for police over Fourth of July weekend and events.

► Discussed short-term rentals and their growing prevalence in the area. They will check with St. Louis County for more information on current county ordinances pertaining to short term rentals.

► Heard an update on storm damage from Dianna Sundahl. “The county wants us to download an app to upload pictures. You upload pics and GPS locates where it’s (the reported damage) at.”

► Heard that maintenance staff had the docks and boardwalks in at McKinley Park.

► A special board meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 11 at 11 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 25 at noon.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Susan Felix

Susan Brown Felix, 66, of Lake Vermilion and formerly of Minneapolis, died on Monday, July 25, 2022, at Miller-Dwan Hospital in Duluth. A private celebration of life will be held. Memorials may be directed to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Susan was born on April 11, 1956, in Minneapolis, the daughter of James and Betty (Oster-camp) Brown. She was a graduate of Washburn High School and went on to attend the University of Minnesota. Susan was united in marriage to Dennis Felix on June 25, 2009, at Lake Vermilion.

Susan was a retired home remodeler. She had also worked as an assistant manager at a garden center. She was a kindhearted person who cared for everyone. She was a member of AA, and was active with the Tower-Soudan Civic and Community Club. She enjoyed gardening, and was especially fond of feeding all the animals around her home.

Susan is survived by her husband, Dennis; sister, Carolyn E. Brown of South Minneapolis; longtime friend, Stephen L. DeMers Jr. of South Minneapolis; extended family members and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.



Lois J. Sauerbry

Lois Jean Sauerbry, 94, of Lake Vermilion and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Oct. 14, 2021, at her home in Johanna Shores Senior Living in Arden Hills.

Lois taught eighth-grade English in Cedar Rapids for 23 years and her hobbies included reading, golfing and entertaining. Dutch and Lois purchased a cabin for their family on Pine Island in 1969 and they enjoyed life on the lake to the fullest. Lois loved sharing cabin adventures with her grandchildren, often leading them behind the cabin to the secret climbing tree while loudly singing “Boo Bear” to scare off wildlife. She also loved

sharing personal lake stories, including about one April when she and Dutch cross-country skied four miles from Glenwood Resort to Pine Island, paddling in a two-man raft when they would come upon open areas of water.

Lois is survived by her husband of 72 years and the love of her life, Luvern “Dutch” Sauerbry; beloved children, Jane Travis (Mike), Steve Sauerbry (Laurie) and Jim Sauerbry (Sarah); seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Lois and Dutch fulfilled their lifelong dreams at the lake. Many years ago, she penned the following poem to express her love for Lake Vermilion.

*In winter’s midst we close our eyes
To see the blue-orange-red sunsets in Vermilion skies,
And when the northern yards are deep in snow,
We remember the warmth of the tall pines that grow close to the cabins we call home.
These pines shelter us from unknown fears
And they’ve kept us safe*

*all these years.
We conjure up through winter’s cold
The sounds of Vermilion’s waves, crashing and bold
Or the smoothness of a calm, still lake
That breaks diamond droplets in our wake.
There are those of us who have mixed in our blood
The tonic waters of Vermilion’s flood.
We have in mid-winter this powerful urge
To leap into the boat and feel the surge
Of Vermilion’s waters.
We must paddle our canoe in the moonlight shimmer
And gaze at the firelight as it grows dimmer
At night, on Lake Vermilion.*

*We need to sit and read our book
In only our cabin’s cozy nook
Where hummingbirds whirl around the flowers,
Daisies and forget-me-nots grow in the bowers
Of Lake Vermilion.
Blessed are we who feel the glow
It is Vermilion.
It permeates our souls.
Forever.*

Dorothy A. Udovich

Dorothy Ann Benko Udovich, 90, of Gheen, passed away at home on Friday, July 29, 2022. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, Aug. 4 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Cook. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her sons, Dennis (Irene “Mimi”) and David (Carol); grandsons, Steven and Derek Udovich; and great-grandchildren, Danika, Elizabeth and Jack Udovich.

Joanne E. Thibault

Joanne Elizabeth Schommer Thibault, 80, of Mt. Iron, formerly of Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away on Monday, July 25, 2022, at her home with her family by her side. A special thank you to the East Range Hospice team for their caring, compassion and friendship to Joanne during her illness.

