

TOWER HARBOR

Sky high building costs kills town home plans Tower Harbor Shores regrouping with proposal for smaller condos along with commercial space

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

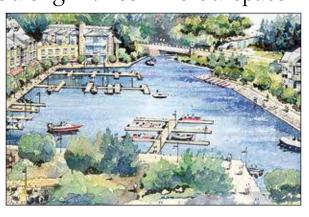
TOWER- The long-planned town home project slated for construction at the Tower Harbor appears dead, nearly six years after city officials pushed for the development project. The Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA) took steps at their meeting on Aug. 4 to cancel the agreement, although it will be at least early November before the agreement

can be officially scrapped unless representatives of Tower Harbor Shores agree to mutually end the agreement earlier than that.

Tower Harbor Shores representative Orlyn Kringstad and the company's new architect, Ryan Arola, of Duluth, had prepared a presentation for TEDA on the town home project which also outlined a modified concept that would substitute smaller and more affordable condominiums, as well as provide some ground floor Right: The original concept drawings at the Tower Harbor, show a highly walkable mix of commercial fronts and upperlevel residential. With the shelving of the town home proposal, a new plan could come closer to the original vision.

commercial space at the harbor. Concept drawings and initial floor plans, provided to the Timberjay,

See...HARBOR pg. 11



ENTERTAINMENT WITH A CAUSE



by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - Heads were turning here last Saturday as the little town at the end of the road hosted an event that probably caught many people by surprise. Ely may never be the same after a parade of drag queens entertained a packed room at the Grand Ely Lodge to raise money for a cause.

Some said it was about time.

"It is refreshing to have a fundraising event like this up here," said Cindy Carvelli-Yu and Song Yu, a ouple from the Twin Cities have a seasonal home on Fall Lake. "We have been to many similar shows down state and we never thought this would ever make it up to Ely.' Turns out, there was plenty of interest in what the drag queens had on display. Cindy and Song were some of the lucky few to get tickets to the show before they sold out. Given the high demand, a second show was soon added, and that sold out as well. Each show, which also included a brunch, attracted upwards of 150 guests. Produced by Flip Phone Events the show featured several drag queens. Sasha Cassadine. who hosted the event, Onya Deek, Mercedes Iman Diamond (from Ru

Right: Performer Jaidynn Diore Fierce does her impression of the video game character Mario.

Below: Performer Mercedes Iman Diamond collects money from some in the audience. photos by K. Vandervort

Paul's Drag Race Season 11), and Jaidynn Diore Fierce (from Ru Paul's Drag Race Season 7). A special guest from the Iron Range, Thatqueerisa, of Virginia, also performed.

It was all to raise money for



ELY SCHOOLS

Construction woes delay start for Ely schools

School now set to open Sept. 12

by RACHEL BROPHY Staff Writer

ELY-What had only been rumored up until now was confirmed this week when the Ely school board voted unanimously to postpone the first day of school here until Monday, Sept. 12. Ely schools had previously been set to open on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

With the sound of construction equipment working outside, Monday's regular school board meeting included an update from Superintendent John Klarich, who made an impassioned argument for pushing back the school start by one week.

"I'm most worried about out front having that paved, the asphalt. Any delay on that, and we won't have that available to us on the opening day of school," Klarich began. "And also, we have to look at (the fact) that it's Labor Day weekend; I don't know if the contractors will work on Labor Day weekend, but that is still only part of the issue why we're asking for the delay." "Anne (Oelke) and I talked about this last week after we met with everybody, and we'd like to move back the first day,' Klarich continued. "The project may be ready, but we would need no more rain delays on the exterior work-especially the paving that is supposed to be completed on Sept. 2. Any change on that would create major problems with student drop off for not only buses, but also parents as well as parking issues."





See...DELAY pg. 9

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Gigabit broadband could come to Cook yet this year

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Faster internet may be coming to Cook sooner than anticipated, as Paul Bunyan Communications announced on Tuesday that there's a good chance the system will be installed this fall, rather than next spring.

"It looks like our Cook

project is going to go ahead earlier than expected," Paul Bunyan CEO Steve Howard told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday. "It's still tentative. We originally were planning to start work there late this year and then finish up next year. But the weather's been cooperative, and things are lining up nicely to potentially

start working on that project as soon as right after Labor Day, and we very likely would finish this year."

Bemidji-based Paul Bunyan Communications received a \$311,000 state Border-to-Border grant to partially fund deployment of their fiber optics GigaZone network in the community in February 2021, and after minor changes to the original proposal were approved by the Cook City Council that March, the project was slated to be completed in spring 2023. Outside of an \$8,000 contribution from the city of Cook, Paul Bunyan will foot the bill for the remainder of the \$700,000-plus project.

One thing hampering many new builds these days is the difficulty in getting fiber cable, with orders taking 18 to 24 months to fulfill, but Howard said that's not a concern here.

"When the pandemic started coming we jumped in and ordered

See...BROADBAND pg. 9



40% OFF Outlet Store Open Daily Retail Store Open Everyday: 6 am to 9 pm Visit our new Boathouse: Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm You'll find it all at Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Ave.

piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com



Community notices

Free shoes for K-12 **Iron Range students**

MT. IRON - Local families in need with children enrolled in school are encouraged to apply for the Community Steps program.

The program, a partnership between the Mountain Iron Fire Department (MIFD) and United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN), with funding support provided by the St. Louis County Family Services Collaborative, is in its second year and will once again provide low-income Iron Range families with free new school shoes.

"We were proud to support these efforts last year and hope to once again help local children start their school year off on the right foot," said UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay.

MFIP's Laura Anderson spearheaded the effort last year and is excited that it has grown this year. Up to 120 selected students will tour the MIFD, shoe shop and enjoy a community dinner from 5-8 p.m. on Aug. 24, Aug. 31, or Sept. 12.

"Firefighters join the fire department to prevent fires but also to serve their community,' Anderson said. "Programs like Community Steps are another way firefighters serve the community while engaging with families."

To qualify, families must be under the 200 percent Federal Poverty Guidelines/Receiving SNAP, MFIP, or Reduced or Free school lunches. Applications are due Aug.22 and can be submitted online at www.unitedwaynemn.org/form/communitysteps, or families can call 218-929-1625 or email phoe-

nix.laura18@gmail.com to get a paper form.

Applications for Extension Master Gardener volunteer program open through Oct. 1

ST. PAUL-The application period to become a University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener volunteer is open through Oct. 1. Extension Master Gardeners bring science-based horticulture knowledge and practices to Minnesota, promoting healthy landscapes and building communities through volunteer efforts.

"Our understanding of the benefits of gardening is expanding to include personal and community well-being, pollinator health, the importance of climate resilient landscapes and more. Becoming a Master Gardener volunteer is a great way to invest time and energy in local activities and efforts that support healthy people and a healthy planet," said Tim Kenny, statewide director, Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

Master Gardeners are respected as reliable sources of gardening information for Minnesotans. What many don't know is that becoming a Master Gardener gives volunteers a chance to expand their interests in areas including sustainability, local foods, pollinators and climate change. Master Gardeners also put their skills to work conserving green spaces, native plants and clean water.

The University of Minnesota has trained thousands of Master Gardeners; each year, they contribute more than 140,000 hours of service in Minnesota communities.

This year, the training will be all online and spread out over 14 weeks, making the program more student-friendly than ever. To become a Master Gardener, individuals commit to complete online training and 50 hours of volunteering in the first year. After the first year, they commit 25 hours to annual volunteer work; many choose to devote more time to the program.

HOUSE UPDATES **Northern Progressives hosts Ecklund** and Hortman in Cook on Aug. 17

COOK - State Representative Rob Ecklund (DFL-International Falls) will be joined by Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman (DFL-Brooklyn Park) at the Cook Community Center, 510 Gopher Dr., on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 6:30 p.m.. They will report on key accomplishments of the legislature during the last session as well as the unfinished business that would require a special session.

Ecklund was elected to represent House District 3A in a special election in December 2015, finishing the term of the



Rep. Melissa Hortman

late David Dill. District 3A includes Koochiching, Lake, and Cook Counties and parts of St. Louis and Itasca Counties.

Currently, Rep. Eck-

SKILLED COMMUNICATORS

Rep. Rob Ecklund

lund serves as the chair

of the Labor, Industry,

Veterans, and Military Af-

fairs Finance and Policy

Committees and serves on

the Ways and Means; En-

vironment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy; and the Agriculture Finance and Policy Committees.

Rep. Hortman, from Brooklyn Park, has served as Speaker of the House since 2019. She's in her 9th term as a Minnesota state representative.

The meeting is sponsored by Northern Progressives. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Leah Rogne, 218-787-2212(h); 612-570-0188 (c) or email leah rogne@ gmail.com.

Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club participates in 2022 Field Day contest

ELY - The Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club (VRARC), based out of Ely, was an active participant in this year's Field Day contest held June 25-26. Since 1933, when the first Field Day was held, over 35,000 amateur radio operators throughout Canada and the United States have taken part in this annual event. According to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), radio amateurs have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment

ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations in inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs).

To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and each of the participant's operations, there is a competitive aspect to Field Day. Operators receive points for every station which is contacted, along



Radio Club Field Day

with how the amateur radio station is set up with equipment and operators. In the case with the Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club, the radio operation was in the parking lot of the Mike Forsman Public Works Facility. A portable generator was used to provide power to the radio equipment and operators stayed at the site around the clock making and receiving calls. Members of



the public were also encouraged to stop in and visit the operation.

According to members of the Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club, 152 contacts were made and 1,876 points were accumulated. "Field Day is a real challenge for our club, but we really have a good time" said President Pete Makowski. "Club member Jer-

ry Hunnicutt cooks up a great breakfast, and we also ordered

pizza from a local business." The Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club meets every Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge. For more information about amateur radio or the club, contact Pete Makowski at 218-749-7600.

Article submitted by Peter Makowski-Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club, President

Nordic Recliners & LUNA Chairs

Dave Quick is up and ready to go at this year's Amateur

Master Gardeners come from all ages and backgrounds. To learn more about the program and apply, visit z.umn.edu/MG_info or call 612-625-9864.



Call 753-2950

to subscribe

to the

Timberjay!

Scenic HEALTH SERVICES Providing Quality and Compassionate Care

Every Patient at Every Visit **COOK MEDICAL TOWER CLINICS**

20 5th St SE, Cook MN **Open Monday - Saturday** (218) 666-5941

COOK DENTAL

12 S River Street, Cook MN **Open Monday - Friday** (218) 666-5958

415 N 2nd St, Suite 2, Tower MN Former High School Building **Open Monday through Friday**

MEDICAL (218) 753-2405

DENTAL (218) 753-6061

Your Local Providers

Matthew Holmes, MD Nicholas Vidor, MD Eric Elleby, MD Rachel Beldo, APRN Amy Banks, MD Celin Williams, LICSW

Charles Tietz, MD-GYN Services Cynthia Sandberg, NP Erin Thielbar, NP Kristen Dombovy, DNP Amanda Perkovich, NP Benjamin DeVries, PA-C

Timothy Sprouls, DDS James Marzella, DDS Krista Kukarans, DDS Michael Talberg, DDS Teresa Bushnell, ADT

Covid-19 testing and vaccinations available.

1-877-541-2817 24 Hour Emergency Care Available www.ScenicRiversHealth.org Through Cook Hospital

www.timberjay.com

2021 Prices through August 31

Prices increase September 1 Hurry in and get your chairs NOW. Special orders welcome.





303 Main St., Tower, MN • 218-753-3313 • Hours Mon-Sat 10-4 and by appointment www.nordic-home.com marit@nordic-home.com **"Rugs, gifts, decor and more"**



Physical Therapy Clinics in Floodwood, Tower & Duluth

MODERN PAIN RELIEF TREATMENT

Headaches • Jaw Pain Shoulder, Neck, & Back Pain **Muscular Tension Planter Fasciitis**

Call to schedule an appointment, for a free consultation to see if physical therapy can help you or look us up on the web

PHONE: 218-481-7603 WEBSITE: living-well-therapy.com

DRY NEEDLING

LOCAL POLITICS

Zupancich, Skraba cruise to primary wins Ramsay, Lukovsky advance in St. Louis County Sheriff's race

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Babbitt Mayor Andrea Zupancich and Ely Mayor Roger Skraba scored big wins in Tuesday's Republican primary election in their mutual quests to join the state Legislature, and experience won out in the threeway nonpartisan contest for county sheriff.

In her bid to claim the District 3 Senate seat left vacant by the retirement of longtime Sen. Tom



Zupancich moves on in her bid for a District 3 Senate seat, and Skraba continues with his bid to unseat Rob Ecklund in House District 3A.

Bakk, Zupancich garnered an overwhelming 69 percent of the vote against Kelsey Johnson, of Gnesen Township, winning 5,762-2,581.

St. Louis, Cook, and Lake County precincts gave Zupancich over 70 percent of their votes, while district constituents in Itasca County preferred the Babbitt mayor 64-36 percent. Zupancich won all but four of the District 3 precincts in St. Louis County, including all of the North Country precincts where the Zupancich family name is widely known. Koochiching County was the only location where the race was even close, and even there Zupancich won with 54 percent of the vote.

Zupancich will face Hermantown City Council member and DFL candidate Grant Hauschild in the general election. Hauschild ran unopposed in the DFL primary, getting 7,235 votes.

Skraba earned the right to take on House District 3A DFL incumbent Rob Ecklund in November with a decisive 3,030-1,521 win over first-time political candidate Blain Johnson, garnering 66 percent of the vote.

Skraba won by running almost dead even with Johnson in Itasca and Koochiching counties and winning big everywhere else. Outside of losing Camp 5 Township three votes to two, Skraba swept 33 of 34 St. Louis County precincts in the district.

Ecklund had 3,870 votes running unopposed.

See PRIMARY...pg. 5

New park tour boat damaged when striking rock

The popular tours resume today

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The debut of Voyageur National Park's new tour boat, the 42-foot long catamaran "Ne-zho-dain," has faced a number of challenges this summer, including record flooding that created a laundry list of additional hazards on the park's big lakes.

But with the water mostly receded, the park announced in an Aug. 1 Facebook post that the boat and crew were ready for launch. "With the arrival of the Ne-zho-dain, park staff had a lot to learn before tours begin," the post began. "The captains had to take the vessel on the route to Kettle Falls and Ellsworth Rock Gardens, ensuring they knew exactly where they could safely go. The interpretation staff were busy developing tour programs and practicing what they will present to our visitors. One thing is certain, the Ne-zho-dain and its crew are ready for duty!"

What happened next was almost predictable.

"Did the boat really

hit a rock already?" a commenter asked on the park's Facebook page the very next day.

"Yes, it did," another commenter replied.

On Tuesday, park superintendent Bob DeGross explained to the *Timberjay* what happened.

"The captain was maneuvering in response to other vessels on the water," DeGross said. "In doing so, they maneuvered closer to a rock hazard and ultimately hit it. Unfortunately, with the amount of rocks that are in our lakes, quite often as not it's not if you're going to hit a rock but potentially when. That's just the nature of the lake."

DeGross commended the crew for their response to the incident.

"Considering it was a tour boat with a tour group, every safety consideration was followed and everybody was returned to the port without injury," he said.

The damage was relatively minor, DeGross said, and the boat has been declared lake-worthy and ready to resume tours this Friday, Aug. 12.

"There was no struc-



tural damage and it was good we could get it back up and running," he said.

The boat is named after Chief Ne-zho-dain from the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe, who resided in Kabetogama and was reported to be the last known Ojibwe survivor of the famous Battle with the Cut Foot Sioux. The name translates to "twin" or "two hearts."

Ship-shape again, the Ne-zho-dain will ply the waters of Namakan and Kabetogama, departing from the Kabetogama Visitors Center for tours to Kettle Falls and the Ellsworth Rock Gardens. The boat is powered by twin 300-horsepower Mercury outboard engines and can accommodate 29 passengers and two crew members. DeGross said that the incident with the Ne-zhodain should serve as a lesson to all boaters in the park to beware of possible rock hazards.

"People should be mindful when they're traveling," he said. "It's a rocky lake. The challenge is that sometimes the rock fields are much broader than what the rock markers indicate."

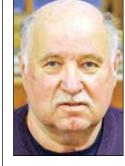
"We're glad that all ended well and that we're going to be up and running," he added.

DeGross said that tours will continue through the end of September, and possibly into early October, depending on the weather. Tours on the park's tour boats can be booked online at recreation.gov.

