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the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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INFRASTRUCTURE

FCC shoots down LTD broadband application

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook-Orr Editor

\$1.3 billion rejection may open up alternatives for North Country

REGIONAL- The Federal Communications Commission last week rejected troubled LTD Communication's \$1.3 billion application to build high-speed broadband internet networks in Minnesota and across the nation, a move that should open the door

for other companies to provide more timely broadband solutions across a wide swath of the North Country.

Nevada-based LTD, a small fixed wireless internet provider with limited installations in Minnesota, was the

surprise largest winner of the FCC's December 2020 Rural Development Opportunity Fund auction, and almost immediately industry insiders expressed doubt that the company could deliver on its promise to bring high-speed fiber optic broadband to unserved

areas in 15 states. As part of its winning bid, LTD was designated to receive \$311 million for Minnesota, including tracts in the North Country covering areas from Ely to Cook and more.

The award effectively barred any other companies from com-

peting for services to locations in LTD's North Country awards, as areas designated for federal financial subsidies were not eligible for alternative funding from other sources, such as the state's Border-to-Border broadband funding initiative. Additionally, LTD would have

See...LTD pg. 9

Following their dreams



HOLLYWOOD HITS THE NORTH COUNTRY

A new generation of role models for area youth

by JODI SUMMIT
 Tower-Soudan Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION- Quannah Chasinghorse is an up-and-coming Native American model, actress, and environmental activist.

And while she said New York City's Met Gala was one of the most amazing fashion experiences she had ever been a part of, she was equally at home sharing stories from her life growing up in a remote village in Alaska with an audience of Native youth and their families at Fortune Bay Resort Casino last week.

Quannah appeared along with her friend, actor and model D'Pharaoh Woot-A-Tai, who is having his own moment in the spotlight, as one of the lead actors in the television series Reservation Dogs



Top: Quannah Chasinghorse and D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, made a special appearance at Fortune Bay Resort Casino last week. Above: Lola and Lila Pete, were two of the dozens of fans that had an opportunity to meet with the stars during their visit. photos by J. Summit

See...ROLE MODELS pg. 10

TACONITE MINING

Mesabi Trust windfall likely led to Northshore idling

Record high steel prices in 2021 nearly tripled the trust's royalty payments

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Increased production and higher prices for Northshore Mining's taconite pellets in 2021 sparked a financial windfall for a little-known royalty trust and

likely contributed to the decision by mine owner Cleveland Cliffs to shutter the plant earlier this year.

The New York-based Mesabi Trust owns rights to much of the ore that exists in the Peter Mitchell pit near Babbitt. Under its longstand-

ing contract, as discussed in the trust's most recent annual report, Northshore pays both a base royalty and a bonus royalty when prices for the ore it mines exceed a certain threshold.

Extraordinarily high steel demand and limited supply

in 2021 pushed the price of steel-related products, including taconite to the highest levels ever seen, far exceeding the bonus threshold in the Mesabi Trust contract. While iron ore prices are typically

See...TRUST pg. 12

TRAFFIC FATALITIES

Driver charged in fatal collision in Embarrass

Alcohol content leads to vehicular homicide charge

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook-Orr Editor

EMBARRASS— A Virginia man has been charged with criminal vehicular homicide after killing an Eveleth woman in a collision in Embarrass Township on Aug. 12 while driving with a blood alcohol content three times the legal limit.

Michael Kenneth Miller, 40, of rural Virginia, was driving a Chevrolet Silverado westbound on Hwy. 21 near Embarrass at about 11:30 p.m.

when the truck veered across the center line and collided with an eastbound Ford Fusion just west of the Hwy. 135 intersection. The driver of that car, 39-year-old Joni Dahl of Eveleth, suffered severe head trauma as a result of the crash and died at the scene.

Miller reportedly told investigators that he was on his way home from a bar where he had been drinking "vodka

See...FATAL pg. 10



Michael K. Miller

Cook man dies in rollover accident

ANGORA TWP- A Cook man has died from injuries sustained in a rollover accident Sunday on Hwy. 53 about six miles south of Cook.

Glen Ellsworth Economy, 59, was traveling northbound in a 2011 Chevrolet Corvette at 6:31 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14 near the intersection of Hwy. 53 and Heino Rd. when he passed another vehicle and then lost control of his vehicle. The car left the roadway and rolled, killing Economy.

Cook Ambulance and Cook Fire responded to the scene but did not transport the victim to a health care facility, according to a Minnesota State Patrol report. Economy was wearing a seat belt, but the Corvette's airbag did not deploy, the report said. It was unknown if alcohol was a factor in the accident.

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office assisted with the call.



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SUMMER FUN

Embarrass Fair starts on Friday, Aug. 26

EMBARRASS- It's time to get ready for the Embarrass Region Fair. This event has been held almost every year for over 80 years. It's a chance to remember the area's agricultural roots, and to see the talents and ingenuity of current-day residents. This annual event offers something for everyone and all ages, and with an entry fee of only \$5, or \$12 for a three-day pass, is one of the best bargains around. Children 10 and under are free with a paid adult.

Have you grown some beautiful flowers, harvested some perfectly-shaped vegetables, canned some jelly or jam or pickles, clothing, handiwork, arts and crafts? There are dozens and dozens of categories to enter, with the possibility of winning blue ribbons along with prize money. There is no cost to enter items, but you must follow the rules laid out in this year's fair book. Fair books are available at Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union locations, as well as other spots in the community. Entries can be brought in Wednesday and Thursday from 3 – 6 p.m., Friday from 1 – 7 p.m., and Saturday from 8 – 10 a.m. The exhibit building is closed from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday for judging, but after that, everyone is welcome to come and view this year's entries and see which won ribbons.

Live music

Friday night live music begins at 4 p.m. with Steve Solkela and his amazing one-man band. Amanda Rae performs from 5:45 – 6:45 p.m., and Honkytalk and Hangovers performs from 7 p.m. to close.

Saturday Night Country Live is hosting bands from 4 p.m. until close on Saturday.

Sunday is the karaoke contest with signups at 10 a.m. and competition beginning at 12 noon.

Fair events

Crafts and fair food booths are available all three days, along with a beer garden, and Wizard Kingdom Inflatables. There is an all-day softball tournament on Saturday and Sunday. Vendors at the fair on Saturday and Sunday this year include homemade baked and canned goods, homegrown produce, fleece blankets and clothing, crocheted items, boiled wool items, quilting, weaving, homemade soaps, decorative wood items, photography, jewelry, essential oils, sports cards, and books by local authors. Nature's Treasurers will be selling rocks and minerals. There will also be pony rides.

The 40th Annual Flying Finn 5K Run-Walk is on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. The race starts across the road from the fairgrounds, and the course is off-road. Race day registration is \$25. Cash prizes to top male and female runner plus medallions for top three in six age divisions. T-shirts with registration, if still available. For more info, email Holly Johnson at hsjohnson6980@gmail.com.

The annual dog show gets underway at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with registration from 9 – 9:45 a.m. Participants must be 16 or younger, and an up-to-date written certificate of rabies vaccination is required. Dogs must be on a 4-6 ft. leash, and owners must clean up after their pets.

Pet show judging is a bit unusual at the fair! Judging will be on longest and shortest tails, longest and shortest ears, grooming, novelty/tricks, and obedience.

Races for all ages begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday. This year they feature larger cash prizes in all categories. There are events for all ages, infants to adult. Races take place in front of the Timber Hall.

One of the most popular events at the fair is the Tony Morsching Memorial 4/4 Mud Run and Fast Track. This event

Team penning and ranch sorting underway this weekend, Aug. 19-21, at the horse arena

EMBARRASS- Take three riders on horseback, put them in a corral with about 30 calves with numbers zero to nine marked on their sides. Then give the riders one minute to round up three specific calves and herd them into a pen at the opposite end of the corral. Sounds easy? Not really.

If this sounds like it would be something fun to watch, it is. And everyone is invited to stop by the Embarrass Fair horse ring to watch this year's event, which has been moved to the weekend prior to the fair itself, Aug. 19-21.

Team penning begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 19 at the Embarrass Fairgrounds and continues until dusk, with sign-up starting at 2 p.m. Team Penning continues Saturday, Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. and runs until dusk. On Sunday, the event switches to Ranch Sorting, with a 10 a.m. starting time for beginners, and the competitive division from 1 – 4 p.m.

The event is open to all ages and experience levels, so all area horse enthusiasts are welcome to give it a try. The cost to enter is \$10 per rider per run, with two runs required to compete in the top ten short run. Cash prizes and buckles are awarded. Food concessions



will be available. For more information, call Doug Mattson at 218-780-7477 or Jeff Anderson at 218-780-3449. This event is being put on with support from Farm Bureau Financial Services.



Be sure to check out the animal barn at the Embarrass Fair. file photo

has an additional admission of \$10, with children 10 and under free with a paid adult. Races start at 12:30 p.m. in seven different categories. Be prepared for some noise and lots of mud

flying. Other events on Saturday include a corn hole tournament at 10 a.m. and a bean bag tournament at 4 p.m.

Sunday features the Classic

Field of Dreams Car and Truck Show starting at 9 a.m. The show features classes for cars, pickups, street rods, and special interest. Trophies are awarded for longest distance, fair chairman's choice, and body man's choice. Dash plaques for all registered vehicles, and cash drawings at the end. Prizes awarded at 2 p.m.

Sunday also features demolition derby action starting at 12:30 pm. Admission is \$5, with children 10 and under free. Bring your own lawn chair.

The Embarrass Fair Horse Show gets underway at 9 a.m. and runs most of the day. Come watch riders in many age groups compete in showmanship, races, and games.

The fair action winds down with the annual parade at 4 p.m. on Highway 26.