A Memorial Mass was held on Monday, Aug. 1 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia. Burial was in the State Veterans Cemetery in Saginaw. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home

in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Ron; children, Shari Christenson of Virginia and Mike (Debra) Thibault of Hugo; grandchildren, Megan (fiance Will) Christenson, Ryan Christenson, Tess Thibault and Tyler Thibault; siblings, Judy Mattson, Teri (Wayne) Billings and Joseph Schommer; daughter-in-law, Gloria Thibault; special friend, Pam (Dan) Beihoffer of Tower; and nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

Derrick L. Byron

Derrick Lee Byron, 34, formally of Angora, passed away from heat exhaustion in Las Vegas, Nev., on Friday, July 22, 2022. Funeral arrangements are pending. An account has been set up at gofundme.com to cover the costs of his unexpected funeral.

He is survived by his brother, Trevor; mother, Lisa; father, Craig; god-mother, Dawn Shepard; grandma, Karen Byron; cousins, aunts and uncles; and a cat named Muffin.

CITY OF TOWER

Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts

for the Year Ended December 31, 2021

TIF District Name:	Tower Tax Increment District #2
Current net tax capacity	13,761
Original net tax capacity	391
Captured net tax capacity	13,370
Principal and interest payments due during current year	30,290
Tax increment received	21,199
Tax increment expended	11,917
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	Jul-07
Date of required decertification	12/31/2032
Increased property tax imposed on other properties as a result of fiscal disparities contribution *	0 **

* The fiscal disparities property tax law provides that the growth in commercial-industrial property tax values is shared throughout the area. In a tax increment financing district, this value sharing can either result in a decrease in tax increment financing district revenue or a tax increase for other properties in the municipality depending on whether the tax increment

** Amounts displayed here indicate that the district did not contribute its growth in commercial-industrial property tax values and represent the resulting increase in taxes on other properties in the City for taxes payable in 2021.

Additional information regarding each district may be obtained from:

Michael Schultz, Clerk Treasurer
PO Box 576 Tower, MN 55790
(218) 753-4070
clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 5, 2022

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

Voyageurs to host three-day stargazing event

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The National Park Service and the Voyageurs Conservancy are celebrating the natural wonder of Voyageurs National Park’s night skies with the park’s second annual summer star party, set for Aug. 18-Aug. 20. Special speakers, arts and crafts, music, telescope viewing, and guided constellation tours are all on tap for the event, which is free for all ages.

Conservancy and ranger-led activities will be held in the early

evening at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center, Aug. 19 and the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center on Aug. 20. Special speakers Paul Bogard and Astro “Bob” will inspire you with presentations about the galaxies, planets, and stars above our heads. Once the park goes dark, attendees will enjoy guided telescope sessions and constellation tours under Voyageurs’ star-studded skies.

Voyageurs was certified in 2020 as an International Dark Sky Park. This certification from the International Dark-Sky Association recognizes Voyageurs for the exceptional quality

Right: A view of the Milky Way looking north on Namakan Lake.
photo by E. Fremstad

of its dark skies and its ongoing commitment to preserving darkness and educating the public about the night sky.

Some of the special events scheduled during the three-day celebration include:

➤ The End of the Night with Paul Bogard: Thursday, Aug. 18, from 5 - 6 p.m. at Thunderbird Lodge

See STARRY...pg. 5B



FIGHTING INVASIVES

Battling buckthorn

The invasive shrub poses a potential threat to area forests

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Mark Haarman is a man with a mission. For years, Haarman, who lives near Ely, has been waging war against an invasive shrub that has the potential to fundamentally reshape the forests of the North Country.

It’s known as European buckthorn, or *Rhamnus cathartica*, and it’s been well established in parts of southern Minnesota for decades. In many places, it has become the dominant forest understory, choking off many native plant species in the process. Haarman worries that the same could happen across much of the Superior National Forest and the Boundary Waters unless residents in the region organize to eradicate pockets of the pernicious plant already growing in places like Ely and Soudan.

Haarman’s concern is hardly overblown. When long-time University of Minnesota forest ecologist Lee Frelich starts talking buckthorn, it can quickly take on the feel of a horror story. The shrub, which can grow up to 25 feet tall, contains a toxin in its leaves known as emodin,

which prevents native plants from growing in the vicinity. Overtime, the plant establishes dense thickets, which further shade out other plants.