ELY Omerza and Kess move on to November ballot ELY – City council



Heidi Omerza



Paul Kess

member Heidi Omerza was the big winner in Tuesday's threeway primary contest for Ely mayor, tallying 410 votes, or 55.3 percent, suggesting she is the definite frontrunner heading into the November general election. Fellow council member Paul Kess finished a distant

raul Kess mished a distant second with 242 votes, or 32.6 percent, but that was good enough to qualify for the general election ballot. Omerza and Kess will be seeking to replace current mayor, Republican Roger Skraba, who is running for the District 3A legislative seat currently held by DFLer Rob Ecklund.

The third candidate in the mayoral primary, relative political newcomer Mark Haarman, received 89 votes or 12 percent.

There were 2,264 registered voters in the city of Ely as of Aug. 9.

Read us online @timberjay.com



WE NEED LISTINGS! Contact us for a free property valuation

218-666-5352 info@bicrealty.com bicrealty.com

COOK Approximately 20 wooded acres west of Cook with 1/4 mile Little Fork River frontage. Property has year-round paved road-access, driveway into property, and electricity along driveway. **MLS#143506 \$65,000**

SOLD!! Updated and well maintained original Embarrass homestead in a park like setting with huge pines trees and lots of privacy. Home features 3 BRs, 1 BA, sun room, 40 acres and borders public lands. **MLS#143349**

COOK First time on the market! This conveniently located 3 BR, 24x44 home is located in a quiet cul-de sac neighborhood with a beautiful parklike setting among mature pines. **MLS#143910 \$230,000**

WE SELL THE NORTH!



REAL ESTATE

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

vermilionland.com info@vermilionland.com 1-866-753-8985 Cook • Tower • Virginia



Orr-\$69,900 Ash River lots in Bear Ridge on Ash River CIC. Each lot comes with shared community septic, shared water from central pumphouse & electric. These utilities already ran to each site. Ownership also gives you access to private docks on 155' of shared shoreline, a personal slip, gazebo near lake with grill and 1/10 share of all common areas.

PRICE REDUCED!! Pelican Lake, Orr-\$699,000

Beautiful lake home on an 11+ acre point with over 1,400 ft of shoreline and sand beach. Enjoy spectacular big water from this 2,672 sq ft, 4+ BR , 2 BA home with 16x21 screened gazebo and detached 6-car heated garage. **MLS#143861**

Buyck-\$639,000 19.87-acre Echo Trail off-grid property with a 2,900 sq ft custom timber frame home with wrap-around deck, granite and ash flooring, custom cabinets and in-floor heat. **MLS#143246**



R



"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW... ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Summer of the arts

Investment in arts and culture improves the quality of life in our communities

What a difference the arts can make here in the North Country. While our region has long attracted artists inspired by the region's natural beauty, our area communities are benefitting from an abundance of public art and entertainment, the likes of which we haven't seen before.

From quality community theater produced by the Northern Lakes Arts Association in Ely to the Ely Winter Festival and Art Walk, to the Northern Lights Music Festival, to the Pickup Truck Opera that entertained audiences across our area this past week, the sounds, colors, and motion of public performance have been lighting up our area communities this summer.

And it's not by accident. Over the past 14 years, voter-approved sales tax dollars from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment to the state's constitution have made possible an unprecedented state investment in a number of areas, including in public arts and culture. That's benefitted groups like Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook as well as the Arrowhead Regional Library System, which has been able to offer arts and cultural programming not available in the past. It's almost certain to provide some operational and programming support for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center once its building is fully completed. It's also benefitted individual artists, who have been able to pursue public art projects, from murals to sculpture to performance, that might otherwise not have been possible.

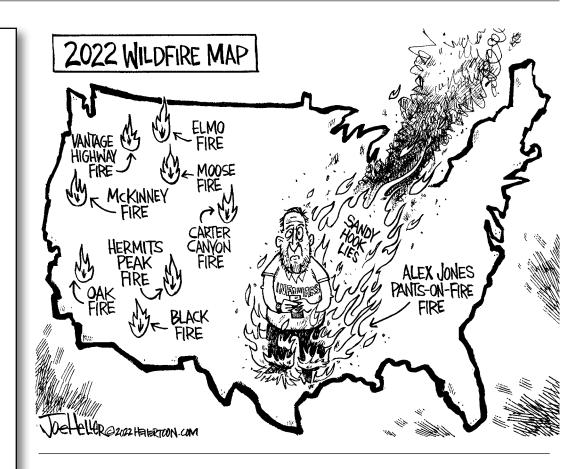
Since enactment of the amendment in 2009, the funding has directed over \$705 million toward artistic and cultural projects and programming statewide. That's created a blossoming of public art, which has enlivened our area communities and enhanced the quality of life was in the top ten (ninth to be exact) among states in per-capita investment in the arts. Today, Minnesota ranks number one, investing an average of about six dollars per person. It's amazing what that six dollars can buy, especially for communities outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area, where the impact has been the most profound.

The arts aren't just good entertainment. They're good business, too. In fact, a 2019 study by the nonprofit group Creative Minnesota, concluded that the arts generated nearly a \$100 million in economic activity in the seven-county Arrowhead region alone. That included money spent by audiences as well as the incomes generated by the artists themselves.

That impact is helped by the fact that the Arrowhead region regularly ranks second in their participation in arts programming among the state's eleven regions. Residents here in the North Country are eager for arts programming and we show up when it's available.

There is evidence that an active arts community is good for seemingly unrelated businesses as well. A 2017 study by the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, found that rural counties with active arts communities or performing arts centers were more likely to attract new and innovative businesses. It's an interesting correlation and the researchers concluded that innovative individuals, who are more likely to start innovative businesses, were more likely to locate in areas with an active arts scene. In effect, the arts act as a kind of magnet for innovative peoplethe kind that bring new vitality to communities and economies.

That new vitality is becoming evident in communities in our region, and we believe the arts are playing a role in making it happen. It's something to celebrate.



Letters from Readers

Zupancich is who we need in St. Paul at this time

OPINION

Andrea Zupancich has compiled an impressive record of success in both the private and public sectors. She focuses on achieving common sense results rather than what is ideological or politically correct.

Andrea graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, with a bachelor-of-science degree.

Her accomplishments in the public sector are many. Zupancich has served as the Mayor of Babbitt during the past eight years and prior to that served on its city council. She was instrumental in securing \$12 million dollars to fund several large Babbitt civic projects, including city water and sewer treatment facilities, new multi-family housing residential projects and the development of a new RV park.

Serving a community located just four miles from Cleveland Cliff's Northshore mine, which employs more than 500 iron workers, Zupancich has supported all resolutions benefiting mining projects, including the proposed PolyMet copper mine near Hoyt Lakes and Twin Metals Minnesota's copper-nickel mine. She has met with legislators, both state and federal, supporting steel tariffs, copper-nickel mining and the need to extend benefits to laid-off iron workers. Zupancich's achievements in the private sector are equally impressive. She established a real estate brokerage and property management business, opening her first office in 2013. Today, in four offices, 19 realtors and brokers sell both residential and commercial properties in Iron Range communities. Andrea believes that those in the community, who are able, should participate and help by volunteering to fulfill community needs. She has worked as a substitute teacher in the Babbitt schools and as a mentor to youths participating in the Babbitt Figure Skating Club and the Ely and Babbitt Blue Line hockey programs.

Andrea continues to serve as a board member of several non-profit organizations, one of which is the Ely Area Development Association, based in Ely, whose mission is promoting economic development and job growth in northeastern Minnesota. She also is a board member of Jobs for Minnesotans.

Andrea Zupancich is precisely who we need at this time to fill Tom Baak's District 3 Senate seat.

> Gerald M. Tyler Ely

Pillow Rock would be worthy addition to trailhead center

Ely's 2.7-billion-year-old Pillow Rock continues to be neglected year after year with its broken sign and inaccurate information. Rarely does anyone visit it in its obscure location. Yet, this rock is extremely valuable for Ely as an educational and historic icon and as a visitor destination. It was created during the time that the Tectonic plates were active spewing forth molten lava that later solidified into rock, some of which cooled in pillow-like shapes. Ely's Pillow Rock has transcended through 27 million centuries during the creation of dinosaurs, fish, vegetation, birds, and humans. The rock evokes a sense of permanence in a rapidly changing world. This feature will be manifested by visitors returning year after year to update photos of previous photos at the rock commemorating weddings, births, returns from wilderness trips or snowmobile trips or even the latest fashion. The continuum of photographs gives people a sense of growth and change against a background

of an immutable rock.

To attract people to visit the rock and to appreciate its history, the rock should be moved to a more significant location. A good site might be near the anticipated populous trailhead.

An important compliment would be a film of 15 or 20 minutes illustrating how the rock and its distinctive pillow features were formed. It would also provide a timeline of the Earth's formation and the developments over billions of years showing the ice age and the emergence of terrestrial creatures and people.

A successful visitor center would have a film such as those produced by Nova, National Geographic, BBC or another high-quality film maker. Some of the producers will already have some key photos and research in their files which should mitigate the costs.

A limited size building would be needed for a small film showing room, and some space to sell souvenirs and memento gifts, many of which could be made by local artists and craftsmen. Ely has talented children's book authors that can illustrate the longevity of the Rock and convey the sense of time. The books would be well received in a Pillow Rock gift store. If properly marketed, Ely's historic rock would attract people to come to Ely just to see it. Plymouth Rock, in Massachusetts, draws more than one million people every vear A structural mover that has the experience moving heavy and fragile objects for museums would be necessary to assure the safe move of the rock. A well-reasoned grant proposal is likely to secure the necessary funds to finance moving the rock and to provide a historical film at an enhanced location.

for millions of Minnesotans.

Minnesota has long had a reputation for supporting the arts. Before passage of the legacy amendment, Minnesota



Gerry Snyder Ely

Why your voice and your feet and your vote COUNT

Why Your voice and Your Feet and Your Vote Count

I'm writing on Tuesday, Aug. 9, the day of the primary elections in Minnesota, and I'm feeling nostalgic about times in our democracy that seemed better. That may be largely due to



I realize that what I define as "better" means a higher level of citizen involvement, which typically is brought about by difficult times. We have had some fine people working to make a difference, serving our country in elected offices, and I'd like to prod our memories. Today is the day

in 1974 that Richard on officially resigned from

the presidency. Gerald Ford was sworn in, the only U.S. president to never have been elected president or vice-president. When VP Spiro Agnew had resigned the previous year due to another scandal, Nixon chose Ford to fill the role. Ford spoke to the nation saying, "This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts. My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works; our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here the people rule."

Last week I watched a documentary about Robert and Ethel Kennedy, a well-told story about their loving commitment to each other, their large family, and their country, proof that a Democrat and Republican really can work things out. Ethel grew up in the fun-loving, Republican Skakal family, which nurtured her non-conformity and prankish sense of humor. She was known for some outrageous behavior which apparently kept Robert from disappearing entirely into his serious, introspective self.

Both families of origin were Catholic and wealthy with lots of children, athletic activities, political convictions, and dogs (as many as 19.) Ethel became a staunch Democrat, supporting her husband throughout his career and honoring him after he was assassinated with the creation of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights and other political activism.

Robert Kennedy said, "Few will have the greatness to bend

See VOICE...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Housing is a key issue in our region

Regardless of who wins the Eighth District congressional race, the winner should focus on housing. The home mortgage tax exemption has been the great engine of middle-class prosperity for the past 70 years. I suggest these initiatives for increasing the housing stock:

1) Push for HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development to grant no-money-down first-time buyer mortgages like the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides in rural cities and towns for those with good credit scores. This will balance the scourge of corporations recently buying up homes for rental property which is becoming an issue in the Twin Cities and other urban areas.

2) Reduce or eliminate the 17.99 percent tariff on Canadian lumber imports to reduce home-building costs.

3) Push for the reduction by half of I-35 in Duluth which is overbuilt when its rebuild comes due for senior and affordable housing by the lake for bike, bus, and walking shopping.

4) Work for the reinstatement of the Minnesota Historic Tax Credit which also works to increase the housing stock in historic buildings like Old Central and the Old Jail on West Second Street.

5) Expand federal and state weatherization programs that help make home ownership affordable.

6) Pass tax credits for local producers of solar panels.

7) Seek funding from the Department of Energy for local solar panel production and business expansion as well as for solar installations in under-served areas.

8) Support broadband expansion as quickly as possible.

9) Support expansion of vo-tech schooling.

10) Support the promotion of less expensive modular housing with tax credits.

11) Oppose the Fed's interest rate hikes making home mortgages less affordable.

John Munter Warba Solar Co-op made my rooftop solar possible

The sun is a power source that is free and available to all. Every day the sun sends solar energy to earth that we have been using for centuries to grow food. Now we can use it to produce electricity as well.

I believe we should produce more of our power locally and renewably and I wanted to do my part by going solar at my home, but Ididn't know where to start. Then I heard about Solar United Neighbors solar co-op. I went online and signed up for the solar co-op in October of last year. In May of this year my solar was installed, and on June 15 began producing clean, renewable solar power. As of Aug. 5 it has produced 1,900 kwh of electricity, which is more than four months of my usual power consumption.

The solar co-op is neighbors joining together to get a better price from a solar installer. You also get information from Solar United Neighbors on how solar works, covering both the technology and the economics. It is free and there is no obligation to go solar after joining.

Now is a good time to go solar because there is a Federal Solar Investment Tax Credit equal to 26 percent of the cost of your solar. If the Deficit Reduction Act passes, that will increase to 30 percent and be retroactive to all solar installed this year.

The Solar United Neighbors Iron Range Solar Co-op is open for new members now. You can sign up and find more information online at www. solarunitedneighbors.org/ range.

If you are interested in solar don't miss this great opportunity!

Michele Jackman Virginia

Men welcome new babies, by controlling women

As a friend recently knit colorful squares for a group quilting project celebrating the arrival of a friend's baby, I got to thinking. The child will come to understand later about all

the people who supported the effort in creating something warm, comforting, and aesthetically interesting. As I watched, I knew that it was likely that only women were participating in this activity. I thought about how, throughout time among human cultures, women have often done communal activities for the arrival of a child.

Then I tried to think of any direct communal activities that men undertake to welcome a new baby. I couldn't think of any, in any culture, throughout history.

And then it hit me: Anti-abortion legislation. Some laws are hundreds of years-old and they exist throughout the globe, across many cultures, and they were enacted by male dominated legislative bodies. Way to go men! Way to get communally involved in doing something for babies. Victoria Ranua

Tower

Hypocrisy comes in the color orange

Remember Don "the con" Trump saying anyone who takes the 5th instead of truthfully answering questions, means they have something hide?

Well this morning 8-10-2022, Instead of answering questions to the AG about his questionable property dealings..... he pleaded the 5th to the questions asked.

Using Trump's own words, "what are you hiding" Trump? I think we all know what it is he's trying to cover up and escape from answering about.

> Barry W. Tungseth Ely

We welcome your letters

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

be limited to 300 words.

PRIMARY...Continued from page 3

Sheriff

Current St. Louis County Undersheriff Jason Lukovsky and former Duluth and Wichita, Kan. police chief Gordon Ramsay brought their experience to the table in the St. Louis County Sheriff's race, while parttime Moose Lake officer and gun shop owner Chad Walsh was banking on a conservative-oriented message of change to bolster his chances.

Experience won out, as Ramsay picked up 13,995 votes, 40 percent, to win the nonpartisan primary, followed by Lukovsky with 11,454 votes, or 33 percent. Both men will now face off in the general election, set for Nov. 8. Walsh picked up 26 percent, with 9,118 votes and failed to advance to the November election. Ramsay drew his strength in Duluth, winning 32 of the 33 precincts in the region's largest city, which gave him his winning margin. While Ramsay's appeal dropped off considerably outside of Duluth, Lukovsky found more consistent support throughout the county.

Walsh, who called himself "a constitutional sheriff," a controversial right-wing theory that suggests sheriffs are the ultimate authority in their counties, found considerable support in northern St. Louis County. He was the top vote-getter in a number of North Country precincts, including Babbitt, Cook, Ely, Orr, Angora, Eagle's Nest, Embarrass, and Leiding.

But Walsh fared poorly in Duluth, finishing last in all 33 precincts. Lukovsky built a comfortable 2,398 vote edge over Walsh in the city, allowing him to outpace Walsh overall to claim his second-place finish and qualify for the general election.