Crane Lake Chapel to host MN Adult & Teen Challenge Sunday, Aug. 28

The Crane Lake Chapel will host MN Adult and Teen Challenge on Aug. 28 at 9:30 a.m. MN Adult and Teen Challenge is a Christian based recovery program for men of all ages who are struggling with addiction issues. The men will be sharing their stories, and will also minister in song. For more information, call Pastor Steve Bergerson 218-252-2180.

American Pie – Pat & Donna Surface perform Hits Through the Decades at McKinley Park Campground

SODAN- Pat and Donna Surface along with their band American Pie will perform hits through the decades at McKinley Park Campground on Sat. Sept. 3 from 5-8 p.m. Attendees to the concert will journey back in time with Pat and Donna as they celebrate the timeless artists and songs that topped the charts. From the bop-pin' sounds of the 50s and the generation-defining anthems of the 60s through ever-changing styles of the

70s, there is something for everyone.

Concertgoers should bring lawn chairs. Picnic tables are available if families want to pack a meal.

For more information about Pat and Donna surface visit Patsurface.com

Right: Donna Surface is all smiles while performing at McKinley Park last year.



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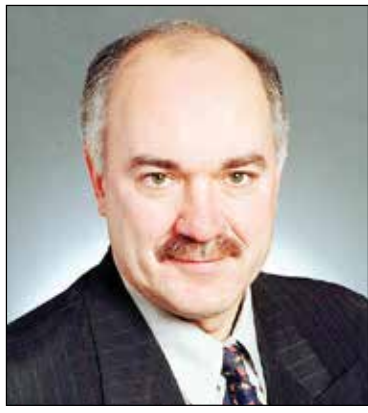
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IRON RANGE LEGEND

Tomassoni dies after battle with ALS

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor



David Tomassoni

REGIONAL- Longtime Iron Range legislator David Tomassoni, who championed a bill this spring to bring new hope to people affected by the degenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), died from a year-long battle with that disease last Thurs., Aug. 11. He was 69 years-old.

“We lost a giant,” said Sen. Tom Bakk, I-Cook, Tomassoni’s close friend and longtime Senate colleague. “The legacy he leaves is enormous, and his passion for public service benefited countless lives.”

Indeed, as a member of the state Legislature for 30 years, the last 22 of those as a senator, the Chisholm legislator’s legacy of service to his district and the Iron Range was already cemented well before he was diagnosed with ALS last summer. Even as his physical condition deteriorated in the ensuing months, he continued his active legislative agenda and activities this spring, pushing through a landmark \$25 million bill for ALS research and support for families and caregivers. When

the bill passed the Senate in March, Bakk shared this message from Tomassoni.

“It’s been an emotional several weeks for me and my family, one full of love and overwhelming gratitude,” Tomassoni wrote. “I am so proud of this legislature for coming together in almost unanimous support of an issue that’s bigger than all of us. This bill has the potential to be the beginning of the eradication of an insidious disease, not for me, but for future generations. That is something we can all be proud of.”

Bakk re-emphasized the importance of Tomassoni’s work

in his comments last Friday. “His selflessness in advocating for ALS research could not save his life but may save the lives of millions who follow in his footsteps,” Bakk said.

Technology allowed Tomassoni to work from his room in a Duluth care center this session, but when the Senate recognized its retiring members in May, Tomassoni made the trip to St. Paul to deliver his farewell remarks. He received multiple standing ovations and brought his colleagues to tears as he said his goodbyes.

“I treasure the time I have been able to work in the Senate. And I use the word work because this is serious business,” he said on the Senate floor with the aid of assistive technology. “Doing the people’s work comes with a lot of personal sacrifice and responsibility and is often times hard on family,” he said. “But it also has its allure.”

Hockey first

Before embarking on his political career in 1992, Tomassoni carved out a legacy on ice as a hockey player, transitioning from star defenseman at Chisholm High School to two

appearances in the NCAA Frozen Four with the University of Denver Pioneers, serving as team captain in 1975, his senior year.

After a brief stint in the New York Rangers’ minor league system, Tomassoni’s passion for the game led him to sign on with a pro team in Italy. Over a pro career spanning 16 years, Tomassoni won three league championships, scored two international hockey gold medals, and played for Team Italy in the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo.

Tomassoni never lost his passion for hockey or his love of his alma mater, the University of Denver, and the Pioneers returned the love this last winter when they came to Duluth last December for a two-game series against UMD. As reported by therinklive.com, Tomassoni was asked to drop the first puck of the first game, and the Pioneers surprised him with a jersey with his name on it and the letter ‘C’ for captain. In remarks to the team after the game, Tomassoni used a bit of colorful language to motivate the Pioneers to win the national championship. The Pioneers turned that inspiration into an improbable Frozen Four semifinal upset of top-

ranked Michigan and the team’s record ninth NCAA hockey title with a win over Minnesota State-Mankato in the final. A picture of Tomassoni the team used for motivation during their championship run will hang in the DU coaches’ offices next season. “It was just so cool and meaningful for the program, our players, for David and his family,” said Coach David Carle. “It’s one of those moments of destiny that happened in a championship season.”

Turning to politics

After Tomassoni hung up his skates and returned to the U.S., politics beckoned. First elected to the Minnesota Legislature in 1992, he served for eight years in the House before being elected to the Senate. He served in multiple leadership positions, including being elected president pro tempore of the Senate in 2021.

Tomassoni secured millions upon millions of dollars over the years for his district, for roads and other infrastructure, as well as schools and recreation trails. During his time in the Legislature, he chaired committees on natural

See TOMASSONI...pg. 5

Conflicting COVID data reflects changes in reporting

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Mayo Clinic had mixed COVID messages for St. Louis County last week, and the changes in the way that COVID cases are reported may well be the reason why.

The latest COVID data from the CDC boosted the county’s community rating back up to “high,” confirmation that the B.5 variant still has a grip on the region. Yet, according to data from the Mayo, St. Louis County’s COVID rates are relatively low, at least compared to surrounding counties, where the community rating ranged from moderate to high.

Amidst the competing evaluations, one thing is clear from the county’s own COVID dashboard. With a seven-day case average of 46 reported last Thursday, cases

in the county this summer have persisted at levels above previous years.

“When you look at the numbers, our average is higher than it has been the last two summers,” St. Louis County Public Health Division Director Amy Westbrook told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday. “And that’s without having a good surveillance system anymore because so much testing is done (with) over-the-counter (tests), so many positives are not reported to the public health system. Really, our seven-day average is probably much higher.”

It’s the variations in how cases are reported and what measures are used that likely account for the mixed information about surrounding counties, Westbrook said, but she didn’t suggest that the CDC made the wrong call on raising the county’s community level to high.

“We’re still in the pandemic

with omicron being the dominant variant, and it’s a much more infectious subvariant than alpha and delta,” Westbrook said. “We’re still seeing quite a bit of transmission. We’re also seeing a lot more people who have had COVID who are having it multiple times now.” Westbrook said she believes that the signs are pointing toward this as a transition period of moving from COVID being a pandemic to a disease that is endemic, one that will take its place in the group of regularly occurring respiratory conditions like influenza.

“COVID is here to stay,” she said.

Easing guidance

CDC officials concur with Westbrook’s assessment, and last week’s issuance of relaxed COVID restrictions falls in line with learning to live with the pandemic for the long haul.

Most notably, the new guidance lifts quarantine requirements

for those who have been exposed to COVID-19 without feeling symptoms and deemphasizes screening people with no COVID symptoms.

School protocols have also updated, with K-12 students who have been exposed to a case of COVID but have no symptoms themselves now able to remain in school, with masks recommended. Gone is the wholesale testing requirement for merely being exposed to a case.

The CDC’s focus is moving to one of individuals taking greater responsibility for assessing their own COVID risk and making decisions about how to manage that risk. The CDC has created an online tool called “Understanding Exposure Risks” that guides people through a series of basic questions with illustrations to help determine for each factor whether the risk is lower, moderate, or higher. Links are provided for what to do if a

person determines they are at a higher risk of being exposed. The page can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/risks-exposure.html>.

“We know what we can do to minimize our risk and how we can alter our health behaviors to minimize our risks,” Westbrook said. “We’re at the point where that’s really what we’re looking to our populations to do.”

Westbrook noted that there are additional systems in place for facilities such as schools, day care centers, and long-term care facilities to monitor and report possible exposures and COVID cases.

“We’re really focusing on key partners in the community including schools, long term care facilities, day cares, and congregate care settings. That won’t change at all. We’re still really actively involved in consultation and infection control.”

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Editorial

Lock him up

Trump believes he's above the law.
America should prove otherwise

The same violent anti-government rhetoric that led to the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City has made a disturbing return to America in the wake of the FBI's recent execution of a search warrant on former President Donald Trump's residence at Mar-a-Lago.

And top Republican leaders in Congress and elsewhere appear willing to fan the flames, increasing the likelihood that more Americans will die. While most top Republicans stopped short of calling for violence, their incendiary rhetoric did nothing to quell the calls for violence from many other Trump supporters. FBI Director Christopher Wray was forced to address the issue, as some of the former president's defenders were calling for everything from civil war to the assassination of FBI officials and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland.

There is certainly plenty of fault here that's deserving of criticism—and 99 percent of it should be directed at Donald Trump. As has been widely reported by credible news sources, the execution of a search warrant came at the end of months of less drastic efforts by the Justice Department and the National Archives to recover boxes of documents, many of which were classified, which Trump appears to have removed illegally from the White House when he lost his bid for re-election. Trump, based on accounts from his own staff, has demonstrated open disdain for the Presidential Records Act as well as the need for secrecy as it relates to national security matters. Given that, there was very good reason to seek the return of the records that he removed in likely violation of federal law. While Trump did allow the National Archives to recover some documents earlier this year, sources with close access to the former president, indicated that many more documents remained at Mar-a-Lago. The Justice Department subpoenaed those records months ago, but Trump failed to respond.