The emodin found in buckthorn leaves not only impacts other plants. As it is washed into nearby wetlands, it’s also toxic to developing amphibians, like frog and toad tadpoles as well as young salamanders. The emodin also sickens birds, although it’s not known to be fatal to them. Even so, Frelich said most birds probably learn fairly quickly not to consume the berries—although they don’t learn until they’ve already spread some of the seeds. Not only are the buckthorn berries a poor food source for birds, they have the potential to displace a number of shrub species that are a major source of food for birds and many other species.

Frelich notes that the buckthorn does best in partial shade, which he said is common in much of the Superior National Forest, because the rocky terrain creates a lot of open and semi-open areas, particularly under white pine, aspen, and paper birch. Those are the areas currently occupied by shrubs like blueberries, juneberries,

See BUCKTHORN...pg. 4B



Top: Mark Haarman with a buckthorn sprout he dug out, roots and all. Above: The dark green oval leaves, and green berries that turn black as they ripen, are indicative of the European buckthorn. Below: The best method of identifying buckthorn is to scrape the bark to reveal the bright orange cambium underneath. photos by K. Vandervort



Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
COMMON MILKWEED



While not abundant in our region, the **Common Milkweed**, *Asclepias syriaca*, is most likely to be found along sunny roadsides or fields, where its pinkish globe-shaped flower clusters are easily visible right now. These are prominent plants this time of year, that easily grow five-feet tall or higher, with large, oval, opposite leaves. If you pluck one of those leaves from this plant, you’ll quickly understand how it got its name, since the plant’s sap is white and thick like cream.

The flower clusters, which grow near the top of the plant, will transition over the next few weeks into the milkweed’s distinctive seed-filled pods. As the pods dry and open during the fall, the fluffy seeds are widely distributed by the wind.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye angling has slowed for many, as walleyes have been scattered this last week. Anglers covering ground have been catching walleyes trolling deep diving shad raps and tail dancers. These anglers have been working weedlines, large flats and over deep water during the evenings. Anglers continue to have luck pulling spinner rigs, tipped with leeches or crawlers. Gold, pink and silver have been popular colors right now. Anglers pulling spinner rigs have been catching walleyes in six to nine feet of water in and around scattered cabbage beds.

Smallmouth bass continue to be consistent biters for many anglers with a few reporting catching good numbers of 20-plus inch smallies. Whopper ploppers continue to be hot, hot, hot, but effective times are largely early in the morning or cloudy days with a little chop on the water. Spinnerbaits and soft plastics have also been very effective on smallies when the topwater bite isn’t going well.

Good crappie reports have been increasing as we come into peak summer bite. Anglers have been working weedlines with beetle spins and twisters. Best times have been during evenings, but anglers have been reporting catching crappies all day.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors in Ely.

WHITETAILS

Most North Country hunters will be limited to bucks only

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Most deer hunters in the North Country will be largely limited to bucks-only when the firearms deer season gets underway on Nov. 5. The Department of Natural Resources released details on the bag limits for the 2022 season this week, and most deer permit areas in northern St. Louis and Lake counties will be restricted to antlered deer only, with a few exceptions.

Permit area 177, which includes the Cook area and all of Lake Vermilion, will have 800 antlerless permits available through the lottery. Permit area 107 will have 500 antlerless tags while 176 will have

150, and 107 will have 25 tags available. Such limited numbers ensure that most hunters in these permit areas won't have access to antlerless tags.

In permit areas 119, 118, and 130, all firearms hunters will be limited to bucks-only.

The following seasons will be in effect in the North Country this fall:

- Archery: Saturday, Sept. 17, through Saturday, Dec. 31.
- Youth and early antlerless: Thursday, Oct. 20, through Sunday, Oct. 23.
- Regular firearms: Saturday, Nov. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 20.
- Muzzleloader: Saturday, Nov. 26, through Sunday, Dec. 11.

STARRY...Continued from page 4B

on Rainy Lake. A starry night is one of nature's most magical wonders. Yet in our artificially lit world, most of us no longer experience true darkness. In this talk based on his critically acclaimed book "The End of Night," Paul Bogard seeks to restore our awareness of the spectacularly primal, wildly dark night sky and how it has influenced the human experience across everything from science to art. Using a blend of personal narrative, natural history, science, and astronomy, Bogard shares the importance of darkness—what we've lost, what we still have, and what we might regain—and the simple ways we can reduce the brightness of our nights. This event is free, registration is required, and space is limited. Reserve your spot at voyageurs.org/starparty or call (612) 333-5424.