Other races of interest

In the Republican primary for Attorney General, Jim Schultz easily defeated Doug Wardlow, with Sharon Anderson finishing a distant third. Schultz received 163,939 votes, or 53 percent, to Wardlow's 108, 547 votes, or about 35 percent. Wardlow may have miscalculated in his effort to make the election about abortion when he recently pledged to "wage war" on Minnesota's state constitutional right to an abortion. Schultz is also anti-abortion and would favor more legislatively-enacted restrictions, but has consistently said that he would "enforce law, not make law" and defend the laws as enacted regardless of his policy preferences.

Schultz will try to unseat DFL incumbent Attorney General Keith Ellison, who won almost 90 percent of the DFL primary vote on Tuesday.



Lukovsky (left) and Ramsay (right) will face off in the race for St. Louis County Sheriff in November.

The Eighth District congressional contest was no contest at all for incumbent Republican Rep. Pete Stauber and DFL challenger, state Rep. Jen Schultz, each winning with around 90 percent of the vote.

VOICE...Continued from page 4

history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Reliving the painful memories of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy, I remembered how my heart hurt with every new atrocity, despair accumulating into a belief that each of us needs to do whatever we can to keep our democracy alive along with a passion to support good, ethical, smart, progressive men and women who had the guts to run for office. Last week I did some door knocking for Grant Hauschild, who is running for the MN Senate to fill Tom Bakk's seat. He has worked on rural economic development for the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) assisting with administering grants and loans for rural small businesses, energy cooperatives, broadband expansion projects, and rural

housing projects. As a political director in the U.S. Senate, he helped draft U.S. Postal Reform legislation to keep our rural mail service infact. Grant is currently a Hermantown city councilor and the Executive Director of Essentia Foundation, raising money for patients and families who can't afford the costs of their care. Given a list of 10 things to do of an evening, door knocking would not be at the top of my list, and I'm in good company, so it's like pulling hen's teeth to get volunteers willing to go out and talk with people. I will not lie and say I experienced an epiphany, loving the task, but I felt it was important to bite the bullet and do what I could to promote progressive candidates in these very critical midterm elections. As I knocked on doors and offered literature, introducing Grant and his positions to people, it was very clear that most people were very fuzzy about anything political and unaware that there was a primary election this week. No one had heard of Grant yet, although a couple people assured me that they would vote a straight Democratic ticket in November. Several spoke to me through a background of secondhand smoke, alcohol fumes, and television with confusion and disinterest dominant. Ingrained Midwestern politeness kept anyone from telling me to leave but neither did they ask many questions. I asked each person what they were to "appeal to working-class white and black voters and achieve a remarkable political coalition in time of strong political antagonism between the groups. Kehlenberg felt progressives today could learn from his example. Kennedy was a strong civil rights supporter and knew people from all sectors of the country needed to be involved in order to effect change. He was able to show that he sincerely cared about both groups by respecting their interests and legitimate values. Kehlenberg wrote, "Unlike right-wing urban populists, he was inclusive of minority populations, and unlike today's liberalism, Kennedy placed a priority on being inclusive of working-class whites. In short, he was a liberal without the elitism and a populist without the racism." In his abbreviated life, Kennedy showed the power and effectiveness of courage, conviction, authenticity, and persistence. He said, "There are people in every time and every land who want to stop history in its tracks. They fear the future, mistrust the present, and invoke the security of a comfortable past which, in fact, never existed."



most concerned about: several said, "Everything," and one answered, "The Democrats." Asked why the Democrats concerned him, he said, "They've been controlling the country since Lincoln was assassinated, and they were in on that," adding, "And they stole the election!" I did manage to suggest he might seek more reliable news sources and asked if he was aware that the Democrats were responsible for the creation of Medicare and Social Security, quite certain he was probably benefitting from both. He responded, "I don't believe any of that." He was the only one who closed the door in my face, so maybe he was from out East.

That sampling of disinterest in and detachment from the world of democratic activities made it crystal clear why my voice, feet, and vote — and yours — are so critical. Precisely because others are not informed or paying attention, (and the percentages may be identical to those of the 60s and 70s,) the responsibility and impact of those who are is multiplied.

Richard Kehlenberg, a fellow at the The Century Foundation, researched Robert Kennedy's ability





per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Busi-

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

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

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

Publisher General Manager Cook/Orr Editor Ely Editor Office Manager Office Staff Staff Writer Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports Marshall Helmberger Jodi Summit David Colburn Keith Vandervort Michelle Toutloff Sharon Legg Rachel Brophy Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

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

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

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$39 year Elsewhere: \$54 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/ AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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

Week of Aug. 15

Monday

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf-Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Aug. 16.

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

Thursday

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

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

Come help paint the train

TOWER- Volunteers are needed to help with touch-up painting on the Passenger Coach Car 81 at the Tower Train Depot Museum.

Plans are to do the work on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons from 1 - 4 p.m., on Aug.12-14; Aug. 19-21; and if needed on Aug. 26-28. Doug Workman is the project leader and can be contacted at 218-404-3331; or contact Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514 or Linda Folstad at 218-750-0193. Please join us in keeping the train cars looking good.

Coach 81 had a seating capacity of 84 and was in service from 1912 to 1953 hauling mail and people, pets and luggage from Duluth and Two Harbors to Tower and Ely. Coach 81 was donated to the city in 1962. Coach 81 especially needs some sanding, priming, and painting. TSHS is asking community members to volunteer to

LIVE MUSIC **American Motel Tour stops at the MarJo**



Kelly Kidd and Mike Kindel performed a wide selection of both well-known and original country songs during an outdoor concert at the MarJo Motel in Tower on Aug. 4. The two are touring the country as part of Kidd's American Motel Tour. About 50 people attended the concert, and some like Bud and Irene Van Deusen even got in some dancing. The concert was sponsored by Marit and Orlyn Kringstad and the MarJo Motel. photos by J. Summit





LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Filings for four Tower Council positions close on Tuesday, Aug. 16

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 councilor. openings on the council:

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

► Two four-year terms for

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

As of Aug. 2, no one had filed, but no current council member had indicated they were didates need to file for a specific seat (Mayor, four-year, or twoyear opening).

Other area townships who hold their elections in November and have filings closing on Tues

help. TSHS has protective masks, all equipment and paint, but an extra ladder or two are needed.

Tower-Soudan The Historical Society led the restoration of all the train cars between 2009-2015 through the support of local resident donations, grants, and community volunteers. Coach 81, Engine 1218, the Man Car, and Caboose are now all open to the public. Residents and visitors who visit our area love the train cars. Coach 81 is available for rent for parties, reunions, and meetings.

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

One two-year term for councilor.

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

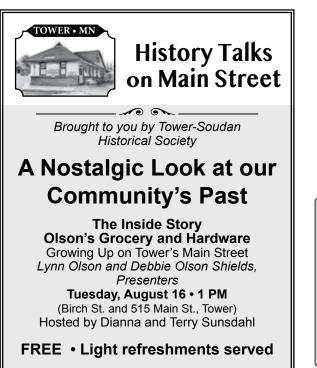
not going to refile for office. For information on how to file day are Embarrass, Eagles Nest, for office, please contact Tower City Hall at 218-753-4070. Can-

and Kugler.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Learn about the **Olson family, and** their impact on **Tower's Main** Street at the **History Talk on** Tuesday

TOWER- The public is invited to the final Main Street History Talk this summer, which features Lynn Olson and Debbie Olson Shields, the



daughters of Bob Olson and granddaughters of Herman T. Olson, legendary Main Street business owners and prominent civic leaders will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 16. The talk will be held at the building that housed the Olson Grocery and Hardware Store at 515 Main St., now Pike River Products. Debbie and Lvnn will highlight the store's history and the

impact its owners had on Tower-Soudan history. There is no cost to

attend but free-will donations are appreciated. Memberships to support the TSHS can be purchased for \$10 for individual or \$20 for family annual membership which help TSHS carry out its mission that is dedicated to community

TOWER Fridays VARIETY 4-6 PM YARKEI at the LOCAL Train Depot in Tower

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.

St Martin's annual rummage sale on Saturday, Aug. 20

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will host a rummage sale on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the church social hall. Due to the great response in the past, we will once again offer "early bird shopping" at 8a.m.; the cost is \$5. In addition to the rummage sale, coffee and caramel rolls will be available for purchase, and a 50/50

cash drawing will be held; tickets for the cash drawing are \$1 and the winner will be announced at 12:45 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Popular music concert at LVCC on Aug. 24

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center will host a free concert on Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. The concert will feature an octet of Range-area singers including Linda and Ryan Bajan. They will be featuring songs from the 50s to the current day.

A free will donation will be taken to help support the renovation project at the cultural center.

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, 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 preserved and maintained in our community. We have a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.

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

BUILDING STRENGTH, HAVING FUN

Mud Monkey course gets children moving



Dozens of Ely area-youth participated in the Mud Monkey obstacle course race Saturday morning at Whiteside Park. Kids young and old ran the course and didn't even realize they were participating in physical activity, getting exercise while having fun at the same time.

Left: Participants get last-minute instruction at the starting line.

Middle left: Clark Lassi emerges from a tunnel and looks for the next obstacle.

Bottom left: Kids navigate the climbing wall.

Below: Ely Washington School K-5 physical education Chelsea Blomberg takes a photo. photos by K. Vandervort





ELY LANDMARK Library to celebrate 100th anniversary

ELY - The Ely Public Library is gearing up for celebrating its 100th anniversary this fall with several big events.

The first event is a parking lot dance on the evening of Friday, Aug. 19 for some outside fun at the library. The Friends of the Ely Public Library are sponsoring this event featuring Christopher David Hanson. Bring dancing shoes (or perhaps a lawn chair if you would just prefer to sit and listen) and come to the library from 6 to 9 p.m. The library will be open later than usual that night, so that everyone can take a minute to check out their favorite materials as well. The dance is free. Participants might want to bring a few dollars to purchase refreshments from the Friends of the Library. On the day of the actual anniversary of the library's founding, Friday, Oct. 7, the library will be having a series of events throughout the day. Some of the activities included will be a special guest story time, book

bingo, library trivia contest, prize drawings, and a premiere showing of a documentary short about the history of the Ely Public Library. Patrons who signed up for the "Reading through the 100s" challenge this year are encouraged to let the library staff know if they have achieved their goal as there will be a special prize drawing just for them on this day.

Local authors and illustrators will be celebrated in November as the Ely Public Library hosts its first "Author's Tea and Signing" just in time for patrons to purchase books by locals for the holiday gift season. Come out on Saturday, Nov. 19 and see just how prolific the local book community is!

the children's stories of E.B. White (Sept. 14), and Shakespeare's works (Sept. 21). Online trivia contests have prizes for the top three finishers and need to be registered in advance with an email address for each participant.

The popular "Hey, It's a Holiday" program series will focus on Roald Dahl Day on Sept. 13. There will be Get Crafty programs on Aug. 23 (Tie Dye socks) and Sept. 22 (Paper Bag books). Pre-registration for these programs is highly encouraged so that the library can have enough supplies on hand for all participants. Also coming in September are authors Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich on Sept. 15. Brandon Weatherz from WDIO will talk about how weather works on Sept. 28.

Dollar General opens in Babbitt

BABBITT - A new Dollar General store opened on Hwy 21 in Babbitt this week. The new Babbitt Dollar General location includes the company's new stylish, on-trend home décor and an expanded party preparation selection.

To commemorate the opening of their new Babbitt location, Dollar General plans to donate 100 new books to a nearby elementary school to benefit students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. In partnership AA - Alcoholics with the Kellogg Company, the donation will be part of a planned donation of more than 60,000 books in fiscal 2022 across the country to celebrate new Dollar General store openings. Dollar General plans to create10 new jobs in the Babbitt community, depending on the individual needs of the store.

Briei

Tuesday Group schedule

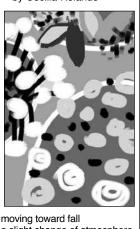
ELY - The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@ gmail.com or call her at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

► Aug.16: Remarkable Moment in Earth's History with Bill McKibben (Bill McKibben will be presenting virtually, but audience members are still invited to the Grand Ely Lodge)

► Aug.23: Canoeing Canada's Arctic Rivers: Albany, Churchill, Winisk, Back, South Nahanni, and Alsek with Bill Rom

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



a slight change of atmosphere gardens flourishing

ibraries

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

Babbitt library

| 10 am-6 pm |
|------------|
| 10 am-6 pm |
| 3345 |
| |

Support groups

Also coming up in the next couple of months are online trivia contests on the "Keeper of the Lost Cities" books (Aug. 15), the "Dragonriders of Pern" books (Aug. 22), the "Alcatraz and the Evil Librarians" series (Sept. 16), the "Magic Treehouse" series (Sept. 23),

Check the library's website www.elylibrary.org - or stop by the library for more information on these programs.

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 pretest 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.

Ely Police Department Activity July 15 –31, 2022

Arrests/Citations

Traffic Stop- Individual issued a citation for Driving after Revocation.

Complaints

Animal Disturbance-Officers were contacted about two dogs in a vehicle. The owner of the vehicle was located and the air conditioner was on.

Loud Music- Officers were contacted about loud music that was playing. Officers were unable to locate the music.

Medical-Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Disturbance- Officers were called about a person walking around talking on the phone yelling. Officers were unable to locate the person.

Loud Music- Officers were contacted about loud music that was playing. Officers were unable to locate the music.

Medical-Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Public Assist-Officers assisted an individual get fingerprints for

employment.

Medical-Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Assault- Officers were contacted about an assault. This case was referred to another agency for investigation.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Security Alarm-Officers were contacted about a security alarm at a local business. Officers were canceled prior to their arrival.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Parking Complaint- Officers were called about a vehicle parked in a no parking zone. Officers towed the vehicle.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Check Welfare-Officers were contacted to check on an individual. Officers located the person and they were fine.

Check Welfare-Officers were contacted to check on a person sitting on the sidewalk. Officers located the person who was just waiting to get a ride.

Missing Person- Officers

were contacted about an intoxicated person that was not at home. Officers located the person in the garage, and they were safe.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Medical-Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Trouble Unknown- Officers were called about a 911 hang up with nobody talking. Officers determined it to be phone issues.

Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about a vehicle parked near the woods. Officers located the vehicle that was parked and determined the driver was fishing nearby.

Assist Other Agency-Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a traffic stop.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Crash- Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash with minor damage and no injuries.

Found Property- Officers were given property that was located outside a business. Officers returned the property to the owner.

Paper Service-Officers served

a person with a trespass notice.

Assist Other Agency-Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a disturbance.

Disturbance- Officers were informed of a verbal argument between two people that happened the day prior.

Child Custody- Officers were called about a child custody disagreement. Officers mediated the situation.

Loud Music- Officers were contacted about loud music that was playing. Officers were unable to locate the music.

Harassment- Officers were contacted on how to obtain an HRO. Officers assisted the individual with the process.

Loud Music- Officers were contacted about loud music that was playing. Officers located the music and determined it to be at a low level.

Crash- Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash with minor damage and no injuries.

BUSINESS MILESTONE

Art Unlimted celebrates anniversary at Discovery Center



What does a family-founded, family-run high-tech marketing company do to celebrate its 40th anniversary? For Art Unlimited, the answer last week was simple. Rent space at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm and treat employees, guests, and their families to a fun selection of events from an escape room and mini-golf to trolley rides and museum tours, then sit down for a buffet dinner and more revelry, including silly awards.

Top left: Art Unlimited founders Tom and Pat Chapman show off their anniversary cakes.

Top middle: CEO Anna Anderson delivers remarks during dinner. Top right: CFO Elizabeth Chapman visits with guests.

Lower right: Ema and Norah Greaver study a ship's manifest for names that match the passports they have while touring the museum.

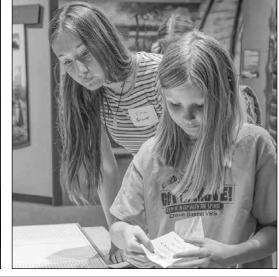
Lower center: A trolley conductor welcomes guests on a tour.

photos by D. Colburn









BUYCK FIRE DEPARTMENT



Above: There were plenty of donations to keep the auction rolling well into the afternoon.