The irony is rich. Trump and his followers still chant “Lock Her Up” over Hillary Clinton's much-less-egregious handling of potentially classifiable emails from her time as Secretary of State. Trump roundly criticized the FBI back in 2016 for not prosecuting Clinton. Yet, here he is found with boxes full of highly classified material, including some with the highest classification of all, he left just sitting around in closets.

Trump, of course, has never believed that laws apply to him. As he infamously stated, “I could shoot someone

on Fifth Avenue and not lose any voters.” Sadly, Trump was probably right—and that speaks volumes about the people who still back the former president.

Critics of the Mar-a-Lago search are right when they claim that the execution of a search warrant at the residence of a former president is unprecedented in American history. But that's a reflection on Donald Trump and his unprecedented lawlessness rather than on the Justice Department.

We don't have to guess where the incendiary language used so cavalierly by Trump and his radical followers is likely to take this country. In the 1990s, in the wake of the deaths at Ruby Ridge and at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, anti-government rhetoric culminated in the Oklahoma City bombing, led by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, two fanatics who would fit in perfectly with far too many of the former president's supporters today. They killed 168 and wounded nearly 700 people, many of whom were children.

We've already seen an attempted armed assault on an FBI office in Cincinnati by a heavily armed Trump supporter. If the tenor of the comments reported on many rightwing chat groups is any indication, we can expect more such violence and attempted violence in the days to come.

It is apparently too much to expect cooler heads to prevail in a political party as divorced from reality as today's Trump-aided GOP. Top Republican leaders have charged that President Biden has politicized the Justice Department, yet it was Trump, in fact, who routinely tried to use the Justice Department to leverage investigations into his political opponents and, most egregiously, to steal the 2020 election. The Biden White House, by contrast, stated unequivocally that they knew nothing about the Justice Department's decisions regarding the search of Mar-a-Lago and Trump and his GOP mouthpieces have exactly zero evidence to the contrary.

Rather than urging a wait-and-see approach, top Republicans, like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, were quick to charge, without evidence, that the Biden “regime” had weaponized the Justice Department and compared the situation to that of a “banana republic.”

It's red meat, intended to delegitimize the current administration and stir up exactly the kind of extremism that's become so apparent on social media in the wake of the Mar-a-Lago search. DeSantis and others are playing with fire. They're going to get people killed.



Letters from Readers

Can fairness prevail in harbor development?

For nearly two decades, city officials in Tower have sought to restore the Tower Harbor as a source of economic vitality for the city. It hasn't been an easy road.

In 2015, after numerous attempts and multiple disappointments working with developers (including a hotel chain), the Tower City Council and TEDA (one and the same at the time) put out a Request for Qualifications for the building of townhomes around the harbor. Tower Harbor Shores, LLC (THS) was one of the respondents and was eventually awarded the contract in a ‘quasi-public-private’ development agreement.

Development obstructions were abundant, including title issues with St. Louis County and, finally, a major pandemic which caused substantial delays before the final assault on the city's townhome plans—uncompromising construction cost increases caused by the overheated U.S. economy.

To overcome the cost-of-construction challenges, THS spent the past several months exploring numerous alternative construction methods, as well as alternative development strategies. THS is currently prepared to present a revised plan using modular component construction (factory-ready) and is proposing that condominiums replace the townhome concept requested by the Tower City Council in 2016. The design, compatible with modular component construction, has also been revised to represent historic Tower more appropriately with a look common to waterfront warehouse districts in northern Europe and Scandinavia, countries of ethnic origin for many Tower residents.

On Aug. 4, Tower Harbor Shores leadership was prepared to make a presentation to TEDA on the well-developed alternative plan, to be constructed on

the same platted ‘footprints’ already designated for the town home project. Unfortunately, in a seemingly predetermined, orchestrated action planned by TEDA members, the THS agenda item was abruptly pulled from the agenda, and the THS representatives were not allowed to present. There was no forewarning to the THS representatives other than a general animosity towards the THS team and the project.

After THS' agenda item/presentation was scratched, I spoke during public input, stating, among other things, that I seriously doubt that any other developer would have remained as dedicated to a project and to the commitment that they had made to the city than Tower Harbor Shores, LLC. There have been six years of disappointments, yet THS now has a project plan that may well provide exceptional economic benefit for the city and for current and future businesses.... and a harbor complex for which Tower will be truly proud. Unfortunately, I was interrupted by one of the TEDA board members, so I was not able to complete my public remarks. Those of us associated with Tower Harbor Shores sincerely hope that fairness will prevail, and that the plan in which so much investment has already been made, including substantial architectural and engineering expense, will be taken seriously and considered as a viable and worthwhile addition to the city's economic development.

Orlyn Kringstad
Project Manager
Tower Harbor Shores LLC

Thinking on our common enlightenment

The legacy of the Enlightenment Period is the understanding that wholly on our own we can know, and in knowing, begin to understand, and in that understanding, choose wisely. This self-confidence came about with the exponential

growth of the knowledge of science, and its increasingly full explanatory cycles of cause and effect. We have learned so much more about ourselves as a species. We understand much more fully now, where humanity came from and what it is. We are now entering a dawning era of existentialism, much different from the old existentialism of Kierkegaard and Sartre that gave complete autonomy to each individual. The new existentialism promotes the concept that only unified learning, universally shared, makes accurate foresight and wise thoughtful choice a reality. When we have unified enough pure knowledge, we will understand who we are and why we are here. Those of us committed to the progressive journey of affordable health care for all, a living wage for everyone in America, free higher education for those who choose it, equal voting rights for everyone, and the elimination of money in politics, must never retire from our efforts. If we fail (which won't happen) we will be forgiven. If we get lost, we will find another trail. For the moral imperative of our humanism is the journey alone, whether achieved or not, provided that the effort is honorable. The ancient Greeks wrote of the idea in a myth of high ambition. Daedalus flees from Crete with his son Icarus on wings he has created from feathers and wax. Icarus ignores the warnings of his father and flies toward the sun, whereupon his wings break up and he falls into the sea. That ends the life of Icarus in the myth. Was he just a foolish boy? Did he pay the price for his hubris, for pride in sight of the gods? We need to understand that his daring represents a saving human grace. Let us see how high we can fly before the sun melts the wax in our wings.

Tim Duff
Tonka Bay

The moon speaks different names to different people

Call me a spoil sport, a curmudgeon, a sour puss, a grump, call me whatever you'd like, but I really do get annoyed, and have for years, at the media's seeming love affair with, of all things, the “names” of the moon.

Incase you weren't paying attention, and it was hard not to, we just experienced the last



DAVID COLBURN

supermoon of the year, the Sturgeon moon.

Let's tackle that first term, supermoon, first. There literally wasn't such a thing by name when I got my first (and only) telescope through the mail as a kid after ordering it from an ad in Boys' Life magazine. The

term hadn't been coined yet there in the late 1960s. Astronomers talked about the moon's orbit just like they did about the Earth's orbit around the sun, being elliptical and not circular in nature, and therefore having one point, apogee, when the moon's orbit is farthest from earth, and another point, perigee, where it was closest. Frankly, I didn't really care if it was apogee or perigee. It was just, “Oh, gee, the moon is full, where's my telescope?!”

It wasn't until 1979, three years after I finished high school and probably six or seven years that my little telescope had been collecting dust in the attic, that astrologer Richard Nolle coined the term supermoon. Astrologer, not astronomer. Nolle decided that year that anytime a new moon or full moon happens when the moon is within 90 percent of the moon's perigee, about as close as it gets to Earth, it should be called a supermoon. Personally,

I'd have preferred maxmoon as a play on the word “maximum,” but of course Nolle didn't bother to ask me.

Eventually, the term supermoon caught on, but there was a slight problem when it came time to touting the next supermoon in the press. It was because of Nolle's definition, which makes perfect sense when you think about it, included new moons. You know, the one's you can't

See MOON .pg. 5

Letters from Readers

TEDA taking a cavalier approach on harbor development

On Aug. 4, I attended the Tower Economic Development Authority board meeting in Tower. I am an investor in the Tower Harbor Shores development project which began in 2015. I experienced a level of rude and obstructionist behavior during that meeting. Rather than listening to the revised THS development plan, a calculated motion was made to strike the presentation from the agenda. A motion was later made to terminate the THS contractual agreement with TEDA and the city of Tower. I think it is a misguided action that TEDA is pursuing. This is the second time I have witnessed such obstructionist behavior by members of this board. At a TEDA board meeting in October 2021, also reviewing the THS development project, I witnessed some

board members rolling their eyes, whispering and sharing smirks with one another. I left each of these meetings with a strong sense that there was a behind-the-scenes agenda by members of the board. An agenda to scuttle the THS development project.

The history of this project has been fraught with many obstacles such as the transference of the property to THS for the development. And many hurdles have been overcome over the years. It is my firm belief that now was not the time to cancel this project and disregard the progress made for the economic development of TOWER as a community.

My husband, Michael, and I invested in the THS project in the beginning as a wholehearted team. We saw the positive power of the development vision proposed by the project. I now speak for both of us since he unexpectedly passed away in 2021. As visionaries we

saw the value in developing opportunities in and for our small towns everywhere in America. It saddens and angers me to witness such cavalier dismissal of the THS project by the TEDA board after years of dedicated commitment and hard work. Those of us on the THS development team see the ways technology, open-minded citizens, and a problem-solving mindset could evolve to face the challenges facing small rural communities.

The THS development project could be a beacon, an example of a community working together for the good of all. In addition, it could be an example for other evolving small rural towns and communities in our region. We are collectively living in a time of upheaval, change and evolution. We as individual citizens, communities, schools, government, churches and institutions are experiencing these changes together. Changes

to how we work, where we work, farming, information availability, energy sources, medical care delivery and so much more. Much of this change is enabled by technologies such as the Internet. Yet, what I see as the most powerful change agents are the members of a community, like Tower, working together to solve intractable problems cooperatively. This is a time ripe with opportunity and change—a time to take action, express ideas, and to grasp the enthusiasm possible by working together.