➤ Family-Friendly Programs: Friday, Aug. 19, from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center upper parking lot. Rangers will lead evening programs on astronomy arts and crafts, a solar system hike, S'mores and stories around the campfire, and more. Attendees will enjoy family-friendly activities that will introduce you to the wilderness above your head.

From 9-9:30 p.m., "Astro" Bob King will give his Discover the Night presentation. Astro Bob is an amateur astronomer, author, and planetarium educator who taught at the UMD planetarium for many years. Learn about August's celestial events and what makes Voyageurs'



Astro Bob

dark skies so spectacular. Afterward, Astro Bob and park rangers will put your new night-watching skills to the test. View Jupiter and Saturn through a telescope, enjoy constellation tours over the park, and learn about astro-photography.

If you plan to take part in the night sky viewing, bring your own lawn chair and bug spray.

➤ A similar lineup of family-friendly activities is set for Saturday night, Aug. 20, from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Kabetogama Visitors Center. Astro Bob will be there with his presentation from 9-9:30 p.m., with star gazing to follow.

In the event of inclement weather, please visit Voyageurs National Park's Facebook page for updates and cancellations at www.facebook.com/VoyageursNPS.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
85 61					73 55					70 51					74 53					76 54				
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.
07/25	87	60	0.21		07/25	66	41	0.02		07/25	65	51	0.02		07/25	73	52	0.22		07/25	66	42	0.03	
07/26					07/26	72	41	0.00		07/26	72	51	0.00		07/26	70	55	0.00		07/26	72	50	0.00	
07/27	No readings at presstime				07/27	71	47	0.35		07/27	67	54	1.38		07/27	73	52	0.24		07/27	68	46	0.83	
07/28					07/28	74	48	0.09		07/28	74	53	0.05		07/28	68	54	0.38		07/28	73	50	0.05	
07/29					07/29	67	44	0.29		07/29	66	53	0.23		07/29	75	54	0.13		07/29	67	43	0.10	
07/30					07/30	74	46	0.00		07/30	73	54	0.00		07/30	81	55	0.00		07/30	74	47	0.00	
07/31					07/31	82	59	0.00		07/31	81	58	0.01		07/31	73	64	0.00		07/31	82	50	0.00	
YTD Total			12.71		YTD Total			16.05		YTD Total			17.61		YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total				20.53

BUCKTHORN...Continued from page 4B

Right: Completely girdling the buckthorn trunk is an effective way to kill the shrub. Far right: Brushing herbicide on a buckthorn stump is another effective method.

pin cherries, chokecherries, and dogwood, all of which provide an abundance of wild foods for native birds. If those shrubs are replaced by buckthorn, the impacts to native bird populations could be significant. And it isn't just the organisms we see that can be affected by buckthorn. Frelich notes that the presence of buckthorn alters the soil chemistry in a way that can impact the soil microorganisms as well as the fungi and the mycorrhizal connections between fungi and other plants. In other words, said Frelich, it could have major ecosystem-wide impacts.

Once established in an area, preventing the spread of the buckthorn is challenging. The plant produces berries that start out green and turn black as they ripen in late summer and fall. While most birds likely learn to avoid the berries, every bird's first encounter with them poses the possibility of new infestation as the seeds quickly work through their digestive system. Across the vast, sparsely inhabited Superior National Forest and the Boundary Waters wilderness, infestations could go undetected for years, and each outpost for the shrub is another launchpad for further spread.

In its native habitat, in Europe and Asia, buckthorn rarely dominates the landscape like it has been able to do in parts of Minnesota. But that's because other plants there have adapted to survive the toxin that the buckthorn spreads. In North America, plants simply haven't been exposed to the toxin and struggle to compete once buckthorn becomes established.

Other Eurasian invasives, like earthworms and nightcrawlers, do well in the presence of buckthorn, notes Frelich. In fact, Frelich says there's evidence of a kind of sym-



biosis between nightcrawlers and buckthorn. Frelich compares the nightcrawler to a kind of farmer, plowing the soil to make way for something else to grow. In this case, nightcrawlers appear to create the ideal conditions for buckthorn and as the buckthorn grows, it creates a soil environment that allows for especially dense populations of nightcrawlers, as well as the spread of other Eurasian invasives. "It eventually transforms the environment to something where only European invasives can survive," said Frelich.