Top right: Randy Daniels, Jason Clemmer, and Dan Hoffman sort through boxes for the next auction item. photos by D. Colburn



Record falls at fundraiser

BUYCK- On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Buyck last weekend, the only thing on fire at the Buyck Fire Department was auctioneer Dan Hoffman. Granted, it was more of a steady smolder than a huge blaze, but Hoffman did his part to make the annual Pork and Corn Feed and Auction fundraiser for the department into a record-breaker.

"We grossed \$13,278, our biggest year in the 42 years we've had it," Fire Chief Kathy Weiand said. "This is really a community event and everyone really loves pitching in and helping (which we desperately need) and they look forward to it every year."

Council says no to lift station bid and will try again

COOK CITY COUNCIL

ORR- The Orr City Council rejected the only bid it received for the King Road Lift Station project at Monday's meeting and will put the project out for

cost would have increased from \$56,375 to \$78,011, a jump of \$21,636.

bid, Mayor Joel Astleford pended for the winter, fillindicated that he'd like to ing the trench with rock

sewer at the project site, and he expressed concern that if the project started After rejecting the in the fall and then susany excavation needing to sit over the winter be insulated and frostproofed.

In other business, the council: ► Approved depos-

► After hearing from multiple meeting attendees, agreed to initiate blight proceedings against the owner of the property at 4720 Pine Dr.

council's regular September meeting.

\$Heard that the new ambulance for Orr Ambulance may be delivered before the end of the month.

re-bid with the hope of attracting more bids at a cost closer to the original estimate.

Utility Systems of America submitted the sole bid of \$242,870, which was roughly \$36,000 more than the original estimated cost of the project. Had councilors accepted the bid, the city's share of the project's see the project put back out for another round as soon as possible, including some modifications for additional work requested by maintenance supervisor Paul Koch. "We'd rather not do it in the wintertime," Astleford said.

Koch noted that the force main is only three feet away from the gravity

would likely shatter the clay pipe gravity sewer.

"Wouldn't we be better off stating in the bid that we want summertime work," council member Lloyd Scott said. "If they plan on doing it in the winter they're going to raise their bids higher.'

Astleford recommended adding a clause to the new bid requiring that iting the first half of the Cook Orr Healthcare District levy in the amount of \$40,469 into the general ambulance checking account. The ambulance will be receiving \$80,938 this year, up from \$76,275 in 2021

► Accepted the low bid of \$1.789/gallon from Rainy Lake Oil for propane for the heating season.

► Approved a building permit for Alex and Serena Anderson to build a shed on their property at 4590 Lake St.

► Deferred action on a building permit requested by Tim Ewing for a garage addition at 4570 Lake St., as a public meeting is necessary before granting a needed variance. The meeting will take place immediately prior to the

► Approved a non-DOT drug and alcohol testing policy to be in compliance with the new Minnesota legal cannabinoid law.

► Approved a 99-year no-cost lease agreement between the city and ISD 2142 for one stall in the former district bus garage that the city recently purchased.

Bear sanctuary has breakfast spaces open for Saturday

ORR- The Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary has space available for this summer's final Breakfast With the Bears (BWB) event on Saturday, Aug. 13 from 7-9 a.m.

This is a special opportunity to enjoy time with the bears in a way that not many people get to experience. BWB provides a chance to enjoy a quiet, peaceful morning, as the sun is shining through the trees and droplets of dew are sparkling off the bears. Enjoy a continental breakfast from the comfort and safety of the viewing deck while seeing bears and bear activity.

Photographers will find the early morning light can create some unique photos.

Special guest for the event is naturalist, writer, and wildlife photographer Stan Tekiela. Stan has authored over 130 state field guides and has been an active professional for more than 25 years.

The \$40 per person fee for BWB includes a free BWB coffee mug for you to remember your experience.

Go to www.americanbear.org/event-calendar/ breakfast-with-the-bears/ for additional details and a link to register.

The No Notes will play in Cook park on Wednesday

COOK- The Cook Music in the Park summer series welcomes back The No Notes to the gazebo on River St. on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 6 p.m.

This local band from Britt, Virginia and Mt. Iron plays music from the 50's, 60's and 70's, and some country music as

well. Ken Voight is lead guitarist and vocalist, John Elofson plays the rhythm guitar and vocals, and Butch Panula plays the bass guitar, electric drums and vocals.

St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church will be serving beverages, burgers, brats and hot dogs. In case of rain the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW near the park.

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

Music institute to perform chamber concert in Cook

COOK- A free evening of beautiful chamber music is in store when the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute (NLCMI) performs in concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook.

Twenty-eight gifted artists of high school and college age will perform a program of quartets, sextets and string orchestra alongside internationally acclaimed faculty. A few composers represented in the program include Brahms, Dvorak, Mozart, Ravel, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Shostakovich.

The students have come not only from this region but also from as far away as Boston and New York to attend the NLCMI annual summer institute, ten days of intense chamber music studies that take place at Camp Vermilion on Lake Vermilion outside of Cook.

The NLCMI faculty are violinists Ariana Kim and Young-Nam Kim, Co-Artistic Directors of the Chamber Music Society, Sally Chisholm, viola professor at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Daniel Kim, violist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Uri Vardi, cello professor at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison.

All participants will play together in a string orchestra at the conclusion of the concert.

The Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute is the premiere educational wing of the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota, Young-Nam Kim and Arian Kim, Co-Artistic Directors.

Subscribe Today Don't Miss a Single Issue

(218) 753-2950 • timberjay.com

Read us online at www.timberjay.com check out our e-edition

CITY OF TOWER

Audit: City making progress but financial woes continue

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER — The city's finances are more transparent, but some financial issues remained in 2021, according to accountant Devin Ceglar, who presented Tower's annual audit at the council's regular monthly meeting on Monday.

Overall, the city's general fund took in \$606,456 in 2021, a total of \$16,629 more than the \$589,827 it spent. The city made several adjustments during the year to address longstanding deficits in several project-related accounts, but Ceglar once again flagged continuing deficits in other accounts. Ceglar's various concerns were raised in his annual management letter, which appeared to show some progress. In recent years, the letter contained as many as 18 separate items of concern. That was down to eight items in the latest letter, including his reference to continuing deficits in four governmental funds. He also cited a longstanding operating shortfall in the sewer fund and a sizable operating deficit by the ambulance service. Ceglar also noted that some payroll expenses and withholdings were miscoded in the city's Banyon accounting program and that transfers of ambulance payments, which are deposited electronically into the general fund before being transferred to the ambulance service's bank account, had not been properly reconciled.Clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz said he and former clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua had asked various payees, such as Medicare and Medical Assistance, to make their electronic payments directly into the ambulance bank account to eliminate the need for the transfer of funds but that they had been

unwilling to do so. Ceglar said airport maintenance and operating grant reimbursement requests were still running behind schedule, which has been a longstanding problem in the city. He said the city was continuing to run a deficit in the TIF district created for the assisted living facility. Schultz said he hoped to have a plan for addressing that shortfall

at an upcoming council meeting.

Ceglar also urged the council to consider a levy increase in the coming year, given that the city is operating with very little margin for error financially. He noted that the League of Minnesota Cities recommends an unreserved fund balance of 35-50 percent of a city's annual general fund budget.

"I would recommend levying for a rainy-day fund," said Ceglar.

Mayor Dave Setterberg said he expected the city's finances will have improved once the 2022 fiscal year is completed, in part because of savings on the police contract.

While Ceglar focused much of his presentation on fine points, Setterberg was more interested in the broader brush evaluation.

"Are we heading in the right direction?" he asked.

"Transparency-wise, there's been a big improvement," responded Ceglar. "I have to give Victoria a lot of credit for that. She started this change and made understanding these statements a lot clearer," Ceglar added.

The audit discussion also touched on the financial woes experienced by the ambulance service last year. Ceglar said the high cost of the city's paid on-call wage structure and a reduction in the number of inter-hospital transfers combined in creating a \$133,058 operating loss in 2021. Schultz noted that depreciation, which was calculated for the ambulance for the first time this year, came to \$68,272, or just over half of that deficit. Council member Joe Morin acknowledged that depreciation is a real expense, but that it doesn't necessarily reflect a cash outlay. The change reflects the fact that the ambulance service is now operated as an enterprise fund, which means business-type expenses such as depreciation are now included in the operating budget, unlike in the past.

In other business, the council:

➤ Approved the new funding agreement for the Gundersen Trust, which will transfer the funds to the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation for ongoing management. Setterberg said the court proceedings needed to facilitate the transfer will take four-to-six weeks.

Approved a trailhead phase two engineering site plan quote of 6,500 from Benchmark Engineering. Schultz said phase one work on the project should begin by later this month.

➤ Briefly discussed, then tabled further consideration of the proposed union contract with the city's ambulance supervisor. It's now been roughly a year since the ambulance supervisor first requested union representation. Despite the continuing lack of council action on the contract, Setterberg said "there's a lot going on behind the scenes."

➤ Briefly discussed, then tabled any decisions on a proposal to hire an assistant ambulance supervisor.

➤ Approved appointing Bob Anderson as a council representative on the Gundersen Trust Board and Morin to the Lake Vermilion Lodging Tax Board. The council also approved advertising for volunteers from the public to serve on the city's planning and zoning commission, airport commission, and the economic development authority.

➤ Approved the hiring of Angela Schultz as an ambulance EMR and Maija Maki as an ambulance EMT. Schultz said the hiring won't increase the service's payroll costs, but will help to spread out the workload.

➤ Authorized the clerk-treasurer to request propane bids for the upcoming winter.

➤ Approved utilizing wood from the current DNR fishing pier for docking at the Hoodoo Point Campground. The DNR is replacing the fishing pier but the old wood is still usable for docking and the campground managers are interested in using it for that purpose. Schultz estimated the campground could generate \$500-\$2,000 a year in additional docking fees as a result.

➤ Authorized Bob Anderson and the clerk-treasurer to work with MnDOT to repaint crosswalks in the city for next year.

DELAY...Continued from page 1 -

Klarich reeled off numerous concerns he had for how students and staff would access the building safely if the asphalt or sidewalks weren't finished, and how alternative parking options are limited.

"We'd have to get that information out over Labor Day weekend which is just not acceptable with the potential for traffic jams, accidents and student injury. That's my biggest concern about the whole thing."

Klarich pointed out that even two rain delay days could throw finishing the exterior off track even if no further complications arise.

Delaying the start of school was also necessary considering timing issues with the school building itself, he said.

"We need time for our people to get in to clean, so we need that extra time to fine tune the cleaning, so that everything is presentable to the public and students on the first day of school," he said. "That is not built into Kraus-Anderson's schedule."

In the end, Klarich noted that the district has room to spare in its schedule. "In Ely we're way past requirements for days and hours," he said. "We have a cushion of four days. I am going to recommend to the board that we push back the opening of school exactly one week and use those four days to get everything caught up."

Monday's meeting also included a project update from Klarich.

"Right now, as you can see going on in the front, they're making great progress. We have to put in storm sewer where the new turnaround is going to be. They've made great progress today. It was noisy around here, but they were getting things done."

Klarich also noted, "The inside of the building is moving along slowly but surely. I think they're on schedule where they're supposed to be. Todd gave us some deadlines where they're supposed to be. The biggest thing that can hurt us now is the weather."

In other business, the board:

➤ Approved an increase in breakfast and lunch prices by 20 cents to be in compliance with Paid Lunch Equity.

► Approved the ice arena contract between ISD 696 and Ely Blue Line, Inc. ► Accepted the resignations of Tracy Anderson, Betty Erickson, and Mary Wognum.

► Approved the following coaches as recommended by Athletic Director Tom Coombe: Sarah Spate, Cross Country assistant; Toni Dauwalter, Nicole Selmer, Megan Devine, Clara Roy and Trish Bulinski, cross country volunteer assistants; Troy Oelke, Eddie Prijatel, Drayke Hanninen, and Cory Musel, volunteer football assistants; Kayci Zorman, junior high volleyball (with stipend paid by Ely Net Club).

Approved sending letters requesting a special session to Gov. Tim Walz as well as both the House and Senate majority leaders.

➤ Adopted policy changes regarding Public and Private Personnel Data, Harassment and Violence, and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety.

Discussed rescheduling Back-to-School night/open house with date TBD.

The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday Aug 22, at 6 p.m.

BROADBAND....Continued from page 1 -

almost four years of fiber optic cable," he said. "We still haven't gotten all of that yet, but we've got a

neighboring Beatrice and Perch Lakes. The other would serve portions of Angora, Pike, Sandy, and Wuori Townships, with a tiny overlap into the extreme southern portion of Vermilion Lake Township. The system there is also an expansion of sorts, Howard said, because it will build off another tract immediately to the west for which the company received Rural Development Opportunity Fund (RDOF) money. With the competition for funding for unserved and underserved areas heating up, there's no guarantee that Bunyan's B2B applications will be funded but getting one or both would fit well with the company's long-term plans.

want to make sure we have complete coverage of the service areas throughout the region," Howard said. That's going to take many years, but we really do not want there to be like a Swiss cheese effect. We want to fill in these holes, so as we get certain projects we will often expand from them to try to fill in the holes to get the whole region covered." Bunyon's RDOF award from the Federal Communications Commission has already been approved and funded, unlike the areas in the North Country that went to successful bidder LTD Communications. LTD's application is still awaiting approval, but the company is currently being investigated by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to determine if they are capable of deploying fiber-based systems and living up to the promises in their proposal. With that process ongoing, Howard said that the Minnesota Border-to-Border program is now accepting applications for RDOF-designated areas. The practice had been that proposed service areas could not receive both federal and state funding, and Paul Bunyan had to modify its original Cook proposal to remove a few locations that were in an RDOF-funded tract. The revised application process could speed up development possibilities for some of the affected areas.

will go ahead and check with the federal government to see if there has been any funding authorized for those areas. If the answer is no, then they will proceed with the award," Howard said. the RDOF bid winner, but Howard said it's possible they might also exclude them because the areas

large percentage of it."

At a speed of one gigabit of data per second, the system will be ten times as fast as the more common 100 megabits per second systems, which are also considered high-speed broadband systems when compared to the federal government's current minimum standard of just 25 megabits per second for high-speed broadband.

Howard said the company has also put in applications for Minnesota Border-to-Border funding for two more projects in the region. One would expand an existing system serving the Side Lake area to include areas around

"Our goal is that we

"What will happen is that when it comes time to make an award (the state) The FCC would still have the option to approve funding for that area to

 DESHEL
 January

 ACCOUNTING
 218-365-2424

 1704 E Camp St. | PO Box 89 | Ely, MN 55731 | askjean.net

 CHECK OUT askjean.net for current TAX TIPS!





The Inside Story Olson's Grocery and Hardware Growing Up on Tower's Main Street Lynn Olson and Debbie Olson Shields, Presenters Tuesday, August 16 • 1 PM (Birch St. and 515 Main St., Tower) Hosted by Dianna and Terry Sunsdahl

FREE • Light refreshments served

The Timberjay / 218-753-2950 / www.timberjay.com

would already be getting broadband service from the successful state applicant.

ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY

opera from a pickup

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- It isn't every day that you can get a glimpse of opera along with purchasing fresh vegetables at your local farmers market, or at the local petting zoo, or at a neighbor's farm. But for members of Mixed Precipitation's Pickup Truck Opera troupe, this is a regular part of their annual summer tour.

Several in the audience for the afternoon show at the Tower Farmers Market had just stopped in to buy some food from the local vendors, and realized there was a performance going on. Others had stopped by to see Tower's train and let their kids play on the playground, and then walked over for the show.

This year the group brought their updated version of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" to area audiences. The opera, written in 1791, was brought into the "modern world of teacher shortages, high burnout, and toxic positivity. The forces of light and dark attempt to control the destiny of future generations, with Mozart's fiery arias mixed with the beats of 90s-era disco," as described in the opera program.

"We love taking our project on tour, meeting new people, and flexing our performance muscles in unique outdoor environments," said Scotty

See...OPERA pg. 12







Local performances include a stop at the Ely Library (above) and the Tower Farmers Market (far left).

The group's eponymous pickup truck, which received a snazzy paint job this year, serves as part of the opera's set.

The performances were high-energy and fun for all ages.

photos by K. Vandervort and J. Summit

COUNTY SCHOOLS

District looks at class configurations for new year

REGIONAL- With the new school year fast approaching, ISD 2142 School Board members reviewed projected class sizes at the district's five schools on Tuesday. They also filled vacant teaching positions, reviewed possible changes to two policies, and considered a number of other items.