Finally, I have the privilege of being a decades-long friend of the THS project leader, Orlyn Kringstad and his wife Marit. Orlyn and Marit are friends I know personally, in business, professionally and as people to be counted on. They bring the utmost integrity to whatever circumstance they encounter.

Marjory Johnson Wood Biwabik

What happened to the Party of Lincoln?

The current state of the Republican party can be summed up in a nutshell by comparing two current Congresswomen (at least one soon to be gone): Liz Cheney and Marjorie Taylor Greene.

The first - Liz Cheney from Wyoming, an ultra-conservative who voted with Trump over 90 percent of the time, who earned a steady ‘A’ rating from the N.R.A., but who, after Jan. 6, saw Trump for who he truly is, saw clearly the danger he represents, and had the courage to act on that new-found clarity.

The second- Marjorie Taylor Greene, the ignorant embarrassment from Georgia, the certifiable nutjob and conspiracy theorist so radical she

is despised and shunned by many of her fellow Republicans, a woman with a fraction of the intellect and moral courage of Cheney, a woman for whom Donald Trump walks on water.

The fact that Greene polls higher than Cheney among the Republican faithful tells us all we need to know about the sad current state of the G.O.P.

My dad was a lifelong Republican, a mostly moderate one, to be sure (back when there WAS such a thing), but a Republican nonetheless. If he were alive today, I have no doubt he’d be so distraught over what’s happened to his beloved party, he wouldn’t even want to talk about it. Imagine what Abraham Lincoln would think.

Lynn Scott Soudan

Walsh asks for partial recount in sheriff’s race

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- St. Louis County election officials were scheduled to do a partial ballot recount on Thursday morning of votes cast in St. Louis County Sheriff’s race in several Duluth precincts at the request of third-place finisher Chad Walsh.

County Elections Supervisor Phil Chapman announced the official discretionary recount on Tuesday afternoon, and later confirmed for the *Timberjay* that it was Walsh who requested it. Walsh is responsible for paying all costs associated with the recount, Chapman said.

Former Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsay finished first in the nonpartisan countywide contest with 40 percent of the vote, followed by Undersheriff Jason Lukovsky with 33 percent, with both qualifying to move on to the Nov. 8 general election. Walsh, who called himself “a constitutional sheriff,”

a controversial right-wing theory that suggests sheriffs are the ultimate authorities in their counties, finished third in the race with 26 percent.

As expected, Duluth went strongly for Ramsay, who won 32 of the city’s 33 precincts, while Walsh finished last in all 33 precincts.

Of the three precincts selected by Walsh for the recount, Ramsay enjoyed the biggest edge in the eighth precinct, where 716 ballots were cast. Ramsay took 71.1 percent to Lukovsky’s 19.8 percent and Walsh’s 9.1 percent.

Walsh performed the best in the 860-vote sixth precinct, but still only picked up 14.3 percent of the vote. Ramsay placed first in the precinct with 54.4 percent and Lukovsky finished with 31.3 percent.

In Duluth’s third precinct, the final one to be recounted, Ramsay won with 57.4 percent of the 690 ballots cast. Lukovsky took 33.8 percent of the vote, and Walsh tallied the remaining 8.8 percent.

TOMASSONI...Continued from page 3

resources, economic development and education. Through it all, Tomassoni was known as a legislator who would put partisan politics aside to achieve legislation to benefit his constituents and all of Minnesota. Having represented the DFL for most of his career, he and Bakk left the party before the 2021 legislative session to form an independent caucus that they believed better positioned themselves to have more influence in the Senate.

Last Friday, tribute to Tomassoni poured in from across the political spectrum.

“David was a champion for his constituents, the Iron Range, and all of Minnesota,” Gov. Tim Walz said, noting the recent ALS legislation as a key achievement. “His legacy will continue to help people in Minnesota for generations.”

Minnesota DFL Party Chair Ken Martin said Tomassoni’s “boundless courage and wisdom will be missed.”

Minnesota Republican Party Chair David Hann, a former Senate colleague of Tomassoni’s, called him gracious and passionate.

“I remember him as a man with

a great sense of humor, rare in the political atmosphere of the state Senate, and a political opponent who never let policy arguments detract from his natural kindness and generosity of spirit,” Hann said in a written statement.

State Sen. Karin Housley, R-Stillwater, described Tomassoni as part of a special class of lawmakers who valued collaboration over public attention.

“They could get anything done they wanted to get done. And they never did it by throwing bombs. They worked across the aisle. They formed relationships. You would toast a glass of wine and he’d always have his cheese boards out in his office,” she recalled. “That’s how Senator Tomassoni got things done and never, never had one enemy along the way, only friends.”

Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber said, “There was no better champion for Minnesota and the Iron Range than David. His tireless work and dynamic personality will be greatly missed in the Northland.”

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar

quoted Tomassoni’s own words in tribute to his accomplishments.

“There may be no better example of David’s dedication to public service than the letter he shared with his constituents following his ALS diagnosis,” Klobuchar said. “He wrote, ‘I give you my word that my brain and my body will continue to represent you with the same passion and vigor I’ve tried to give in the past.’ Even through the greatest battle of his life, David lived up to his promise to serve. I will miss his good humor and the twinkle in his eye. I will miss his funny texts and phone calls. Like his family, I find solace in knowing he fought the good fight and will now be at peace.”

A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 19, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Chisholm, after which Tomassoni was to be interred at Chisholm Cemetery in private services. Visitation was to be at the church on Thursday, Aug. 18 from 5-7 p.m. and for one hour preceding Friday’s service.

Minnesota Public Radio contributed to this report.

MOON...Continued from page 4

see? You’re probably not going to attract many readers with a headline that declares “Supermoon coming next Tuesday” that’s followed with a subhead of “Don’t bother looking, you can’t see it.” So, a term that wasn’t really necessary in the first place, as astronomy had survived quite well without the term since prehistoric times, became divorced from half of the events it was supposed to describe as the term supermoon was essentially whittled down to only full moons that could be seen. And if you happen to look straight up in the sky at a full moon at perigee, trust me, it doesn’t matter if it’s a supermoon or not – you won’t be able to tell the difference between that and any other full moon. Why? Because there’s nothing up there for you to compare the scale to. On the horizon as it comes up, perhaps you’ll notice a bit of difference if you’re attentive, but once that full moon gets up a bit in the sky.

And don’t expect to get one of those fabulously huge supermoon pics you see splashed all over the internet in the days following a supermoon unless you happen to know the trick to getting them, and here it is. Get to a place where you have a clear view of objects on a distant horizon,

and use a telephoto lens. Those distant buildings on the horizon, or those hills or whatever, will be magnified somewhat, but the moon will be even more so. If you just pull out your cell phone and snap shots on the regular settings, you’re going to get shots that look like a regular full moon, because that’s pretty much what a supermoon looks like to the naked eye – just another full moon.

And as for those “traditional Native American” names associated with full moons, like the Sturgeon moon? Yes, those frustrate me too, because the media pretty much depends on the Old Farmer’s Almanac, a nontraditional, non-Native resource, for those names. Yes, they’re actually based on traditional names, but ones that were used by specific tribes in specific regions. What they fail to do is to recognize the intimate relationships between Native tribes and their natural settings, and how the moon has been used for centuries as an integral part of timekeeping and marking the flow of local change.

Frankly, it’s more of a wink to Native American cultures than a nod. The Old Farmer’s Almanac page describing the Sturgeon moon notes that the name is used “because the giant sturgeon of the Great Lakes

and Lake Champlain were most readily caught during this part of the summer,” but doesn’t mention Native Americans as the source, let alone the Algonquin people whose observations of sturgeon populations at this time of year most likely gave rise to the association. But swarming sturgeon in August is of little relevance to the vast majority of Native Americans who have never been dependent on those monster fish for their life cycles. Tribes associated the cycle of full moons with the events occurring in their environment that were most relevant to them. For example, in the hot and humid August of the South, the Tunica tribe of Louisiana has traditional referred to this full moon as the Hot Moon. Nothing remotely fishy about that.

Indeed, right here among us, it would be more accurate to refer to the August full moon as Manoominike-giizis, the Ricing Moon, as it is called by the Ojibwe people of the region for whom the ripening and harvesting of wild rice is one of the pillars of their historic culture. That’s not to discount the large number of sturgeons to be found in Minnesota’s lakes and rivers, but the Ojibwe did not come here for the fish. Central to their great migration story was

the prophecy that urged them to move west to the land where “food grows on water,” a clear reference to wild rice.

If anything, I find that the glib pronouncement of a particular full moon that is given a “traditional Native American name” by a national media source looking for click-throughs on their website only serves to starkly highlight how divorced modern society has become from the co-existence we once shared with the land and the skies. Meanwhile, around the world in Sri Lanka, where each full moon is an official state holiday, Sri Lankan Buddhists just celebrated Nikini Poya. Full moons there have different names and meanings there than here, and no sturgeon to speak of.

So, yes, call me a spoil sport, a curmudgeon, a sour puss, a grump, call me whatever you’d like – I’ll hold onto my little pet peeve but not begrudge it if you keep on enjoying the supermoons as they come, and the names others give them. And if in so doing you take a few moments to marvel about your tiny little space in this vast, marvelous Universe, well, who really cares in that instant what anyone else calls the moon? Its name is whatever it speaks to you in that moment.

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the **TIMBERJAY**

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

Week of Aug. 22

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 Sept. 20.

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

The Tower-Soudan 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.

Immanuel hosting free community meal, live music, on Wednesday

TOWER- Come over to enjoy a FREE meal on Wednesday, Aug. 24 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. There will be grilled burgers and brats, plus all the fixings. Steve Solkela and his one-man band will be playing from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Food will be served from 4 - 6 p.m. To-go meals will also be available.