It's such eventualities that keep Haarman up at night. He's been after buckthorn for years, cutting it out from public property when he finds it and asking for permission to eradicate it on private lands as well, a request that has been met with decidedly mixed responses at times. He knows of a number of thickets around Ely as well as clusters of the shrub on the Echo Trail and up the Cloquet Line.

He's been joined in the fight locally by others as well. The Ely Field Naturalists have held a number of work days in the past couple years to keep the buckthorn at bay. The North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District has also organized efforts in the area.

Eradication typically involves cutting the plant just above the soil line and applying herbicide to the stump with a brush or sprayer. In a dense thicket, it can be a labor-intensive task, but Haarman notes

that getting it early, before it's had a chance to really get a foothold across the Superior National Forest is critical. If that happens, it could quickly become a lost cause.

Haarman isn't just wielding a chain saw and some herbicide in battle against buckthorn. Given his background in media production, he said he's also planning to produce some public service announcements on the topic later this year. He said he's also planning to meet with a state agriculture official to discuss a possible ban on the ownership of female buckthorn. "It's the only way to control the continuing spread," said Haarman. He's also hoping to get the issue before the state Legislature or St. Louis County Board sometime in the near future in hopes of enacting a ban on the shrub.

Raising awareness is critical to the fight, notes Haarman, since it's going to take many hands and sharp eyes from the public to spot buckthorn outbreaks in the area. Haarman points out that the best time to spot buckthorn is in the late fall, after most other shrubs have dropped their leaves. European buckthorn maintains green leaves late into the fall and even early winter, so it often stands out in October and November, when other trees and shrubs are bare.

Haarman will be out there this fall on the hunt for this invasive pest. And he's hoping plenty of other North Country residents will join the fight. Call him at 218-235-8300 if you'd like to help out.

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EMPLOYMENT

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These openings exist at
North East Range School in Babbitt:

- **Nutrition Employee I (Assistant Cook) M-F, 7-2:30**
- **Nutrition Employee II (Cook Aide) M-F, 10-2**

Apply online at www.isd2142.net

St. Louis County Schools ISD 2142 is an Equal Opportunity Employer 8/5

JOB OPENING • CITY OF ORR MAINTENANCE / PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT

The City of Orr is seeking candidates for a full-time General Maintenance/Public Works Assistant. Located in far Northern Minnesota, Orr is considered the gateway to Voyageur's National Park and Superior National Forest. Minimum qualifications include: valid driver's license, high school diploma or GED, required licenses or ability to obtain required Water and Wastewater Licensing, and mechanical aptitude. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following: daily/seasonal operations, streets and parks, water and wastewater systems, operation and maintenance of public works equipment and machinery, and municipal airport. Hiring Range: \$14.47 to \$18.47/hr (DOQ) and competitive full-time employee benefit package.

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

The City of Orr is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

6/17 tfn



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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 8/5

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Health Coordinator

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Health Coordinator beginning the 2022-2023 school year. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:
➤ Valid RN or LPN License
➤ Experience preferred
➤ Experience in working with school health services preferred

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:
➤ District Application
➤ Resume
➤ College Transcripts
➤ Current Minnesota License
➤ 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Start Date: August 30, 2022

Starting Rate of Pay: \$30.12/hour

Hours: 8 hours/day; student contact days

Deadline to apply: August 16, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 5 & 12, 2022

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Cafeteria Aide

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Cafeteria Aide for the 2022-2023 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:
➤ Must be able to lift 30 lbs. on a regular basis
➤ Must be able to work in a fast pace setting
➤ Preferred experience working with school age children
➤ Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:
➤ District Application
➤ Resume
➤ 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Starting Rate of Pay: \$15.85/hour

Hours: 2.75 hours/day; 5 days/week; student contact days

Deadline to apply: August 9, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, July 29 & Aug. 5, 2022



Dental Assistant

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

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

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

Please send your resume to
cchoppdentistry@gmail.com



8/19

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional beginning the 2022-2023 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:
➤ Associate's Degree/equivalent or complete a Para Pro exam with a passing score (www.ets.org/parapro)
➤ Preferred experience working with school age children
➤ Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting
➤ Ability to perform job description duties

Benefits include:
➤ Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
➤ Health and life insurance
➤ Flexible spending account
➤ PERA retirement

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- College Transcripts
- 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us.