Director of Teaching and Learning Kristi Berlin shared two charts with the board related to elementary class configurations for the new school year. As board member Dan Manick pointed out, the district has always taken pride in its commitment to smaller class sizes to facilitate

learning, and the first chart demonstrated that for the upcoming year that will continue to be the case for the most part.

Average K-6 class sizes at all five district schools come in at 19.5 or less, well below the statewide average reported by the National Center for Education Statistics.

However, the district will need to get creative to deal with the sixth-grade class at Cherry, the fifthgrade class at North Woods, and the sixth-grade class at South Ridge, which have class sizes ranging from 27-30. They'll do that through a mix of combining classes and offering

"departmentalized" classes by topic areas that the students will rotate through, thereby effectively reducing the overall group size and teaching load.

What they have at South Ridge is one teacher who will be doing all language arts, one will be doing all the math, and one will do social studies and science. It will be similar at North Woods. They were already departmentalized," Berlin said. "It'll look a bit different."

Berlin's second chart illustrated the impact of hiring three additional teachers to accommodate the larger classes and bring the numbers in line with the other elementary classrooms. That scenario would cost the district an estimated \$270,000, Berlin said.

"The only problem

218-993-2295

is, how do we pay for it? We've been pretty clear that we have to cut costs, particularly when we're talking about teacher negotiations," said district finance director Kim Johnson. "Pretty much the only place you can cut costs is in staff, you can't cut very much anywhere else and make any kind of impact. So, we don't have a lot of options."

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said that she wanted board members to have the numbers for the current year because "people are starting to question," noting that an e-mail had been received earlier in the day about the situation.

"I wanted you to have these numbers so that you can see it's not just at North

See..SCHOOLS pg. 12







vermilionparkinn.com 1 mile from the boat landing on Lake Vermilion! 218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan MN

for RESERVATIONS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 6:30 AM - 9 PM

Serving Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner (Dinner ends at 9 pm)

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

FABULOUS FLATHEADS July 15, 16 & August 19, 20 LIVE PIANO with STEVE JOHNSON other weekends. (Summer music ends after August 20)

7632 Cty Rd 424, Crane Lake, MN 55725 www.nelsonsresort.com

- General Questions
- Wills Trusts
- Power of Attornev
- Health Care Declaration
- Cabin Succession Planning

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation

Certified A Specialist Real Property Law



P.O. Box 240 • Ely, MN 55731 218-365-3221 • 218-365-5866 Fax www.klunlaw.com

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

Tuesday, August 23: **Cohasset Service Center** 26039 Bear Ridge Drive

Wednesday, August 24: **Mountain Iron Service Center** 8535 Park Ridge Drive

Thursday, August 25: **Kettle River Service Center** 4065 Hwy. 73 South





Bucket rides, fishing rod/reel prizes for kids, good food, electric vehicles, and more! This event is for members of Lake Country Power.







The Grounds Are Hopping!

Fairgrounds are located at 4855 Highway 21 in Embarrass!

August 19-21 (Arena)

Team Penning/Ranch Sorting See Page 21 of the Fair Book for entry information and hours. Spectators are welcome and there is no charge!

August 26-28 Embarrass Region Fair Weekend! Gates open at 2 pm Friday • Admission is \$5/day or \$12/weekend wristband

Children 10 and under FREE with paid adult

Full details available at embarrassfair.org

Fair books are available at Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union, Trapline Convenience Store, the Embarrass Town Hall, and several range area businesses. Be sure to support the businesses that support the Embarrass Region Fair Association.

Saturday, August 20 (Timber Hall)

7th Annual Ride, Raffle'n Roll for ALS You don't need a motorcycle to support the event Breakfast served 8 to 10 am; Kickstands up at 10:30 am



QUEENS....Continued from page 1 -

OutFront Minnesota, a statewide organization that seeks to end discrimination against the LGBTO community, allowing them to live without fear of violence or harassment.

The organization helped to pass a statewide nondiscrimination law that included sexual orientation and gender identity- the first law that included protections for trans people in the state.

The group's efforts also helped defeat an anti-same-sex marriage amendment at the ballot box and helped pass marriage equality through the state Legislature in 2013. OutFront also helped ensure that students have protections,

show a development much

closer to the original vision

for the harbor, which was

for mixed residential and

commercial development

near the waterfront. But

the TEDA board, at the

urging of board member

Joe Morin, refused to hear

under public input after his

presentation was dropped

from the TEDA agenda,

provided some insight

into the situation with the

town home project. He said

dramatic cost increases,

fueled by a number of

inflationary factors sparked

by the COVID pandemic,

had pushed the pricing

for the town homes to an

disappointment with the

TEDA board's refusal to

make this project work and not only work but work

better than it would have worked with the 12 town

homes which we were

limited to," he said. "So, I

think it's a great disservice

if you stop the project at

this point, with all of the

investment and the work

that has gone into it devel-

Kringstad. "I don't think

anybody here, includ-

ing myself, has ever said

anything about stopping

development completely

down at the harbor," he

said. Morin said he liked

the concept that Kringstad

was proposing. "This is a

great left turn," he said.

"All I'm saying is let's

get rid of that contract and

Morin responded to

oping this.'

hear his presentation.

Kringstad expressed

'We found a way to

unrealistic figure.

Kringstad, speaking

the presentation.

HARBOR...Continued from page 1 —

passing the Safe and Supportive Schools Act in 2014 and the Trans Toolkit in 2017.

The performers at Saturday's event proved they know how to put on a show. For a grand entrance the queens started across the lake from the Grand Ely Lodge and rode over by boat.

The enthusiastic audiences seemed to enjoy the show, and dollars for tips were literally flying all over the place for each of the dancers. One fan had a money machine that spit out dozens of dollar bills at the push of a button.

Flip Phone Events hosts shows in New York City, Chicago, Boston, and in Minneapolis where the company started 10 years ago. Owner Chad Kampe said, "We will definitely be coming back to do shows because there is definitely a need to bring LGBTQ+experiences and drag experiences to the Iron Range."

For more information on OutFront MN, go to www.outfront. org.

Right: Performer Onya Deek attracts a hefty shower of cash as she makes her way through the room. The event raised thousands of dollars for OutFront Minnesota. photo by K. Vandervort

Left: An architect's

Lower left: A Scandanavian waterfront with a similar design.

submitted images

面日

qualifications from architects and developers who could provide development services, with the harbor committee serving as the lead developer. The committee received four replies, but ultimately selected the proposal assembled by Orlyn Kringstad, who told the council he hoped to reinvest profits from the first project to undertake other

The city and Kringstad's group, initially Tower Vision 2025 but later Tower Harbor

NOW! \$31,515

Shores, signed a development agreement in early 2016. Complex issues surrounding title to the property delayed the necessary platting for the project for almost four years. Meanwhile, the city had transferred oversight of the project to TEDA. Once platting was completed in early 2021, TEDA and Tower Harbor Shores spent several months revising the development agreement for the town home project, an agreement that, among other things, required the start of construction on the town home project by Aug. 1,2022.

With that agreement now headed for likely cancellation, the future of development at the harbor remains an open question.

```
rendering of a revised
harbor concept being
developed by Tower
Harbor Shores.
```

a new contract that we can where you're going with

But Morin said the current contract should be scrapped, rather than handled through an amendment that extends timelines and modifies the scope of the project. He complained that he had been called an "obstructionist," but said he wanted to go by process."I just want to be transparent," he said. "I want to cease doing one thing and start

could be a first step in advancing a transition to "a development that you all say you want."

It's not yet clear how that transition might evolve. In later discussion, Morin said TEDA might opt to issue an "RFQ" to see if other developers might be interested in the site. "We're going to have to decide," he said.

Board member Miranda Kishel suggested that the board begin a new planning effort "from square one," possibly starting with a new request for proposals. Morin agreed and indicated that a new development plan may agree or not, Tower Harbor Shores is not a shoo-in in the harbor, necessarily, today, if that contract goes away."

"If that's the case, we need to honor this contract the way it was written," said board member Victoria Carlson. "We give them their 90-day summons, then we need to issue the RFP, so they can apply and whoever else can, too. Going forward, whoever it is, I think we learned some lessons."

A long road

The apparent demise of the town home proposal was the end of a nearly seven-year saga that began in late 2015, when the city's now defunct harbor committee issued a request for



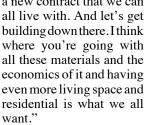


| No. | E. A. | V |
|-----|---------|---|
| 6 | and the | - |
| 1 | 5118 | |
| - | | |

Or Choose 0% APR up to 60 MONTHS O.A.C. Disclosures* 0% APR up to 60 months with GM Financial O.A.C. Not compatible with all rebates and offers. Must take delivery by 8/31/2022. See dealer for details

| PRE-OWNED DEALS! |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2020 Buick Envision AWD |
| 2020 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4Nicely Equipped!\$33,990 |
| 2020 Chev. Silverado 2500HD High CountryOnly 42K Mlles! \$71,990 |
| 2019 Toyota Tacoma TRD Sport 4x445K Miles!\$37,990 |
| 2019 Chev. 1500 Crew Cab RST 4x4Clean Trade-In\$46,990 |
| 2019 Chev. Equinox LT AWDHard To Find 2.0!\$24,990 |
| 2019 Dodge Durango GT 4x4New Arrival!\$35,990 |
| 2018 GMC Canyon All Terrain 4x4Fresh Trade-In!\$34,990 |
| 2016 Chrysler 200 LTD65K Miles!\$18,990 |
| 2015 Chevrolet Impala LSOnly 31K Miles!\$19,990 |
| 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SE55K Miles!\$18,990 |
| 2014 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD57K Miles!\$18,990 |





doing another thing." Kringstad said he had hoped his presentation don'tknowiftherestofyou



then let's work through a proposal, get buy-in from TEDA, and then develop

not include Tower Harbor Shores. "In my mind, and I

WASCHKE FAMILY HRS: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm w CHEVROLET • COOK

126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545





carvings, paintings, pottery, fiber arts/crafts, cards, calendars, small gift items for sale and on display ART CLASSES

210 S River St., Cook MN 55723 Open: Wed-Fri: 10 AM-4 PM, Sat: 9 AM-1 PM nwfamn.org@gmail.com • www.nwfamn.org

Tower-Soudan Agency & Palo Mutual

Your Independent Insurance Agency



We Can Insure: **Residential, Seasonal, Island and Non-Road Access Properties**

218-753-2101 415 Main St. Tower, MN www.towersoudanagency.com

AUGUST • RED HOT BUYS!



DEWALT[®] Saw Blades or Bit Sets, or Irwin® Wood Boring Bit Set 2294932, 2396869, 2468049, 2896645, 2106821 Limit 4 each at this price.









PUBLIC HEALTH Lagging interest in COVID boosters could spark new virus wave this fall

REGIONAL—More than two-thirds of Minnesotans may have completed their initial vaccinations against COVID-19, but the state's residents have lagged considerably when it comes to getting their recommended boosters, and that increases the chances of a coronavirus surge in the weeks ahead.

While 3.7 million Minnesotans, 67.3 percent of the total population, have completed a vaccine series of the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccines, Minnesota Department of Health data indicates that only 31.5 percent are up to date with the recommended booster shots. That's consistent with the situation across the nation, where only 32-percent of residents are up to date with their boosters.

The COVID seven-day-case average in St. Louis County has consistently hovered between 48 and 58 since mid-June, roughly twice as high as in March and well above the summer lows in 2020 and 2021. The highly contagious Omicron B.5 variant, which is currently causing about 90 percent of new infections, is to blame. B.5 has mutations that allow it to evade immunity more easily, whether induced by vaccines or prior COVID infections. Immunized people still have less serious health issues and fewer deaths than those who haven't been immunized, but health officials have expressed concern that hospitalizations and deaths could tick upward again heading into the fall, unless more Americans get their boosters.

The *Timberjay* no longer reports zip code level case data for the North Country because both the state and county health departments have stopped reporting it. That's due to the uncertainty introduced by now-widespread home testing, the results of which are not included in state or county data.

However, the state has started reporting zip code information for vaccination status, and the Timberjay's analysis of that data reveals that some area communities may be at higher levels of risk than others.

Overall, for the zip codes of Cook, Orr, Tower, Soudan, Ely, and Embarrass, 70 percent of the population has had at least one dose of vaccine and 67.4 percent have completed their initial vaccination series, but only 30.5 percent are up to date with the recommended boosters.

Orr, Embarrass and Soudan are the zip codes that could be at higher risk due to both lower vaccination series completion and lower numbers of people who are up to date.

Orr, where only 53.7 percent of people have completed a vaccine series, has the lowest vaccination rate in the area. Only 19.6 percent of the population there is up to date with recommended boosters.

Embarrass comes in only slightly better, with 57.3 percent having completed the initial vaccination series, and 23.2 percent of residents up to date with boosters. Soudan's vaccination completion rate is 60.9 percent, with only 24.9 percent current with their recommended boosters.

Tower is slightly below the regional averages for both, with a 64 percent completion rate and 30.5 percent being up to date. Conversely, Ely is on the high side with a 70.7 percent completion rates and and an up-to-date rate of 35.9 percent.

Curiously, even though Cook has had the highest number of cases per 100,000 people in the region, it also has the highest percentage of completed vaccinations at 80.6 percent. The percentage of those up-to-date mirrors that of the region at 30.7 percent.

Many people have delayed getting booster shots to wait for Omicron-specific boosters that are said to be coming this fall. The Biden administration has delayed expanding second boosters to those under age 50 because it could interfere with giving them a more effective, targeted vaccine booster this fall.

Novavax limited

On July 19, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control approved the new Novavax COVID vaccine for

use. Novavax may have appeal for those who have been resistant to taking vaccines because it's formulated using the same processes as commonly accepted vaccines for hepatitis B, influenza, and whooping cough. Many unvaccinated people have expressed skepticism about how fast the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were developed using newer mRNA technology.

But the Novavax rollout is taking longer than that for prior vaccines due to limited supply and distribution issues. Only about three million doses are being made available by the federal government for states to order, and that's barely enough to cover the estimated number of unvaccinated individuals who have said they would take it.

Not all providers who administered Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will be offering Novavax as an option. The CVS drug store chain has said it has no plans to offer it, for example. And MDH said in a July 28 update that it would only authorize orders of 100 per site due to limited availability.

Those who want to find a clinic that administers Novavax would be advised to work through their primary health care provider for the time being. While MDH said on July 28 that it had added Novavax to its "Find A Vaccine" locator, a check by the Timberjay on Tuesday found that it was not

listed among the 13 vaccination options for children and adults. A generic 100-mile radius search from Tower found no providers listed specifically indicating they are administering Novavax.

Youngest lag

With older siblings soon headed back to school, some parents may finally warm up to the idea of having their children six months to four years old vaccinated, yet a large majority of parents overall continue to wait or have already decided not to vaccinate their youngsters.

Only nine percent of eligible youngsters have received a first dose of vaccine since it was authorized in mid-June, with only one percent having completed the series.

A Kaiser Family Foundation survey published in July indicates that state health officials and providers will find the vaccine a tough sell, as over half of the parents asked were opposed to getting the vaccine for their children. Forty-three percent said they would "definitely not" do so, and another 13 percent said they would only do so if it were required for school. Another 27 percent want to "wait and see" before making a decision.

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 10-

"I wanted you to have these numbers so that you can see it's not just at North Woods, it's at Cherry and South Ridge also," she said. "We've already reached out to those teachers and are trying to make adjustments.

Looking ahead with an eye toward improving the district's financial position for the 2023-24 school year, Engebritson suggested that the board consider changing the deadline for open enrollment in the district as way to possibly increase enrollment.

"You have been using the Jan. 15 deadline for open enrollment, but given that our numbers aren't back up to where they were and we've talked about trying to reduce costs, I'm wondering if the board would be open to extending the deadline to June 1 for next year. Then we can see if we can get some additional students. The principals are OK with that. It still allows us some time for planning before school

starts in September."

Board members reacted favorably to the suggestion, which will be placed on the agenda for action at the next board meeting.

Also on that agenda will be proposed revisions to the district's drug-free workplace/schools policy, which needs to be updated to accommodate the new state law allowing the sale and use of THC-infused edibles and drinks. THC is the main psychoactive

compound in marijuana, and such products are not covered by the current policy. They would be added to list of substances that are banned, unless specifically prescribed by a physician, and additional guidelines for use would be added. Engebritson said that she's asking for an emergency one-year authorization of the policy so that it can be in place when school starts. The normal policy approval process requires readings at

three consecutive meetings before a new policy can be enacted.