This is the beginning

Old-fashioned photography in the wild

1800s TECH



TOWER- Chris Olsen, and his Dagnabbit Studio, brought his wet plate photography portable darkroom to the Tower Farmers Market the same day the Pickup Truck Opera performed earlier this month. He produced photographs both during and after the show. While his daughter Louisa May manned the old-fashioned wooden camera, Olsen worked on the sidewalk by the depot, with his head under a black hood, to develop the plates and prepare the prints. The plates, once finished, are immediately varnished to preserve the images.

Olson uses technology first invented in the mid-1800s to make one-of-a-kind metal-plate photographic images. The camera is a reproduction of an 1860s Anthony-style camera using a French 1850s petzval portrait lens.

Olson and his family have a cabin in Vermilion Lake Township and like to visit the area in the sum-

mer. Olson demonstrates the wet plate process at fairs and events, and does sell some of his prints, but just enough, he said, to fund his hobby.

Olson works at the National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois, and he worked on the MINOS project in Soudan. Their family lives outside of Chicago.

The first authenticated image of Abraham Lincoln was a daguerreotype of him as U.S. Congressman-elect in 1846, attributed to Nicholas H. Shepard.

Above left: Chris Olsen prepares to duck under a heavy cover to develop a photographic plate. Above right: A photographic image comes to life, and a selection of the tools he uses for this historical photographic technique. Right: Louisa May Olsen gets ready to take a photo. photos by J. Summit

**SUMMER FUN AND LEARNING****Vacation Bible School fun...**

Immanuel Lutheran and St. James Presbyterian jointly sponsored VBS in Tower earlier this month. Earlier this summer, St. Paul's Lutheran and Soudan Baptist held their VBS in Soudan. photos by T. Trucano

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT****Five file for the four open seats on the Tower City Council**

TOWER- The filing period for the upcoming November 8 election for the Tower City Council closed on Tuesday, Aug.16. There are four

openings on the council:

► Mayor Dave Setterberg, who was appointed to the seat after the resignation of Orlyn Kringstad is the only one

who filed for the four-year mayor seat. Setterberg had previously been elected to the city council.

► Joe Morin and Robert Anderson, both

currently members of the council, have filed for the two open four-year seats. Anderson was recent appointed to fill the vacancy from the death of long-time council member Sheldon Majerle.

► Tom Suihkonen and Joshua Zika have

both filed for the single open two-year seat. Suihkonen was appointed to fill the seat held by Setterberg, when he was appointed as mayor.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

of a free monthly community meal which will be served the last Wednesday of each month. It is open to all and free.

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 8 a.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.



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BOUNDARY WATERS CONNECT

Welcome Neighbor program launches in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Did you know that there is a trend of people in their 30s, 40s, and 50s moving to rural areas, and Minnesota is a leader in this trend? Folks on the move are looking to relocate to a welcoming and vibrant community, and Ely is just that.

Boundary Waters Connect is forming a “Welcome Neighbor” program in this community, and organizers are seeking new and established residents with an interest in welcoming new folks to the end of the road.

Lacey Squier, manager of Boundary Waters Connect, said that in developing the “Welcome Neighbor” program such activities for new residents could include:

➤ Receiving a gift bag of goods and messages from Ely-area businesses and organizations.

➤ Introducing themselves to the community through a semi-regular “Meet New Elyites” edition of the Tuesday Group gathering.

➤ Becoming acquainted with an established Elyite via meetings facilitated by Boundary Waters Connect staff and volunteers, and made possible by their broad network of Ely-area residents.

➤ Attending semi-regular New Resident Socials. The next such event is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 5-7 p.m. in Society Hall above Northern Grounds.

“Additionally, we are exploring ways to better serve ‘younger’ folks in our community,” Squier said. “We know that community elders really appreciate the weekly Tuesday Group gathering at the Grand Ely Lodge, and we would like to offer similar activities to those who are not able to attend Tuesday Group.”

Boundary Waters Connect hosted a focus group on these

topics this week. “Focus Group participants helped us understand what else would be essential to welcoming new residents to our community,” she said. Squier said she hoped that focus group participants talked about such topics as kinds of information that could be available online for prospective new residents, and content that would be helpful on social media.

She also implored Ely businesses and organizations to donate items to be added to gift bags being developed for new residents. “Or, in lieu of a gift, perhaps a business or organization would like to offer a discount especially designed for new residents,” Squier said.

“Although we can’t anticipate exactly how many Welcome Neighbor gift bags will be needed each year, we will start by compiling 30 bags (one per family).”

Squier added, “Another option is to submit a special message of welcome for new residents. I invite

businesses to create their own ad designed for this purpose, but would be happy to help with this process if it is a barrier. She noted that Boundary Waters Connect consulted with the Ely Chamber of Commerce about this program concept, and the organization received the Chamber’s support to move forward with this program and to reach out directly to businesses.

“This is an ongoing opportunity, as we know new folks are arriving all the time,” Squier said. She said she was hoping to get this program off the ground as soon as possible and asked for businesses and organizations to indicate their interest in participating by Aug. 31.

For more information, contact Squier via email, lacey@neminesotansforwilderness.org, or call/text to 218-216-9141.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

➤ Aug. 23: Canoeing Canada’s Arctic Rivers Albany, Churchill, Winisk, Back, South Nahanni, and Alesk with Bill Rom.

➤ Aug. 30: Invitation to meet Grant Hauschild, running for MN Senate District 3.

➤ Sept. 6: Science Solutions: Understanding Algae Blooms in Minnesota’s Most Pristine Waters with the Science Museum of Minnesota.

WORSHIPING TOGETHER

Ely churches gather at Semer’s Park for ecumenical service

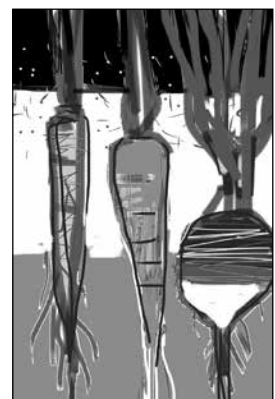
ELY- Four Ely-area churches gathered at Semer’s Beach last Sunday to celebrate an annual ecumenical “Worship by the Lake” service. Approximately 140 local residents and guests enjoyed a lakeside service of worship and a fellowship picnic topped off by blue skies and sparkling calm waters.



Leading the service were, from left, Pastor Mary Groeninger of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Pastor Craig Haberman of First United Methodist, Pastor Corey Larsen of First Presbyterian Church, and Pastor Eric Thiele of Grace Lutheran Church. submitted photos

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



garden offerings canning preparation starts ready for winter

GARDEN PARTY

Ely’s Gardner Trust celebrates arts in the garden

ELY – A 1916 painting by artist Frederick Frieseke, titled, “Breakfast in the Garden,” continues to reap benefits for the support and nurturing of the arts in this community, and the 32nd annual celebration of the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust was held earlier this month.

“Breakfast in the Garden” was donated to the city of Ely by Donald Gardner in 1945. In 1989, the painting was sold for \$510,000 and the city of Ely established the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust for the enhancement, growth and improvement of the arts in the city of Ely. Since 1989, the Trust has awarded more than \$850,000 to support the arts and artists in the Ely community.

Families gathered at the Ely Community Resource’s children’s garden on Aug. 6 to participate in art projects and fellowship to support the arts.

The purpose of the Trust shall be for the enhancement, growth and improvement of: 1. The Ely Public Library, 2. The arts and artisans of Ely and surrounding area, to include the performing arts, the visual arts and literature, 3. The creating and funding of scholarships, educational and artistic grants, 4. The cultural and aesthetic environment of the City of Ely and its surrounding area.



Above: Emma Leider-Bilda decorated a stone while attending the recent Breakfast in the Garden celebration at the ECR Children’s Garden.



Right: Ivy Ohlhauser made a birthday card for her mother, Beth, who is the new executive director of the Gardner Trust. photos by K. Vandervort

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

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

Higher Education



Schurke earns landscape architecture degree from Harvard

BOSTON- Berit Schurke, daughter of Susan and Paul Schurke with Ely’s Wintergreen companies, received a Master of Landscape Architecture degree this spring from Harvard University. Recently she joined the design team at Mikyoung

Kim Design, of Boston, which was just recognized as the nation’s “Landscape Architecture Firm of the Year.” Berit, a 2012 graduate of Ely High School and 2016 graduate of Carleton College, also received Harvard’s esteemed Penny White Award for her Masters thesis which proposed an Arctic Coastal Adaptation Strategy for global warming. The grant will take her on a study visit to the Bering Strait where coastal erosion from climate change threatens habitat options for the Pacific walrus population.

McKenna Coughlin honored at Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah- McKenna Rose Coughlin, of Ely, was named to the University of Utah’s Spring 2022 Dean’s

List. Coughlin, whose major is listed as Engineering BS, was among more than 8,900 students named to the Spring 2022 Dean’s List at the U. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

Anna Nelson honored at St. Olaf

NORTHFIELD – Anna Nelson, of Ely, was named to the St. Olaf College dean’s list for the spring 2022 semester. The dean’s list recognizes students with a semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4-point scale. Nelson, the daughter of Jeffery and Marja Nelson is studying for a nursing degree at St. Olaf.

Local students graduate from BSU

BEMIDJI - Three Ely students earned degrees from Bemidji State University in Bemidji during the 2021-2022 school year.

➤ Ryne Prigge, bachelor of science degree in nursing.

➤ Jacqueline Taylor, bachelor of science degree in accounting.

➤ Anna Urbas, associate of arts degree in liberal education.

BSU offers world-class education in arts, sciences and select pre-professional programs. Bemidji State’s 4,750 students can pursue degrees in 70 undergraduate areas of study and nine graduate programs.

Montana graduates from UW-Madison

MADISON, Wis.- About 7,700 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May, including Thomas Montana, of Ely, who earned a Bachelor of Science, Microbiology from the College of Agricultural and Life Science.