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour
Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: August 16, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 5 & 12, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICES

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF 2022 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION 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 Vermilion Lake Town Hall. Polling place hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 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.

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
- 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 and 7
State Senator District 11
State Representative District 3A, 8A, 8B
State Offices
Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Attorney General
County Offices
County Commissioner District 6
County Sheriff

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 5, 2022



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Environmental Services

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

Laboratory

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

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist (Wage starting at \$26.14/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)
Casual Ultrasound Tech (Independent Contractor)
Casual Radiological Tech (Independent Contractor)

Hospital/ER

Casual Unit Clerk/HUC (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr. EMT and/or NA cert. required)

Dietary

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

Care Center

PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$35.17/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)
PT LPN (\$4,000 sign-on bonus)
FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr - \$1,500 sign-on bonus)

Activities

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

TO APPLY:

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

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES FOR SNOW REMOVAL AT GREENWOOD TOWN HALL COMPLEX • 2022-2024 SEASON

The Greenwood Township board is accepting sealed quotes for the snow removal at the Town Hall 2022-2024season. The quote should state the cost of removing the snow per hour for the entrance, driveways and parking areas, additionally shoveling the walk to the entrances once the snow reaches a depth of 2 inches, at the Town Hall 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

The contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage. Successful quotes must carry vehicle and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage. Sealed quotes will be accepted until 1:00 PM October 11, 2016.

Sealed quotes are to be sent or delivered by Sept. 30, 2022 to Sue Drobac, Greenwood Township Clerk at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

The township reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, to waive any irregularities and to accept any quote deemed most advantageous to the Township.

Published in the Timberjay, August 5 & 12, 2022

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION LEIDING TOWNSHIP CAMP 5 TOWNSHIP State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in all election precincts in Leiding Township and Camp 5 Township

at the LEIDING TOWN HALL
On Tuesday, August 9, 2022.
Polling places will be open
from 10:00 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

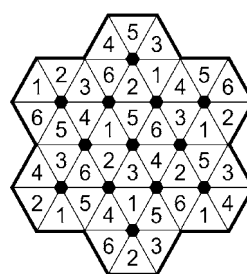
NOTE: Local city, town, and school district offices/questions may also appear on ballots within their respective jurisdictions.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk.

Published in the Timberjay, July 29 & Aug. 5, 2022

Legal notices are online each week at timberjay.com and at <https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/>

SNOWFLAKES
solution



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

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HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhpdirector@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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Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.

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

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EMPLOYMENT

**INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR
Vermilion Country School
Tower, MN**

SALARY: PER ESTABLISHED PAY SCALE (AVAILABLE BY REQUEST). POSITION IS PART-TIME.

POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED. Applicants will be interviewed as soon as possible for a job start in mid- to late-AUGUST.

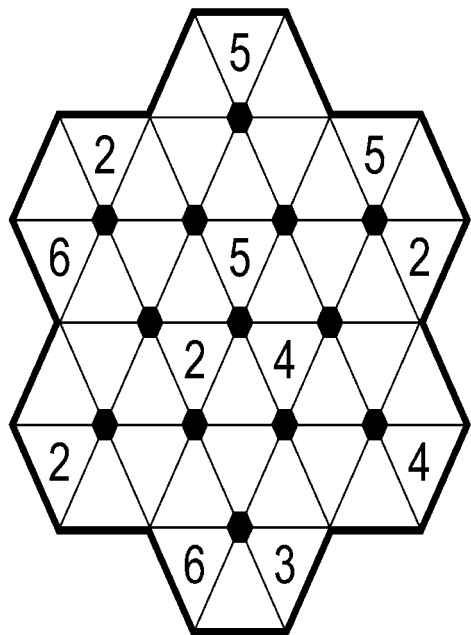
Full job description and qualifications needed are available by emailing Board Chair Jodi Summit at jsummit@vermilioncountry.org, and will be posted on our website at www.vermilioncountry.org.

SEND COVER LETTER AND RESUME to: Jodi Summit, Board Chair, jsummit@vermilioncountry.org. Please call Jodi at 218-753-2950 with any questions.