Engebritson also briefly reviewed proposed changes to the district's internet/computer use policy, which would go through the normal approval process.

Staff meal prices will be going up this year, with breakfast costing \$2.25 and lunch costing \$4.95. Johnson said that some kind of increase was directed by the state Department of Education to help cover the escalating costs of the food program.

In action taken in a special business meeting. the board hired four special education teachers and a music teacher to be assigned at South Ridge and Cherry. Interviews are upcoming to fill a vacant social studies position at North Woods. The board also renewed a student branch partnership agreement with North Star Credit Union.

great that so many in our which along with a small trailer (also part of the set) which is used to haul props and sets from site to site.

OPERA...Continued from page 10 –

Reynolds, the Producing Artistic Director. "We're attracted audience members glad to be making a tradi-

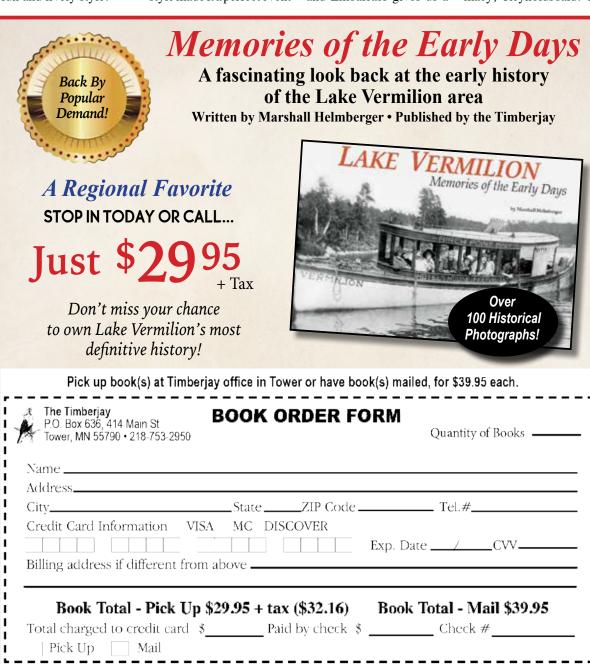
The performance for families. of all ages, and the compa-

"Bringing our pernance to communities

place where we can take risks and connect with small audiences, giving the

tion of presenting opera in a fun and lively style."

ny's unique and comedic like Tower, Cook, Ely, performance a special intistyle made it a perfect event and Embarrass gives us a macy," Reynolds said. "It's



opera for the first time We love meeting so many artists who make their homes up north, and we look forward to making more opportunities for artists and audiences."

audience are experiencing

The group has been touring with their "Picnic Operettas" since 2009, and hopes to return to our area next summer, taking classic operas and updating them for current audiences. In addition to trained opera singers, the performances include live music, puppetry, and a portable set that includes, of course, their signature pickup truck,

Many of the performances were free to the public, and others were by suggested donation. The tour is funded in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Many local performances were also sponsored by area arts groups.

| CALM COMFORTABLE SOLUTIONS | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AndersonFurnitureCompare 214 2nd Ave. S, Virginia, MN • 218-74 | NITEREST FREE FREE FINANCING AND AVAILABLE 41-9356 |
| POWERFUL SAVINGS WIT GENERAC FREE estimates Financing available AFFORDABLE backup power Financing lubiting of Considered | OF T |
| Delivery, Installation and Service Family and locally owned and operated CEECTRECOCK SALES AND "SERVICE" Randy Wetenkamp | GENERAC Automatic Standby Generator |

August 12, 2022 **1B**



Serving northern St. Louis County since 1989

ELY FOLK SCHOOL

Ojibwe birch bark canoe hits the water

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY-The "Burntside," a 20-foot traditional Ojibwe -style canoe, hit the water for the first time off Semer's Park last Sunday, the culmination of three summers of dedicated work for the Ely Folk School's (EFS) birch bark canoe project.

Master birch bark canoe builder Erik Simula, a Finnish-American outdoor educator, has overseen the project the previous three summers. Because of COVID-19 the canoe was

stored in the EFS garage for more than a year.

"We worked hard on this project and this canoe is finally seeing its day to greet the water," he said to a small group of volunteers and onlookers Sunday afternoon before the maiden voyage.

"Our goal this year was to complete and paddle our 20-foot canoe at the conclusion of this fourth year of construction," he said. "It has been a long time coming but this is such an honor to

See CANOE...pg. 2B



Eric Simula, in the stern, and other paddlers hit the water at Semer's Park Sunday afternoon for the maiden voyage of the Burntside, a 20-foot Ojibwe-style birch bark canoe made at the Ely Folk School. photo by K. Vandervort



Longtime park tour guide Pete Pellinen is one of the experienced staffers leading above-ground mining tours this summer in Soudan. These tour guides are drawing on their years of research about how this iron mine operated, and what work life was like for the minere, photos by T Trucono.

THE HIDDEEN ROOM BANKER BANKER DOMERTORIE DOMESTORIE DO

HISTORICAL FICTION

Couple's newest novel set in Ukraine during World War II

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Writer Bill Durbin has become adept at bringing history to life for young adult readers. His earliest books were set in northeastern Minnesota, chronicling the fur trade, iron mining, and timber trade, along with the lives of the many immigrants who settled in our area. But his newest book, co-written with his wife Barbara, is set in Ukraine during World War II, and is based on the true-life stories of Jewish families who lived in an underground cave for almost two years, as Nazi soldiers and Ukrainian sympathizers were systematically killing off the country's Jewish population. Historians estimate that more than a million Jews living in the Soviet Union, mostly in Ukraine, were killed as part of Nazi Germany's "Final Solution," often with the help of local Ukrainian collaborators. The most notorious episode was at Babi Yar, a ravine situated outside of Kyiv, where 33,771 Jews were killed over the course of two days in September of 1941. A retired teacher, Bill taught at the Cook High School for almost 30 years, and then at Mesabi Community College, and he also spends a lot of time doing writer's workshops with schools across the country. Barbara is also a retired teacher, and while she has always been her husband's first reader, she has taken a more active, collaborative role in Bill's writing since her retirement. The couple lives on Lake Vermilion in the summer and in Duluth in the winter where they are closer to their grandchildren who live in Duluth and the Twin Cities. How their newest title ended up to mesh with current events is a story to itself. "The connection to Ukraine is just a coincidence," he said. "Kids were always asking me if I was going to write

operated, and what work me was like for the miners. photos by 1. Trucano

Lots more to explore at the Soudan Mine

While the underground tours are on hold this summer due to shaft repairs, park staff are giving in-depth, above-ground tours that look into the mine's history

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- "When you take the regular underground tour,"saidSoudanUnderground Mine Park Manager Jim Essig, "we have about 25 minutes to talk to you. The rest of the time we are moving you around."

This summer, while the underground mine shaft is undergoing some significant repair work, the park is offering a tour of the surface mine buildings and equipment. The tour is an in-depth look into the mine's history, as well as those who worked there.

"It's a great value," said Essig. "People have been telling us this is the best tour they've done in their life." "These tours are an hour

"These tours are an hour and 15 minutes," Essig said. "It's one-on-one time with an interpreter who is very knowledgeable."

These tours are being offered daily, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., through Labor Day. Tours are limited to ten people at a time, and cost \$5 per person for ages five and up.

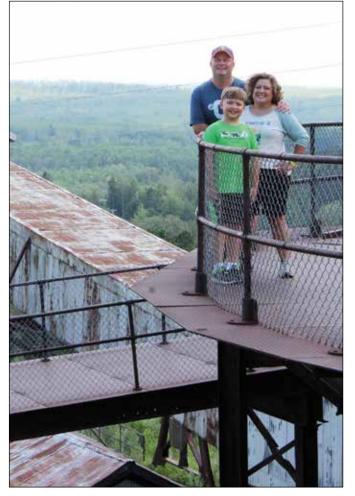
Turnout has been good, said Essig, but nowhere near what they see for the underground mine tours. The underground tours will return next year, hopefully by Memorial Day, but that will depend on when the repairs to the elevator shaft are completed. The repairs are to the lining of the shaft itself, along with reinstalling the steel that the elevator rails are attached to. That work was done between 70 and 80 years ago. But over the years, Essig said, debris has accumulated between the rock walls and the shaft lining (called the lagging).

"They are removing the lagging, bolting rock to the wall, and then reinstalling the steel that supports the rails," Essig said. "We are doing this the right way, and it should last another 70 or 80 years."

The park first offered this above-ground tour as part of a geology program sponsored by University of Minnesota-Duluth and their Precambian geology field camp. That event has disbanded, but recently the Natural Resources Research Institute and the University of Minnesota have restarted a geology field camp at the park.

Essig said he is not sure if the above-ground tours will continue next year when it is

See TOUR...pg. 2B



Park visitors Darren, Miranda, and Riley Schwartz, from Le Seuer, took advantage of the above ground tour, which also has many great opportunities for memorable vacation photos.

See DURBINS...pg. 2B

CANOE...Continued from page 1B -

see this through."

The first class of 2022 was held in early June and work began in earnest to finish the project, offering participants handcrafting skills and more as they learned, in traditional detail, the many aspects of creating a remarkable watercraft. The canoe project classes met outside on the lawn by the Folk School, at 209 E Sheridan St., each Sunday, weather permitting. Community members and visitors were encouraged to stop by and watch and ask questions while the class was working on the canoe.

Simula noted that a good portion of the canoe was completed back in 2019 before the project was halted in 2020 and resumed last year.

"We had some lashing to do on the ends and we needed to add a few more ribs and some other work on the gunwales," he said. "Learning the process of building a birch bark canoe gives people today an understanding of the history, culture, art and craft that is embedded in the canoe."

Simula said the new watercraft was given the name "Burntside" after the popular Ely-area lake and because of the ancient paddling tradition connected with the body of water.

The watercraft is on display in the EFS building. Nearly a dozen volunteers gathered Sunday to carefully transport the canoe to Semer's Park. Simula instructed them on how to lift and carry the canoe so as not to damage it. They lifted it onto Simula's mini-van for the trip to the water. EFS board member Paul Schurke wondered if a 20-foot birch bark canoe was ever transported on the top of a "soccer mom van" before.

The watercraft was transported safely to the shore of Shagawa



Above: Volunteers wet down the inside of the Ely Folk School's 20-foot birch bark canoe as they prepared for the watercraft's maiden voyage. Below: Eric Simula did some last-minute touch ups with heated pine pitch to help waterproof the bottom of the birch bark canoe. photo by K. Vandervort

Lake. Before hitting the water, Simula fired up his camping stove and heated a can of pine pitch while crew members carefully inspected the hull for any cracks or holes that may have developed in transport.

"There is a tremendous amount of flex in the hull, and we want to make sure the canoe is as water tight as possible," Simula said. "There will always be a small amount of water that will seep in through these natural materials."

The crew walked the canoe into the water and worked on partially submerging it to wet down all of the components, inside and out.

The first crew of seven donned life jackets and grabbed hand-crafted traditional paddles, launched from the shore and embarked on a short excursion to the sound of applause and cheering as a light sprinkle of rain fell from the sky.

Perhaps another birch bark

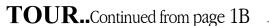
canoe project will be in the works. Students completed a smaller 13-foot Ojibwe-style canoe under Simula's guidance during his first summer at the EFS in 2017.

Simula is also the executive director of the Minnesota Canoe Museum here in Ely, and continues to promote its growth and exposure. With extensive teaching experience at Voyageur Outward Bound School, Minnesota North College- Vermilion Campus, and the North House Folk School, Simula said he enjoys giving back to the community.

He lives in Finland, Minn., and spent most of his 50-something years in the northeast part of the state. "Canoeing has always been a big part of my life," he said. "This community has great people and I'm glad to be a part of it. Ely has always been a special place for me."

For more information, go to www.elyfolkschool.org.







The park's gift shop is a great place for budding geologists.



ground tours, so anyone interested should make sure to take advantage of the tours between now and Labor Day. The park offers a self-guided audio tour of a PDF tour map and audio that is downloaded from the web at https://files.dnr. state.mn.us/destinations/ state_parks/audio_tours/ soudan.xml.

Ever wonder about all the buildings on the mine's grounds. This tour is a great opportunity to learn how the mine worked, and what was involved in getting the ore out of the ground and ready to get on the train to Lake Superior.

DURBINS..Continued from page 1B-

a book about World War II."

The idea was just in the back of his mind when he found an article in an old National Geographic magazine written by a cave explorer, Christos Nicola, who was living in New York.

"He had traveled to Ukraine to research his genealogy," said Bill, "and he went to explore some caves outside of the village he was visiting."

In 1993, Nicola went exploring in the gypsum caverns and found evidence that people had been living deep underground.

"He found all kinds of artifacts and some writing," Bill said.

But Nicola couldn't get any people he talked to in the nearby village to speak to him about what might have happened.

"Many had turned in Jewish families and were ashamed," Bill said.

When Nicola got back to New York, he put out some queries online, and within a couple of days had been contacted by someone who had lived in the cave. The man, then in his 80s, put Nicola in touch with others in his extended family, mostly living in the United States and Canada.

The true-life story is more harrowing than the one the Durbin's eventually published. They simplified some details, focused on one smaller family unit instead of the extended family of 38, shortened the time underground, and kept the family in one cave. In real life, the Nazis discovered the cave, murdering two family members, while the remaining members fled to a different cave. In total, they survived over 500 days underground, the longest time ever recorded for underground survival.

The two decided the tell the essence of the story with a single family with three children, who are helped in their efforts by their Ukrainian neighbors, risking their own lives to help this Jewish family. The story also includes an orphaned Ukrainian girl, whose entire family was murdered by the Nazis because they were suspected of helping to hide Jews during the war. She is buried alive underneath her dead family members, but escapes with the help of the Jewish family's teenage son and his Ukrainian neighbor, who find the scene of a mass murder while out at night foraging for potatoes in an abandoned field.

The novel is action-packed, and the history it covers will raise a lot of questions for younger readers. Barbara made sure this book, while on a topic that is difficult to understand, had a positive outcome. "I was bound and determined it was going to be positive," she said. "I think we did that."

Barbara said while Bill is more knowledgeable on the historical facts that ground the novels, she is a bit more knowledgeable about the emotional lives of the characters.

"We are a good team," she said. "I wanted a book full of hope and full of love, and I think we did that."

The book is also another first for Bill. While his previous books were published by Scholastic, Random House, and University of Minnesota Press, this time he decided to publish the book himself. His literary agent had retired, and "at my age I didn't feel like securing another agent," he said.

"Self-publishing is now a viable option," he said, "and it seems to be working very well."

The book is available at area bookstores, including Piragis in Ely, as well as online (check out onlinebookshop.org to support locally-owned bookstores). Fiftypercent of the royalties from the book are being donated to the United Nations Food Program in Ukraine.

The couple is already researching their next book, which will focus on the differenc-



Barbara and Bill Durbin.

es for young people who grow up in rural areas versus larger cities.

Learn more

"No Place on Earth," a film about the Stermers, the Ukrainian family who fled from the Nazis and found refuge in a cave. http://www.noplaceonearthfilm. com. The film is available to rent online. Artifacts from cave: (including millstone they carried to the site) http://www.noplaceonearthfilm.com/dig-deeper/the-objects/

"The Secret of Priest's Grotto: A Holocaust Survival Story" by Peter Lane Taylor and Christos Nicola.

And learn more about all of the Durbin's books at Williamdurbin.com

Obituaries and Death Notices



Phyllis C. Nevala

Phyllis Cresten Nevala. 84, formerly of Embarrass, died peacefully on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. Thanks go out to Essentia Hospital in Virginia, Vermilion Senior Living in Tower, St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, and Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia. The family wishes to honor Phyllis's request that there be no formal funeral service. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Phyllis was born on March 24, 1938, in Burns, Ore., to John and Inez (Dahl) Tregear. She was an avid reader. She enjoyed watching sports on television and she loved Jeopardy. Phyllis was very active in community events, both in Embarrass and at Alice Nettle Towers in Virginia, where she had resided for the past 16 years.

Phyllis is survived by her daughters, Dawn Allen, Gwen (John) Kuznak, Jill (Curt) Waisanen and Beth Rolfson; son, Kenneth (LeeAnne) Erickson; sister, Janice (Joseph) Mesojedec; 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Inez Tregear; husband, William Clifford Nevala; son, Mitchell Erickson; and granddaughter, Meaghan Allen.