Zach Linkous honored at Hamline

ST. PAUL - Zach Linkous, of Ely, was named to the Hamline University Dean’s List for the Spring 2022 term. Linkous was among 471 students to make the College of Liberal Arts Dean’s List this semester.

LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Dairy farm hosts Congressional candidate visit Tuesday

DFL's Schultz schooled in the challenges of operation from Pearsons

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – From the days when his great-grandfather established a homestead in Cook, and through numerous configurations and locations in the ensuing years, Jeff Pearson's family has been farming.

Jeff is the latest scion to inherit the family calling, taking over the responsibility for the Rice River Holsteins operation from his parents Marvin and Peggy, who bought the Field Township farm west of Angora over 50 years ago from Marvin's father.

The farm is one of only four dairy farms left in St. Louis County, but Jeff Pearson can't see himself being anywhere else but there, raising three daughters in the beautiful countryside with his wife, Lisha, tending to a herd of 80 Holstein milking cows and about 220 beef cattle, a place where an eight-hour day could almost feel like a day off if it ever happened to come around.

But while Holsteins are plentiful, Jeff knows that small dairy farms like his are an endangered species. Nearly 20,000 licensed dairy farms have disappeared nationally over the past decade, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. About 1,000 of Minnesota's licensed dairy farms have closed up shop since 2017. Low prices are a primary culprit, with high labor and feed costs and rising transportation costs among many other factors threatening dairy farmers.

The challenges haven't gone unnoticed by Eighth District U.S. House of Representatives candidate Jen Schultz, the DFL opponent seeking to defeat Republican incumbent Pete Stauber in the November general election. Schultz visited Rice River Holsteins on Tuesday to learn about the dairy operation, listen to the Pearsons' challenges and concerns, and to inform her thoughts on what kind of federal assistance would be helpful should she find herself in Congress next year.

The conversations began outdoors under a towering silo and cloudy skies, overlooking a meadowed portion of the 360-acre plot to the east where steers were grazing.

Schultz dove right in.

"What sort of issues are you facing that the federal government can help you with?" she asked.

Jeff and Peggy both said that the 2018 Farm Bill shepherded by Minnesota Seventh District Rep. Collin Peterson had been helpful with the inclusion of a "safety net" program for dairy farmers.

"That really, really helped," Peggy said.

The Pearsons sell their milk to the Burnett Dairy Cooperative in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, which turns it into artisan cheeses. One factor in choosing Burnett is that there aren't any readily accessible bottling operations in the area any more, and setting up their own bottling system or paying to transport it to a bottling plant south of the Twin Cities aren't cost-effective options.

"We used to ship to AMPI. They sold that bottling plant in Duluth and closed it down," Peggy said.

Burnett sends a truck multiple times a week to collect what the cows have produced, but the Pearsons also had to spend about \$30,000 on a large holding tank to accommodate the arrangement.

Schultz asked how increased fuel prices have affected transportation costs.

"They haven't raised it too much yet, but it's coming," Jeff said.

There's another dairy farm near Cherry that also sells to Burnett, and the question came up about what would happen to Rice River Holsteins if that farm went out of business.

"I've been told that as long as we can fill a half a tanker load, they'll keep coming," Jeff said.

And what would happen if the Pearsons had to transport the milk themselves?

"We'd be done," Jeff said.

The problem, Peggy said, is that there are fewer and fewer dairy farms in the region to make up a route.

"Like Itasca County, there's not a dairy farm in Itasca County anymore," she said. "There's not a dairy farm left in Anoka County. And I don't think there's one in Aitkin County."

Bigger dairy farms in other areas of the state also threaten smaller oper-



Above: Jen Schultz, the DFL candidate for the Eighth District U.S. House of Representatives seat in the upcoming November election, listens carefully as Rice River Holsteins owner Jeff Pearson describes his dairy farm operation. Rice River Holsteins is one of only four dairy farms remaining in St. Louis County.

Middle right: Among the 80 Holstein cows the Pearsons use in their dairy operation, one of them strike a classic picture pose. Right now the cows are kept in the barn during the day with cooling fans and turned out in the evening to spend the night in the pasture.

Bottom right: Cloudy skies that threatened rain didn't deter Schultz from carrying the discussion outdoors by the farm's towering grain silo.

photos by D. Colburn

ations, Jeff said.

"Bigger ones are getting built around the Willmar area," he said. "I was down there this spring and there's huge new barns built all over there."

Schultz asked if the Pearsons had ever tried to transition to producing organic milk, which can command higher prices, but Jeff explained that the costs for getting certified as an organic producer, the need to shift to higher-cost organic feed that they would have to buy instead of growing their own as they do now, and having to again deal with a bottling operation weighed heavily against such a move.

At one point, Schultz asked for feedback about Stauber's help with dairy farming issues.

"Has your current Congressperson, Pete Stauber, helped in any

way the last four years?" she said.

"All he is is a 'no' vote," Jeff said.

"He's voting no on everything," Peggy said.

Schultz pointed out that the Farm Bill will be coming up again next year, and said that makes the upcoming election "vital for local farmers."

As a light rain began falling, the group moved inside with the cows in the milking barn. They had to talk over the roar of blowing fans that were keeping the cows cool, but no one seemed to mind. Schultz talked with the group for the better part of two hours, with the conversations branching out from dairy farming to anything from tales of her own childhood experiences on her grandparents' farm to broader agricultural issues and even discussion of the news of the day.



By the end of the visit, the four-term Minnesota House legislator indicated that she'd heard a wealth of valuable information, which is just what she came for.

"I'm trying to learn as much about the district as I can," she said. "I want to learn about the barriers our farmers are facing and how we can make sure our local farmers are thriving." Schultz said she's seen a huge movement among

people trying to get back to the land and have local food, a movement she is supportive of.

"I think it's healthier for our state if we can invest in family farmers and have a strong, secure food supply," she said. "So I think we need to reinvest in farming in the U.S., to expand and diversify. That's one way small farmers can thrive when they can get higher prices for that material."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Church to serve brats for monthly free meal Aug. 25

COOK- The free monthly community meal coming up at Trinity Lutheran Church on Thursday, Aug. 25 from 4-6 p.m. will feature a local favorite, Zup's brats, as the main entrée. It comes with beans, chips, and dessert, and will be served drive-through in the church parking lot. As always, the public is invited.

Walker to play Aug. 24 park gig

COOK- Contemporary country and original tunes are on tap for Wednesday, Aug. 24 at the Cook City Park on River St. when "Robert Walker Outlaw Country Music" takes the gazebo stage for the next edition of the Music in the Park summer music series. The concert begins at 6 p.m.

St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church will be selling food and refreshments.

In case of rain the concert will move to the Cook VFW near the park.

Veterans park project gets \$25K from county board

COOK- The quest to pave the parking lot at Veterans Riverfront Park got a huge boost on Aug. 9 when the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners approved the use of up to \$25,000 for the project.

The award to Cook Friends of the Parks comes from county economic development funds and was approved unanimously as part of the board's consent agenda.

A GoFundMe campaign started in June sought to raise \$50,000 for the project, so the commitment by the county will get the organization

halfway to their goal. The Friends of the Parks continues to seek additional support to finish the park project.

NWFA preps for annual garage sale fundraiser

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts invites donations of art and collectibles for the organization's annual end-of-the-summer fundraiser garage sale on Saturday, Sept. 3 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery in Cook.

Donations would be appreciated and should be delivered to the gallery between Wednesday, Aug. 31 and Friday, Sept. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This popular annual event has always featured many unique one-of-a-kind items that can't be found at just any regular garage sale. Shop in garage-sale style for "new to you" decorations and art

at 210 S River St.

This is a fundraiser that will help NWFA continue its work of inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts for the community.

The NWFA Gallery exhibits and sells for about 30 artists. It is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Watercolor artist to present two-day workshop in Cook

COOK- Award-winning artist Mary Beth Downs will be the instructor for a two-day watercolor painting workshop offered Sept. 29-30 by Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook.

"Playing With Value, Texture and Design" will take place at the Cook Community Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 29-30.

The workshop will focus on planning a successful painting using design elements. There will be demonstrations to guide all levels of students in this approach.

Downs began studying fine art in 1975 and graduated with honors from UMD with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1994. She teaches at her Duluth studio, The Art Cellar, and is a frequent workshop presenter around the region.

For more information or to register for the workshop, call Alberta Whit-

enack at 218-666-2153 or contact Northwoods Friends of the Arts, PO Box 44, Cook MN. Visit the NWFA web page at www.nwfamn.org or email nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

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GREENWOOD

Town board 're-adopts' personnel policy

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOODTWP- Again working on getting proper procedures in place, the Greenwood Town Board adopted a personnel policy at their August meeting. While the policy was created back in 2017, it apparently never was formally adopted, even though the board did formally adopt amendments to the policy later that year.

Former Township Attorney Mike Couri had researched the issue in response to a complaint filed by Jeff Maus.

"The amendments had been adopted," said Supervisor Mike Ralston, "but not the whole policy."

Current Township Attorney Mitch Brunfeldt had reviewed the policy and made a few minor changes.

The policy covers township employees, including town board and fire department members.

Maus, who is now the township's interim treasurer, said the board should put a procedure in place to distribute the policy to all current and new employees, as well as any future revisions.

The board voted 4-1 to adopt the policy, with Ralston voting against.

The board then discussed establishing a discipline policy, which would

establish procedures for when an employee violates the personnel policy.

Treasurer's report

The board approved paying Chair Sue Drobac, who also worked as the town clerk and was familiar with township financial reporting, for up to four hours of time to reconcile the township's bank statement to its online CTAS accounting system. The bank statements had not been reconciled since last December.

The township had considered having an accounting firm review the records but the firm they consulted said it would not be cost effective to hire an accounting firm to do that work. Recommendations from both the accounting firm and CTAS were to just go back to the last balanced statement, and work forward month by month from there, to find where the inconsistencies were.