The Vermilion Country School is looking for an interim administrator to serve as our school director/administrator until a permanent administrator is hired. The right candidate can be considered for the permanent administrator opening if desired.

SNOWFLAKES
by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦
♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Capital of Kenya
8 Cleared up some space
16 Link up
20 Brought into harmony
21 Sign of a warm welcome
22 Meara of comedy
23 Start of a riddle
26 Cock-a-doodle- —
27 Safecracker, informally
28 Vinyl albums, for short
29 Chose, as on a survey
30 Batman player West
33 Peter of “Casablanca”
35 Stare in disbelief
38 Baby’s cry
40 Riddle, part 2
44 Filmdom, in France
47 Stephen of “Utopia”
48 Old Russ. state
49 Spring flower
50 Downhiller’s gear holder
52 Humane U.S. org.
54 Riddle, part 3
59 Routine-bound
61 Tic-tac-toe winning row
62 Waikiki souvenir
63 Rejoinder to “Not so!”
64 Capital of Qatar
65 In Minnesota or Montana
69 Extra NHL periods
71 Riddle, part 4
78 Supersecret govt. group
79 Tetley tidbit
80 Quite a long time
82 Fine violin, informally
86 Stage design
89 New Year in Hanoi
90 Election turnaround
92 Riddle, part 5
97 Allow entry
98 “Ha! I was right!”
99 Thailand, formerly
100 Pal, in Caen
102 — -Magnon
103 French WWII battle city
104 End of the riddle
110 “Wolf” cable channel
112 Followers: Suffix
113 “You beat me”
114 Gum globs
115 Facility with hot tubs
117 Gamble
119 Subpoena, e.g.
120 Go fast, quaintly
122 Riddle’s answer
131 Atoll unit
132 Trip in a “stretch” car
133 Stacked messily
134 It may grow on a rock
135 Reduces to a fine mist
136 Capable of being stretched out
DOWN
1 Rural refusal
2 Sports-related: Abbr.
3 Suffix with Seattle
4 “Walk This Way” rap trio
5 Aware of
6 Looks upon
7 Suffix with cyan-
8 Lawn-Boy products
9 Orbital point farthest from Earth
10 C-H linkup
11 Suffix with butyl
12 Jogged
13 Hobbit’s foe
14 Brunch staple
15 Abbr. on a new car’s sticker
16 Face part
17 Being displayed
18 Pertaining to
19 Require
24 Novice
25 Chicago-to-Memphis dir.
30 Frightened
31 Fails to
32 Plains tribe
34 — vez (again, in Spain)
35 Teri of “Tootsie”
36 Disney mermaid name
37 Old hat
39 Etchers’ liquids
41 Jacob’s twin
42 Bake-off entry
43 That, in Oviedo
45 Small iPod
46 Big name in waffles
51 Jewish deli treat
53 Rugged cliff
55 Zero
56 Way in or out
57 Most awful
58 New York county whose seat is Owego
60 Syllables of rebuke
66 Lunar stage
67 — kwon do
68 Hilton rival
70 Texter’s “Catch ya later”
72 Not finish later than
73 “— Three Lives”
74 — pot (sinus clearer)
75 Roof feature
76 “Yeah, understood”
77 Turned in
81 Spanish men
82 Some NCOs
83 Hit the horn
84 Routines to determine who’s present
85 Append
87 Snaky letters
88 Be snaky
91 Mishmash
93 76” cager Ming
94 “Witness” actor Lukas
95 Novelist Tan
96 Dits’ partners, in Morse code
101 Biofuel option
105 Birdbrain
106 Fiery lecture
107 Antipasto morsels
108 Carry
109 Annoying sorts
111 Pistons’ org.
115 Be fishy?
116 Coin of Cali
118 Fitzgerald of song
119 Phenom
121 Tehran’s land
123 French article
124 Spanish for “I love”
125 — Kippur
126 — Lanka
127 Plum center
128 Half of VI
129 Pipe fitting
130 Visualize

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Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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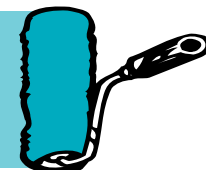
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Super Crossword

Answers

Answers																					
N	A	I	R	O	B	I					R	O	O	M		J	O	I	N	E	
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