Eric L. Koski

Eric Leslie Koski, 70, died on Aug. 1, 2022. Services will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Ely, with Paul Desilets officiating.

Eric was born on Sept. 11, 1951, to Edward and Eleanore Koski, the fifth of six children. Eric grew up near Tower on the family homestead. He attended school for a time in a one-room schoolhouse and later graduated from Tower High School. One of his first jobs was working at the nearby Y-Store. He also worked for the Forest Service, clearing and fixing campsites in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. After attending college in Ely to pursue an interest in art, he began working for US Steel Minntac as a mobile equipment operator. On March 30, 1972, Eric married Diana Kortkamp. Both had an interest in spiritual matters and a love of nature and a desire to live in harmony with the earth. These common interests led them on a lifelong study of the Bible. On Dec. 2, 1973, they were baptized as Jehovah's Witnesses and enjoyed sharing Bible truths with others. Together they raised four children, built a home, raised various animals, and always made time to take in the beauty Eric loved the outdoors and his family. He especially loved hikes with his family any time of year, kayaking on the river near his home, feeding the various wildlife and capturing pictures of nature, the people he loved, and of old things that were disappearing, with plans to paint these later.

Eric is survived by his devoted wife of 50 years, Diana Koski; son, Cameron (Heather) Koski of Embarrass; daughter, Melody Koski of Virginia; son, Aaron (April) Koski of Fargo, N.D., daughter, Laura (Aaron) Burchfield of Kingman, Ariz.; five grandchildren, Mariah, Jonas, Ethan, Rafe and Quinn Koski; brothers, Kenneth (JoAnn) Koski and Dennely (Sandra) Koski, both of Tower; sister, Sally (Mike) Leoni of Embarrass; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Eleanor Koski; sister, Susan; and brother, Gary Koski.

Paul F. Ivancich

Paul Frank "Paulie" Ivancich, 59, of Burntside Lake, passed away at home on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022, after a courageous, hard-fought, two-year battle with cancer. A Funeral Mass was held on Monday, Aug. 8 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Memorials are preferred to St. Anthony's Catholic Church, the Ely Baseball Association or Incredible Ely. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife, Kelly Klun; moth-Virginia Ivancich; er, brother, Frank Ivancich; mother-in-law, Judy Klun; nephews, Mychal (Kate), Steven, Aiden and Easton (Brad) Wilkins and Lauren Klun; brother-in-law, Tom Klun; and numerous other relatives, friends and Dairy Queen workers.



Thomas P. Stillman

Thomas P. Stillman, 70, of Port Saint Lucie, Fla., passed away on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, with his wife, sister and brother-in-law at his side. His death was due to complications of a rare, fast-moving autoimmune disorder. During his short hospitalization, he was able to reminisce with family and friends, which brought him comfort and joy. At Tom's request, a service will not be held. It was his wish that his memory be honored with donations to Save the Boundary Waters, www. savetheboundarywaters. org.

Tom was born on March 12, 1952, in Duluth. He spent his weekends and summers fishing, hunting and waterskiing at the family cabin in Ely. He graduated from Duluth East High School in 1970. Before starting college, he toured Europe, on his own, with a Duluth pack on his back.

In 1975, he married his soulmate, JoAnn Wormley, whom he had first met as a seven-yearold. That relationship continued to blossom over the years, as summer romances do. In May of this year, they celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary.

Tom graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 1976 with a BA in Geography and a Geology minor. American History was a lifelong passion of his. Three mottos he strongly believed in were, "It is the responsibility of every American to protect democracy," Compromise is not a dirty word; it is the foundation of democracy," and "Majority rules."

Early in his career, Tom was a wilderness fishing guide for Deer Trail Lodge out of Ely. In 1976 he began working at Diamond Tool and Horseshoe Company as a production worker. He became involved in the local union, serving as treasurer and later president. The plant was later purchased by Triangle Corp and when it became apparent that Triangle intended to close the plant, Tom, in an effort to save jobs, along with other union leaders, convinced the city of Duluth to join in a lawsuit against Triangle for abuse of industrial revenue bonds. The case was successful and was upheld by the Minnesota Court of Appeals and the Minnesota Supreme Court, buying the workers a few more years of employment. About the time the plant did close, Tom wrote and received a grant through the Jobs Training Partnership Act to help dislocated Diamond Tool workers find training and employment opportunities. Eventually Tom found himself drawn once again to his love of fishing through working at Gander Mountain where he managed the Fishing De-

partment for many years. After 19 years at Gander, Tom retired in 2012 as the Soft-Lines Manager responsible for overseeing multiple departments.

In 2014, he and JoAnn traded blizzards for hurricanes and moved to sunny Florida, where they enjoyed bass fishing among alligators, bird-watching and photography.

Tom is survived by his wife, JoAnn; sister, Aliceon (David Williams); brothers, John (Joanne) and Jim (Wanda); nephews, nieces and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, David; and parents, Newland and Florence Stillman.

William N. Davidson

William N. "Bill" Davidson, 82, of Babbitt. passed away on Satur-day, Aug. 6, 2022, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 12 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt with Rev. Fr. Charlie Friebohle as celebrant. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia "Ginny" of Babbitt; seven children, Karen, Andrew (Jeni), Paul, Christopher, Beth Ann (Jim) McCain, Jeannette (Lee) Newton and Nancy (Pat) Orcutt; 22 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; adopted grandchildren, Chloe and Kenny; sister, Carol McCloud; and brother, Donald Davidson.

provided by **Ely Community Health Center**

111 S 4th Ave E, Ely







WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

Outlook for fall grouse harvest appears promising

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Theregion's ruffed grouse population is in the declining phase of its roughly ten-year cycle. But someone forgot to tell the grouse.

For over 70 years, the cyclical ups and downs of the ruffed grouse population have been nearly as reliable as clockwork, yet that reliability has waned a bit in recent years, no more so than this year. It may be perplexing to biologists, but it's good news for hunters who can anticipate better-than-expected opportunity when the grouse season gets underway on Sept. 17.

The hopeful news is based on spring drumming counts, which averaged 2.0 drums per stop in the northeast this year. That's encouraging, but not definitive, notes Charlotte Roy, the Department of Natural Resources' grouse project leader. "While ruffed grouse drumming counts are up, they are not a reliable way to predict the fall hunting season," she notes. Historically, spring drumming counts have been a good indicator of fall grouse populations, however that correlation has been less reliable in recent years. In the past, a spring drumming count of 2.0 would have indicated good prospects for the fall hunt.

The DNR and its partners use spring drumming counts to help monitor the ruffed grouse breeding population through time. Drumming is a low sound produced by males as they beat their wings rapidly and in Ruffed grouse numbers may be up this fall, even though the population is supposed to be in the declining phase of its ten-year cycle.

photo by M. Helmberger

increasing frequency to signal the location of their territory. Drumming displays also attract females that are ready to begin nesting. Ruffed grouse populations are surveyed by counting the number of male ruffed grouse heard drumming on estab-

See GROUSE...pg. 5B



Different perspectives on



This week's featured flower LARGE-LEAVED ASTER



You know the end of summer isn't far behind when the asters come into bloom. And it seems an exceptionally prolific year for our most common aster, the **Large-Leaved Aster**, *Eurybia macrophyllus*.

This wildflower is nearly ubiquitous across the North Country, providing our most common ground cover in open to semi-open forests.

The large, bristled, heartshaped leaves grow with little fanfare through most of the summer. It's only in late summer that their flower stalks pop up, to reveal their faintly purplish, somewhat disheveled looking blooms.

Vermilion's musky outlook Heavy fishing pressure, new technology, may be changing musky behavior

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

AKE VERMILION— It's been good times for musky anglers here this summer, but could trouble be on the horizon? Matt Snyder, a longtime fishing guide who specializes in Lake Vermilion muskies, acknowledges that he's had a successful summer, but says that's thanks, in part, to new technology that has given the serious musky angler the kind of advantage they've never had before.

He says he's seeing fewer younger fish, which usually show up as "follows" of the lures he and his clients are casting as they work the lake's musky haunts. "The fishery as a whole is down," he said. Snyder fears the current musky population is top-heavy with big, old fish, and that there aren't enough younger fish coming in to replace those fish that inevitably die every year, whether the result of hooking mortality or simply old age. If so, he fears, musky anglers might not see the impact of that imbalance until it's too late and he says more musky stocking could help recruitment of younger fish.

It's an argument that Matt

Above: Fishing guide Matt Snyder with a 54-inch musky he caught on Vermilion nearly ten years ago. He's concerned about changes he's seen in the number and behavior of muskies on the lake.

submitted photo

Right: Young muskies raised by the DNR and ready for stocking.

photo courtesy MNDNR

Hennen has heard before. Hennen is the DNR's large lake specialist for Lake Vermilion and he agrees that the lake's musky population may be skewed to big fish, but he's not convinced that's necessarily a problem for a catch-and-release fishery where anglers focus their efforts on trophies.

Hennen notes that the DNR began stocking Leech Lake strain muskies in 1987 with the goal of creating a low-density, high-quality opportunity for anglers who liked the thrill of latching onto a big musky. "If Vermilion does not meet that definition, I don't know what would," said Hennen. "If you can reasonably go out there and have the chance to catch the state record, that's certainly meeting the goal."

Hennen doesn't disagree on



the need for continued stocking, and the DNR has taken steps to maintain stocking levels even as the challenge of meeting an annual quota has increased. The DNR initially stocked 5,000 fingerlings from 1987-1994 in order to establish the population, with the expectation that natural reproduction would eventually reduce the need for stocking. Beginning in 1996, the DNR's stocking plan called for the introduction of 5,000 fingerlings every other year, a pattern that continued through 2007, when the DNR dropped the biennial quota to 4,000.

Since 2017, the DNR has been trying to stock 3,000 fingerlings a year, plus up to 2,000 additional if surplus fingerlings are available. Most of those fingerlings on Lake Vermilion come from two rearing ponds adjacent to Wolf Lake, near Ely, and Hennen said, like most musky rearing ponds, the production can vary considerably. Young muskies, it turns out are happy to eat other young muskies and that can significantly reduce the number available at the end of the summer, when the rearing ponds are drained to remove the young fish for stocking. The DNR helps reduce that loss by providing sufficient forage, mostly minnows, for the

See MUSKIES...pg. 5B

Fishing reports

Ely area

The trolling bite has been very consistent for walleye anglers, with most working in 15-18 feet of water with shad raps. During evening hours, on lakes with ciscos, walleye suspend to chase ciscos. Here, anglers are fishing with tail dancers at 20-30 feet over 30-60 feet of water. For anglers who don't like trolling there have been reports of spinner rigs working. Best reports have been when anglers are tipping it with leeches. These anglers are finding walleyes in 15-25 feet of water, around sunken islands, mouths of bays and main lake points. Hammered gold, silver, pink and blue have been top colors.

Smallmouth bass fishing remains very consistent everywhere in the Ely area. Whopper ploppers continue to be hot, hot, hot. Anglers are working shorelines, shallow flats and around downed trees. Soft plastics, spinnerbaits and in-line spinners have also been very effective in the same areas.

Rainbow trout continue to be active on many area lakes. Anglers have been trolling cowbells with a small crankbait trailing behind, about 20 feet down. Shoreline anglers have been having good luck fishing a night crawler 10-15 feet under a bobber, during the evening hours.

Panfish anglers continue to find active sunnies and crappies working weedlines. Small beetle spins have been very popular.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors in Ely.

Outdoors briefly

Zebra mussels confirmed in the Embarrass Mine Pit

REGIONAL — The presence of zebra mussels has been confirmed in the Embarrass Mine Pit, near Aurora, by the Department of Natural Resources.

A U.S. Forest Service employee contacted the DNR after finding several zebra mussels while swimming in a public area at the north end of the pit. A DNR invasive species specialist subsequently found adult zebra mussels in several locations in the 155-acre pit, also known as the Sabin Mine Pit. Mining operations in the pit, which has a maximum depth of 465 feet, ended in 1977. Since then, the pit has been stocked with trout, and has been a popular destination for anglers.

Zebra mussels were confirmed in the nearby St. James Mine Pit in Aurora in July 2021, after an initial report from the same individual to the DNR. The DNR is working with the city of Biwabik, which draws water from the Embarrass Mine Pit for municipal and domestic use.

Zebra mussels can cause expensive damage to water intake pipes and can reduce or block water flow into intake pipes. Water containing zebra mussel larvae, called veligers, must be filtered and/or treated to eliminate veligers before it can be used for drinking water or discharged to prevent the spread of invasive species in downstream receiving waters.

In addition to damaging water intake pipes, zebra mussels can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, and impact boat motor performance.

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

Clean watercraft, trailers and equipment to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.

► Drain all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

► Never release bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.

► Dry docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days before moving them from one water body to another.

People should contact a Minnesota DNR aquatic invasive species specialist(mndnr.gov/Invasives/ AIS/Contacts.html) if they think they have found zebra mussels or any other invasive species.

GROUSE...Continued from page 4B —

lished routes throughout the state's forested regions.

According to the DNR, unexpectedly high ruffed grouse counts this year may have resulted from the warm temperatures and dry conditions last year during May and June, which favors high nest success and chick survival. Snow conditions also were favorable during winter for roosting throughout much of the core of grouse range.

The number of birds present during the fall hunting season also depends upon nesting success and chick survival during the spring and summer. Nesting success and chick survival are influenced by many factors, been more extreme in recent years, and other factors, including disease and predators. In May this year, heavy rainfall and flooding affected much of the core of ruffed grouse range.

In northern St. Louis County, however, the first three weeks of June, which is often a critical time for grouse nestling success, was warmer and much drier than average. Anecdotal reports from the area suggest that nesting success was reasonably good, with numerous reports of sizable coveys of young grouse.

| LA | LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | from NOAA weather | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|----|-----------|--------------|----|--------|-----------|-----------------|----|----------|-------|--------|-------|----|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|----|----|-------|-----|--|
| Friday | | | : | Sat | ay | Sunday | | | | : Monday | | | | | Tuesday | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | k | | | | | |
| | 7 | 6 | 57 | 79 57 | | | | 77 55 | | | | 75 53 | | | | 73 51 | | | | | | | |
| 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. | |
| 08/01 | 76 | 58 | 0.87 | 08/01 | 78 | 58 | 0.79 | 08/01 | 74 | 57 | 0.04 | | 08/01 | 73 | 55 | 0.22 | | 08/01 | 76 | 57 | 1.15 | | |
| 08/02 | 73 | 51 | 0.00 | 08/02 | 72 | 51 | 0.00 | 08/02 | 71 | 56 | 0.00 | | 08/02 | 77 | 57 | 0.00 | | 08/02 | 72 | 52 | 0.00 | | |
| 08/03 | 78 | 53 | 1.57 | 08/03 | 78 | 52 | 1.15 | 08/03 | 78 | 56 | 0.88 | | 08/03 | 70 | 57 | 0.11 | | 08/03 | 77 | 63 | 1.44 | | |
| 08/04 | 72 | 46 | 0.03 | 08/04 | 71 | 44 | 0.05 | 08/04 | 70 | 50 | 0.01 | | 08/04 | 77 | 46 | 0.03 | | 08/04 | 70 | 44 | 0.05 | | |
| 08/05 | 77 | 48 | 0.00 | 08/05 | 78 | 44 | 0.00 | 08/05 | 75 | 50 | 0.00 | | 08/05 | 79 | 61 | 0.00 | | 08/05 | 77 | 45 | 0.00 | | |
| 08/06 | 83 | 64 | 0.51 | 08/06 | 84 | 59 | 0.50 | 08/06 | 82 | 64 | 0.34 | | 08/06 | 72 | 61 | 0.00 | | 08/06 | 83 | 66 | 0.45 | | |
| 08/07 | 75 | 57 | 0.01 | 08/07 | 74 | 50 | 0.00 | 08/07 | 72 | 54 | 0.00 | | 08/07 | 66 | 54 | 0.47 | | 08/07 | 74 | 55 | 0.00 | | |
| YTD To | YTD Total 16.37 | | YTD To | otal | | 18.54 | YTD To | YTD Total 18.88 | | | | YTD To | otal | | NA | NA | YTD Total 23.62 | | | | | | |

MUSKIES...Continued from page 4B-

young muskies, but the price of those minnows has gone up dramatically and availability has been a growing challenge as well. Hennen said the Tower DNR fisheries staff have started trapping some minnows themselves to keep the voracious muskies fed.