Ralston wondered why that wasn't the job of the interim treasurer. Drobac said she hadn't been trained how to balance the statements yet, because of the problems that had been found.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Signed the contract and approved payment for the McGrath EMS study.

Ralston said he hadn't met with the IRRR yet to complete the paperwork to get a grant to cover some of the costs. Ralston said requests for information have already been sent to the city of Tower and area townships.

► Passed a motion to terminate a fire department member for lack of participation. The member, who was not named, will be eligible to rejoin in six months. Fire department safety officer Rick Worringer said the individual had planned to move out of the area but may be staying. Board members questioned why this member had been given a pension credit for the year they were noted as a member, even though they had only attended one meeting. Members are only supposed to earn a pension credit if they meet minimum training, call-out, and attendance parameters.

"What rules do we follow and what rules do we ignore?" asked Maus.

► Approved reimbursement for training costs for a fire department member since they had submitted the required documentation. The board refused a request from that member to be paid for the three hours of time claimed to put together those records. The vote was 3-2, with Ralston and

Paul Skubic voting against not paying.

► A motion to pay Drobac for 11 hours of work spent training in the new interim clerk failed on a 2-2 vote, with Skubic and Ralston voting against. "I know she put in more than 11 hours, more like 40 hours," said Barb Lofquist. "Not training in the previous clerk was a disaster. This would be money well spent."

► Heard again from Jet Galonski, who is unhappy with board oversight of the fire department. "You started overturning our policies that we feel are the best for the fire department," he told the board. Galonski also said the request for a higher pension amount was to make the job more attractive for younger, new members. He said he wasn't motivated by the pension, only by the fact he is able to serve his community, but that for younger people the pension is very important.

► Supervisor Rick Stoehr said he had been working with Worringer on some safety issues in the building.

"I am finding things that are being done that I know should be done better," he said.

"OSHA was just here, there are some fairly expensive things back there [in the fire hall] that need to be attended to. Our respon-

sibility is to ourselves, our employees and the community.

I will take the heat, but I am going to make the noise. It is in our best interest."

► Heard that the township request for federal broadband funding has not moved forward, and that no federal funding had been approved for any requests in Minnesota. A planned project on Vermilion Reservation is still moving forward, Ralston said. In other broadband-related news, Frontier Communications is considering a large project that would serve the south side of Lake Vermilion, Crane Lake, and Ely.

► Approved a resolution accepting volunteer service from John Bassing for time he is spending assisting in the township office.

► Discussed setting up a policy for renting out the town hall kitchen, as well as renting out the town hall for money-making events.

► Heard the primary election had gone smoothly, with 168 voters. Interim Clerk JoAnn Bassing said the township does need a few more election judges.

► Voted 3-2, with Ralston and Skubic voting no, to not install any surveillance or security cameras at the town hall. The current cameras are not working

properly, and the cost of repairing them was high. "It's a waste of money," said Drobac. "It's an invasion of privacy," said Supervisor Barb Lofquist.

► Heard that a grant submitted by Lofquist for ARPA funds to pay for the water treatment system, as well as adding in the township kitchen water to the system was successful. The system is removing arsenic in the town hall water supply.

► Will place signs by the outdoor water spigot reminding residents this water is only for drinking. The township does have a spigot for non-potable water, and residents will be asked to use that for non-drinking water needs. The water treatment system can only treat a certain amount of water per day.

► Heard that the fire department is planning on offering a four-hour CPR class for township employees this winter, and if room, will be open to other residents.

► Heard from Clerk Bassing that they are making progress in getting the clerk's office organized and working through the backlog of items that need to be done. "We are trying to get things back in shape," she said. "Let's hope it gets better."

LTD...Continued from page 1

up to ten years to install the RDOF-subsidized tracts it was awarded.

But while other successful bidders started receiving money from the FCC last year, LTD stumbled through a series of miscues in its applications to various states to be designated an "eligible telecommunications carrier," a prerequisite for the FCC to disburse the awarded funds.

LTD failed to obtain the designation in Oklahoma and Kansas because they didn't meet those state's deadlines, and requests to the FCC to extend its own deadlines for its applications in California, Iowa, Nebraska, and North Dakota. According to FCC rules, these represented defaults that made LTD ineligible to receive any funds for development in those states.

The company was dealt another blow when South Dakota's Utilities Commission rejected LTD's application outright, citing serious concerns about their ability to make good on their plans there.

LTD gained the ETC designation it needed for Minnesota last year, but in May the Minnesota Telecom Alliance and Minnesota Rural Electric Association petitioned the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to revoke that status, citing LTD's failures in other states. In July, the MPUC agreed to open an investigation that could have resulted in revoking LTD's designation. MPUC noted at the time that there was no information indicating when the FCC might take action on LTD's long-form application.

That investigation became moot after last week's FCC action, which also stripped another top-ten bidder, Elon Musk's Starlink satellite-based broadband network, of its RDOF winnings.

"Consumers deserve reliable and affordable

high-speed broadband," said FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel in a press release announcing the rejections. "We must put scarce universal service dollars to their best possible use as we move into a digital future that demands ever more powerful and faster networks. We cannot afford to subsidize ventures that are not delivering the promised speeds or are not likely to meet program requirements."

The release went on to say that the FCC review concluded that LTD "was not reasonably capable of deploying a network of the scope, scale, and size required by LTD's extensive winning bids."

Funds forfeited by the two companies will be redesignated for a future FCC auction, and it's uncertain how much, if any, of the \$311 million award to LTD for Minnesota will return to the state through a future unknown bidder.

LTD's demise may

well turn into gain for numerous projects around the state that have funding applications in for some of the tracts once blocked by the company's now defunct RDOF award. Given the prolonged period of time taken by the FCC to consider LTD's long-form application, the Minnesota Border-to-Border program began accepting applications for state funding for those projects. If LTD had

received RDOF funding, those applications would have been voided, but now they can be considered.

An example of a North Country location that could benefit from new funding opportunities is Cook. Installation of a state-assisted broadband network by Paul Bunyan Communications for the community may get underway in the next few weeks, but the company had to remove some locations

from its plans because they fell just inside of federal tracts awarded to LTD. Given that the news is fresh, Paul Bunyan officials have yet to issue any formal statements about future possibilities for LTD-forfeited tracts, and

no such plan for Cook is known to be in the works. But new options are now available for numerous Minnesota communities now that they are no longer blocked from them by LTD.



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St. Martin's Catholic Church, Tower, MN

Saturday, August 20
8:30 AM to 1 PM



For all those early bird shoppers-the doors will open at 8 AM-for a small charge of \$5.

Coffee and caramel rolls will be available for purchase.

A 50/50 CASH DRAWING will be held, chances for the drawing are \$1 each.

The winner will be announced at 12:45 PM

We hope to see you there!

ROLE MODELS...Continued from page 1

(streaming on Hulu), now airing its second season.

The two, both in their early 20s, were clearly comfortable as role models for Native youth, and they were excited that both the fashion world and Hollywood were giving Native American voices, stories, and environmental concerns more of a stage.

Quannah is now working with a modeling agency that understands she has a larger agenda than just being pretty.

"I've been blessed and honored," she said. "I am not just a pretty face, but I am a powerful voice. I want to benefit my people and not just myself. I want to talk about issues like sovereignty. I want people to know that we carry solutions to today's problems. I want to bring this message to the fashion world."

Quannah said that Native Americans are storytellers, and in that role, they are well situated to help teach others.

"Hollywood is realizing that we have a lot of good stories to tell," Quannah said.

The two were taking a well-earned summer trip to Lake Vermilion to visit Quannah's grandparents Adeline Juneby Potts and Mike Potts, who have a cabin on a small island on Lake Vermilion. The cabin has been in Mike's family since the 1940s, and the site has expanded to include small cabins they use for visits from their extended family. Mike met Adeline when he moved to Alaska to work, but the couple and their growing family, has always come back to Vermilion for the summer.

Quannah's mother, Jody Potts, says her five children have grown up with a love of Lake Vermilion, and this is where they all



Quannah Chasinghorse and D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, had their picture taken with Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. photos by J. Summit

learned to swim. It's the little things they love most about the lake, Jody said.

"We mostly just swim 24/7," Jody said. "Lake Vermilion is hard to beat."

Island life can be a bit unpredictable. The family was a little late getting to the event, because of rough winds on the lake.

Representation matters

D'Pharaoh said traditionally Hollywood only emphasized the trauma suffered by Native Americans. The comedy "Reservation Dogs" is a heartfelt look at a group of teens growing up on a rural reservation in Oklahoma. The show is written and directed by a diverse group of Native Americans and is giving a new generation of Native American youth new role models as well as career aspirations. Having Native Americans in charge of casting the show, or other shows featuring Indigenous characters, is also very important, he said.

"We come in all different tones and colors," D'Pharaoh said.

D'Pharaoh is a member of the Oji-Cree First Nations tribe in Canada.

He urged youth to consider acting or movie/television production as careers.

"Stay focused," he said. "There are a lot of obstacles but just keep pushing."

Both said respecting their elders and traditions kept them grounded and kept them away from drinking and drugs.

"Our people are strong people," said Quannah. "We are not weak. Those things take your spirit away."

"Go outside. Pick berries. Learn your language," she said. "Our ancestors are still alive. They are living connections to our past. We are picking the same medicines as they did. Keep your culture alive."

Quannah said she had lost close family members to substance abuse and she understands that struggle.

"Teach your young ones," she said. "That is what keeps us strong."

Modeling is a lot more work than people think, she said. It involves early wake ups, lots of travel to distant locations, and patience as make-up and hair gets done. She said

at first, she was just seen as the stereotypical stoic Native American.

"They put you in an outfit and ask you to do poses, even if you are uncomfortable or they feel unnatural."

But as her career has blossomed, she said she has more creative control.