But the young muskies aren't the only potential predators. Other, larger fish sometimes find their way into the rearing ponds, and they can devour a significant amount of the year's production.

In most years, musky stocking efforts in any particular lake are limited to what's remaining in their local rearing pond at the end of the season. But a select few lakes. known as "premier lakes" are guaranteed a quota, which gives them first rights to muskie fingerlings wherever they're grown in the state. Under the management plan adopted by the DNR in 2018, Lake Vermilion is now one of those premier lakes, with a minimum quota of 3,000 fingerlings and up to 2,000 more over two years when surpluses are available. Since 2017, the DNR has stocked just over 15,000 musky fingerlings in Vermilion. The DNR stocked no musky in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown during the egg-taking period.

At the same time, the DNR is now implanting what are known as "passive integrated transponder tags" in all of the musky fingerlings in an effort to better understand how the stocking effort contributes to the lake's musky population. That should give the DNR useful information several years down the road, but until that data is available, the impact of the stocking is uncertain. "I wouldn't expect we'll start seeing those fish until 2027 or 2028," said Hennen.

One of the open questions about the stocking effort is whether there is room in the population to allow for new recruits. In the early days of the musky stocking, there were no 50-inch-plus muskies roaming Lake Vermilion, eager to prey on just about anything that swims, including younger muskies.

"There's only so much biomass that can be sustained," notes Hennen. "The lake could be at some kind of carrying capacity for musky." If so, it's the big, older muskies themselves that are preventing the next generation from replacing them.

Changing behavior

There are other factors that may be playing a role as well. According to Snyder, the musky he's seeing appear to be avoiding reefs, which have been the go-to spots for muskies for years. He said they've moved into deeper water and appear to be ranging much more widely than in the past. That could pose a huge challenge for a musky guide who is expected to be able to reliably put his clients on fish. That's where the latest technology is making the difference. It's called forward-facing sonar and it provides anglers with the ability to see fish live up to 100 feet away and even watch as they respond, or not, to the lures they cast in their direction.

The sonar is so effective it's created a controversy among anglers who say it's not fair to the fish. The Professional Musky Tournament Trail Tournament banned the use of the devices just last month after an uproar from participants in the tour.

Snyder said it's changed his sport dramatically. "It's not even fishing anymore. It's road hunting," he said. Using the sonar, he can systematically cover huge amounts of territory without ever having to wet a line. "I can just drive around and spot a musky, no problem."

The experience of one of his clients shows just how things have changed. The guy had been all over the world catching every kind of fish imaginable, yet he had never caught a musky until he came to Lake Vermilion. Using his sonar, Snyder and his client cruised the lake until they spotted a lunker suspended in deeper water. His client hit the spot on the first cast and they both watched on the screen as the fish responded and struck. After a lengthy fight, they boated the big fish for the requisite photo before placing it back in the water.

"It used to be called the fish of 10,000 casts," said Snyder. "Now, it's the fish of one cast."

At least for now. But as the recent behavioral changes suggest, musky are adaptable and there's evidence they learn from their experiences. Snyder hypothesizes that the intense fishing pressure on Vermilion during the past two COVID-affected seasons may have helped push musky off the reefs, where they were hit hard.

While Hennen said he'd like to see more data, he agrees that avoidance behavior is certainly not unknown in fish. "They do learn and imagine how many times some of those big, old muskies have been hooked over the years on some of those reefs. "They're naturally going to avoid them."

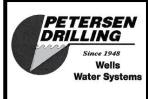
The same thing may already be happening with the some of the latest technology. Snyder said he's seen musky react aggressively to the "ping" they experience when they're hit with sonar. He's seen them jump from the water then dive down deep in an apparent effort to escape.

Such behavior wouldn't surprise Hennen. "As a scientist, it's tough to say for sure without data in hand, and behavior is tough to quantify. But at some point that fish has probably felt that ping and then been hooked," he said. Which means the latest and greatest technology may prove effective only so long.

While technology has put some fish populations at risk from overharvest, that's not going to be the case for musky, which are almost universally a catch-and-release fish. But unlike fish that are harvested, musky have the chance to learn from their mistakes and as the fish in a lake get older and wiser, the hunt for the lunker of a lifetime just may get more challenging.

May and June, which has





• PUMPS • WELLS • HYDRO-FRACKING

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



CLEAN

Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear

Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving

DRAIN

 Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders.
 PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

🕑 Trash unused bait

DRT

Everything at least five days before going to other waters

(Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!









MAIL CARRIER

Hiring for full time and possible part time position for contract mail route in Babbitt.

> Starting pay is \$20/hour plus gas mileage with an annual raise.

Must be reliable and have a dependable vehicle. Mandatory background check, drug test and clean driving record required.

Send resume to ross.routes790@gmail.com

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 12 & 19, 2022

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.

Employment Opportunity Employer. 6/17 tfn

Utility Billing/Administrative Clerk Opening

The City of Cook, located in St. Louis County, is seeking a qualified individual to fill a key position on the City's administrative team.

Areas of Responsibility include: Core Utility Billing, Front Counter (Reception) Duties, Other Administrative/Clerical Support, Records & Information Management, Social Media/Webpage Management, and Backup Duties for Payroll & Other Functions.

Minimum Qualifications include: 1) High school degree or equivalent; 2) At least two years of experience in one or more of the position's core functional areas; and 3) Demonstrable competency (via skills testing) in relevant software programs such as WORD, Excel, automated accounting, web content management.

The Position's Monetary Rewards include: a starting base wage up to \$20/hr, DOQ; the opportunity for cost-of-living and step increas-es added to base wage; and the City's bene-fits package offered for full-time employees. The position's non-monetary rewards include working with other dedicated employees in a full-service, small city with a community center, a library, a hospital and a health clinic, an airport and a liquor store that are municipally-owned/operated, and an ambu-lance service; working in City Hall with the city administrator, the deputy clerk, and a part-time administrative assistant; and the opportunity to take pride in a position that directly benefits the



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



POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED · POSITION IS PART-TIME

FULL JOB DESCRIPTION: Email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org. Also will be posted at WWW.VERMILIONCOUNTRY.ORG

SEND COVER LETTER AND RESUME to: Jodi Summit, Board Chair, jsummit@vermilioncountry.org, or call 218-753-2950.

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum 4-year degree in relevant area. Administrator licensure or coursework preferred but not required. Experience with charter schools and school leadership. Experience/ interest in innovative learning and creating a democratic school environment. Ability to write/manage grants, interact with state agencies, VCS authorizer, and all stakeholders. The board envisions this to be a .50 position, with a possibility of the remainder of the position to be filled with a teaching or other assignment.

The Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 charter school that opened in the fall of 2013. It is located in Tower, on the shores of beautiful Lake Vermilion, in the heart of Minnesota's North Country. The school serves a multicultural student body of 35-40 students, with an innovative program learning model that is uniquely-adapted to this remote commu-For more information, visit our website at www.vermilioncountry. nity. ora

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, 2022

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

community

To apply: go to cookmn.us or call (218) 666-2200. Open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 12 & 19, 2022

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

complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume³
- 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 <u>mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us</u>

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

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools ECFE Classroom Assistant

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for an ECFE Classroom Assistant for our 3-year-old program. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:

Preferred experience working with 2-4 year old children

 Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative settina

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

A complete application must include the following:

 District Application (Non-Licensed) > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Start Date: October 6, 2022 - May 18, 2023

Starting Rate of Pay: \$13.80/hour

Hours: 7.5 hours/week (8:45 - 11:15 a.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

Application review to begin: August 24, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 12 & 19, 2022

Advertise Here! Ads reach all our readers 218-753-2950 editor@timberjay.com

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: •

HOO BOY!

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.



Centrally Located On

Lake Vermilion

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage

Here

One Low

Price

Lease or Purchase Options

24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

Convenience Store

Marina • Mechanic on Duty

TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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.

7B August 12, 2022

AUTOMOTIVE

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair Full Service Auto Repair & Garage Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F 2 Miles South of Tower 218-749-0751

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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.

CO-DEPENDENTS ELY 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



MERCURY OUTBOARDS

Frank's Marine

Sales & Service Mercury, Crestliner, Lund

Set 1

ACONEDI

e • Complete Service • Sal

ACROSS

city

stvle

19 Muscat

20 Display

of

citizen

model

21 In the midst

22 Plastic brick

23 Certain bolt

24 Spanish for

"bears"

25 Ravi Shankar

played it

Lucasfilm

sci-fi flick [TV

personality]

26 As a result

27 2008

brand

1 Singer Reddy

6 "Preach it!"

10 Italian Riviera

15 At the home

of, French-

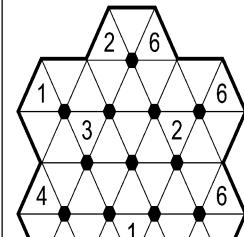
RUMMAGE SALE

HUGE RUMMAGE SALE at RED ROCK STORAGE. Saturday, Aug. 20. Collectibles, tools, fishing, camping, skiis, housewares, much more. Located at Red Rock Mini Storage on Hwy 77 Lake Storage on Hwy. 7 Vermilion, Tower. 8/19 77, Lake



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.





Try out the Timberjay classifieds



Super Crossword

92 "I want that 49 Funeral pile 50 Tangent, now!" 93 Leaf veins e.g. 52 Actor Omar 95 Pro of "House" 96 Animator's 54 Singer Cole or Abdul 56 Actress Long 57 Ranch food provider [animator] 60 Teen girl, in old lingo [golfer] 62 Flavorful 63 Sch. in Manhattan 64 Harsh 65 Magic spell 69 Creditor's time of forgiveness [singer] 74 Bacon sizzle

sound

sheet 97 Tolkien fiend 100 They may bedevil doas 101 Lace a party drink [bandleader] 105 Fourth-place finisher, say 107 Envoy's bldg. 108 Oval portion 109 Very dense element 111 What you do when you solve this puzzle? 119 Tiny fly 120 Tiger sounds 121 Went by bike, 28 Stud money e.g.

3 Volcano stuff 40 Screw up 4 Full of pep 41 Forest cats 5 Dummy 42 Ones making 6 Ornament an effort hanger, e.g. 43 Aches (for) 7 Barcelona 46 Aqua soccer great (highly Lionel 8 Overplayed liquid) the part 51 Approves of 9 Have a snack 53 Show that 10 Fuel holders you can 11 Estevez of film 12 "Just say -54 Gives out in drugs" abundance, 13 — even keel as flattery 14 In a pleasant 55 Stubborn way equine 15 Get resolved 58 Witty sort 59 Car financing 16 Mr., in Munich abbr. 60 "So long!" 17 Custard components 61 NBA nail-18 Noted Bronx biters, in brief

attraction

corrosive

download

63 It aired "Car

Talk"

NEIGHBORS' NAMESAKES

79 Work unit 81 Sudden temperature increase 82 Apiece 83 Fencing sword 84 After-bath application 85.6214 mile 86 Kuwaiti chief 87 Community rec center 88 Not veiled 91 Piano seat 94 Pesky insect, informally 96 Bow of respect 98 Some aircraft engines 99 Ad award 102 Realm: Abbr. 103 In groups of two 104 Santa's laugh

GROUPS

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

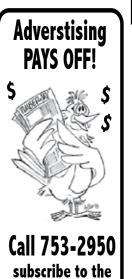
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E Camp St., Ely.

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. Anonymous is a (Narcotics non-profit organization.)

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-East Range meetings and infor-mation, 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.



Timberjay!

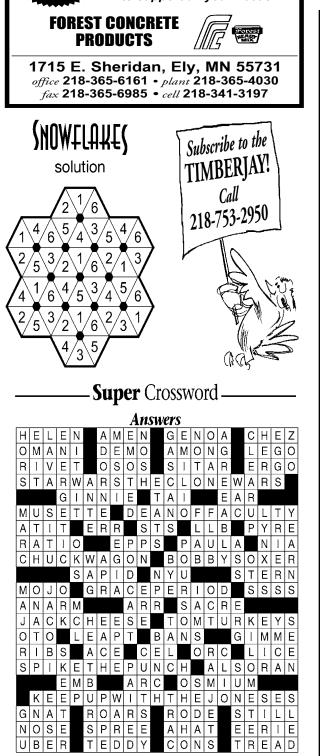
3 5 3 DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: Easy 🗣 🕈 Medium 🛛 🗣 📢 Difficult © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc. **FUNERAL SERVICES Range Funeral Home**

Virginia Hibbing 741-1481 263-3276 "Friends Helping Friends"

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

| 31 — Mae (government lender) 32 Mai — 33 Part of ENT 34 Hiker's carrying bag 37 College academics overseer [actor] 44 Very busy 45 Screw up 47 Blvds., e.g. 48 Legal deg. | | | t 77 77 8 8 8 | "Eg 50 "Mo food 34 Mal gob [sin 39 We | g t of E bleu!' ench ad!'') ontere d [sing e blers ger] stern erind nped | TA , y" ger] | 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 DOW | comp Baby' Down Tire p | of EN drop ge etitor s bea sides atterr | T | 30 Fei enl 34 Pla Co 35 Bry Ca loc 36 In - | cron male istee ywrig nnelly ce nyon ale | WWII ht d) s | 66 67 68 70 71 72 73 | may (Actor Mork' Lead "Now" "You reply Lead Nov. Joan "My F | es police get inf Dere s plar in to are no in to ne of | 1 io 1 k 1 net 1 net 1 1 ot!" | 116 Colt's father 117 Director Kazan 118 Arctic vehicle 119 African | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |] |
| 19 | | | | | | 20 | | | | | 21 | | | | | | 22 | | | | 1 |
| 23 | | | | | | 24 | | | | | 25 | | | | | | 26 | | | | 1 |
| 27 | | | - | | 28 | | | | | 29 | | | | | | 30 | | | | | |
| | | | 31 | <u> </u> | | | | | | 32 | | | | | 33 | | | | | | |
| 0.4 | 05 | 200 | <u> </u> | | | | | 07 | 20 | | | | 20 | 40 | | | | 41 | 40 | 40 | |
| 34 | 35 | 36 | | | | | | 37 | 38 | | | | 39 | 40 | | | | 41 | 42 | 43 | |
| 44 | | | | | 45 | | 46 | | 47 | | | | 48 | | | | 49 | | | | |
| 50 | | | | 51 | | | 52 | 53 | | | | 54 | | | | 55 | | 56 | | | 1 |
| 57 | | | | | 58 | 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | | | 61 | | | | 1 |
| | | | | 62 | | | | | | 63 | | | | | | 64 | | | | | 1 |
| 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | | 69 | | | | 70 | | | | 71 | 72 | 73 | | 74 | | | | { |
| 75 | | | | 76 | | | | 77 | | | | 78 | | | | 79 | | | | | |
| 80 | | | | | 01 | 82 | 83 | ., | | | 84 | | | | | | 85 | 00 | 87 | 88 | |
| | | | | | 81 | 82 | 83 | | | | 84 | | | | | | 65 | 86 | 67 | 00 | |
| 89 | | | | 90 | | | | | | 91 | | | | | | 92 | | | | | τj |
| 93 | | | 94 | | 95 | | | | 96 | | | | 97 | 98 | 99 | | 100 | | | | reserve |
| 101 | | | | 102 | | | | 103 | | | | 104 | | 105 | | 106 | | | | | All rights reserved |
| | 1 |] | 107 | | | | | 108 | | | | 109 | 110 | | | | | | | | |
| | 111 | 112 | | | | 113 | 114 | | | | 115 | | | | | | | 116 | 117 | 118 | ©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc |
| 119 | | | | | 120 | | | | | | 121 | | | | | 122 | | | | | atures 5 |
| 123 | | | | | 124 | | | | | | 125 | | | | | 126 | - | | | - | King Fe |
| 127 | | | | | 128 | | | | | | 129 | | | | | 130 | | | | | ©2022 |
| 127 | | | | | 120 | | | | | | 129 | | | | | 130 | | | | | |





You Take Pride in Your Home.

We Take Pride in Helping You Keep It Beautiful.



Kitchen & Bath • Flooring Products Window Treatments Home Decor & Accents

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You





HOURS: 8-5:30 M-F floortoceiling.com/virginia