"My new work is a lot different," she said, noting that she is excited about photographs that will be coming out in the near future.

Modeling often means little sleep, little opportunity for regular meals, and no time for self-care, she said.

"I was in four different time zones in two weeks," she said. "That's really hard on your sleep."

Modeling jobs often come up with little notice, forcing her to cancel plans with family and friends.

"But it is worth it when the work comes out," she said.

She is motivated by the pride that her people see in her work.

She is also happy to get the opportunity to take a break, with family and friends, to visit Lake Vermilion.

D'Pharaoh said one of the hardest parts of acting, for him, is the time away from his family. "The more time I spend away," he said, "the more time I need to re-ground myself."

D'Pharaoh said working on the set of "Reservation Dogs" has been an amazing experience.

"A normal day on the set includes a lot of laughter and music," he said. Cast members have running jokes and play little tricks on each other.

"It really feels like a community," he said, and the directors treat all the staff and crew with respect.

He said working with writer/director/producer Sterlin Harjo has been an amazing experience and he hopes to get the opportunity to learn more about the production end of the creative process from him.

Quannah said she got to spend a couple of weeks on the set with D'Pharaoh and said the atmosphere on the set is very different from some others she has been on.

Working toward a sustainable future

Both say they fear the effects of climate change.

"Our ways of life are at stake," they said. Quannah's heritage is Hän Gwich'in (from Alaska and Canada) and Sicangu/Oglala Lakota (from South Dakota). She received her first Yidjíttoo (a traditional face tattoo by her people) at age 14. "I don't want to forget how to filet a fish or butcher a caribou," said Quannah. "I don't want to forget how to bead."

Quannah told the story of her first successful caribou hunt.

After her uncle had passed away, her family was given special permits to hunt caribou out of season, to provide food for the community in honor of her uncle at the traditional potlatch give-away.

"We still live off the land," she said of her rural home in Alaska "There aren't any grocery stores. It is an eight-to-ten-hour drive from my village to the city."

While out hunting with her family, she was able to shoot her first caribou, and to help skin it, gut it, and carry the meat back to their truck.

"I shot it right through the neck," she said, noting that didn't waste any of the meat. Her family got four

caribou that day, enough to feed the entire village.

"I was able to give back to my community and to honor my uncle," she said.

Tribal Chairperson Cathy Chavers thanked the two for the visit.

"You both are awesome role models," she said, noting that for too long Native Americans have been invisible in popular culture.

The two stayed for more than an hour after their talk to pose for photos and autographs.

Though some at the event were more excited to meet Quannah's grandmother, who herself has some show business credentials. Adeline Juneby-Potts is the voice of Auntie Midge in the PBS Kids show "Molly of Denali."

The event was sponsored by the Bois Forte Substance Use Program who also presented the two with gifts created by Leah Yellowbird and each also received a blanket designed by Giizh Agaton Howes.

Quannah and her mother are also featured in 2022 documentary titled "Walking Two Worlds." The film is currently being screened at film festivals. You can watch the trailer at <https://www.tribecafilm.com/films/walking-two-worlds-2022>.

You can purchase the July 2022 issue of National Geographic featuring Quannah on the cover at <https://ngsingleissues.buysub.com/>.

You can watch Reservation Dogs online at hulu.com. The first season is available in full, and the second season is currently being released weekly. Season three is also in production.

FATAL...Continued from page 1

cranberries." The complaint also noted that Miller had been observed earlier in the day at another bar by an Embarrass Fire Department member.

Miller was observed to

have watery eyes, slurred speech, and an odor of alcohol, according to the complaint. A preliminary breath test conducted at the scene determined Miller's blood-alcohol level to be 0.247, more than three

times the legal limit for driving. Results of a blood draw were still pending as of press time.

Miller was booked into St. Louis County Jail on Sunday, after receiving treatment for inju-

ries at a Duluth hospital. Bail was set at \$300,000. Criminal vehicular homicide, a felony, carries maximum penalties of ten years imprisonment and a \$20,000 fine.

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DFL Candidate for
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Please join Grace Lutheran for the annual **Worship in the Park Service**
Sunday, August 28, 9:30 AM at Whiteside Park, Ely
We welcome back the musical group **Cornerstone**.

Most of the "Cornerstone" band sings and plays at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minnesota, but many of the members play in bands (pop, rock and jazz) throughout the Twin Cities area. As "Cornerstone", they play contemporary and traditional Christian music, from gospel to Christian rock. Sit back and listen to the band play and Pastor Sue Smith who will share the Word.

Invite your friends - bring a lawn chair and beverage, treats provided.
In case of rain, the service will be at Grace Lutheran in Ely.

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Working six days a week to get Ely school ready for students

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Construction workers continue to put in six-day work weeks on the job site at the \$21.5 million Ely school building renovation project. Following a recommendation by school administrators, the school board here last week agreed to push back the start of the 2022-23 school year to Monday, Sept. 12 to get the campus ready for students.

Administrators are dealing with a double-edged sword of having the school grounds completed and parking lots paved to receive staff and students, and having the classrooms and hallways cleaned and ready for learning.

Superintendent John Klarich, citing a too-tight deadline for starting school on Sept. 6, convinced school board members to push the start of school back one week. Any delays, particularly inclement weather that would prevent the parking lot paving completion, could still make for a messy start, not to mention unsafe conditions for the beginning of the school year.

Nearly \$300,000 worth of rock blasting is now completed and the water and sewer infrastructure is installed. Earth movers were working this week in the front of the Washington

and Memorial buildings, now connected by a new building that will house a secured entrance, district center and school offices, media center, additional gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen and music and industrial technology classrooms, to construct the parking lots and school bus drop-off loops.

The north side of the campus looks barren as most of the trees and foliage were removed to make room for the expanded traffic loops and drop-off areas. Paving will commence as soon as the curbs and gutters are installed.



Top: Curb and gutters were poured this week for the student and school bus drop-off loop in front of Washington school. Above: Builders put the finishing touches on the new front entrance to the Ely school building. photos by K. Vandervort

Ely school board ballot set for Nov. 8 election

ELY – The ballot is set for the Ely school board election on Nov. 8 as incumbents are joined by newcomers to lead ISD 696 for the next several years.

On Tuesday, the last day of the two-week filing deadline, longtime school board chair Ray Marsnik filed his candidacy for the special election to fill the open two-year board position. The opening was created when Darren Visser resigned earlier this year upon moving out of the district. Chad Davis was appointed to fill the seat until a special election could be held.

Newcomer Anthony Bermel, 146 W Conan St. also filed candidacy papers for the two-year term on the school board.

Davis, along with incumbents Tony Colarich and Rochelle Sjoberg, filed candidacy papers for one of the three open four-year seats on the board. They will be joined on the ballot by newcomers Jeremy Engen, 603 E Pattison St., Claire High, 1512 E Harvey St., Mike Scherbing, 2279 Grant McMahon Blvd., and Jennifer Westlund, 1197 Hiawatha St.



EMBARRASS REGION FAIR

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!

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



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

➤ **On the Main Stage** ◀
FREE Entertainment!

Friday

4 PM-**Steve Solkela and His Overpopulated One-Man Band**

5:45 PM-**Amanda Rae**

7:00 PM-**Honytonks & Hangovers**

Saturday

4-10 PM **Saturday Night Country Live Hosts Several Bands**



Sunday

Rising Sun Entertainment hosts

Karaoke Contest!

10 AM-Sign up begins

Noon-Competition begins

All your favorites are back this year, including crafts and concessions, exhibit and livestock buildings, pony rides, and Wizard's Kingdom inflatables.

Join in the Fun!

Saturday features: Softball Tournament, 5K Run-Walk, Dog Show, Cornhole Tournament, Races for all Ages, 12:30 PM-Tony Morsching Memorial Mud Run (\$10/spectators plus gate admission).

NEW on Saturday only: 11 AM-7 PM • Compete for high sores with Forge Social Haus mobile axe throwing (near the beer garden); must be 18+ to participate.

Sunday highlights: 9 AM-Horse Show (free with gate admission) and Classic Field of Dreams Car & Truck Show • 12:30 PM-Demolition Derby (\$5/spectators plus gate admission).

PARADE at 4 PM

Breakfast will be available at Timber Hall both days beginning at 8 am on Saturday and 7 am on Sunday.

More Fair Details Available at: embarrassfair.org

FairBooks are available at Embarrass-Vermilion 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.



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FIRE AND RESCUE

Training for the worst

Eagles Nest firefighters use simulations to improve their response effectiveness

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

EAGLES NEST- Last Saturday's simulated fire and evacuation exercises at Eagles Nest Lake 4, involving both Eagles Nest and Morse Fall Lake Fire Departments, turned out to be more than mere practice. The results of the exercise proved that a shift in tactics could significantly enhance firefighting success in some

instances by reducing the time it takes to replenish tenders with water and get them to the site of a fire.

Last year's simulation, which included more departments and a longer task list, may have been more involved, but this year's establishment of a water source, using a local lake, was no less intense for those involved, township Emergency Management Director Mike Ostlund said

Right: Eagles Nest firefighters Terry Mattson and Ron Potter examine a nozzle during Saturday's training exercise.

photo by D. Colburn

Saturday.

Ostlund had also set up the evacuation scenario, and there was a twist to it. The premise was that cell phone service to

See TRAINING...pg. 2B



INTERPRETATION

Math in motion

Ely's Reflections Dance Company presents annual multi-media show

ELY - Cartwheels and handstands, jetes and pirouettes, shuffles and flaps, and some dance moves so innovative they don't have names, demonstrated the artistry and energy of this community's performers in Math in Motion.

The show was presented by the Reflections Dance Company last weekend on the stage of the Fine Arts Theatre at Minnesota North College, Vermilion Campus. Math in Motion was the company's fifth annual multi-media show.

"Math concepts and structures like infinity, time, fractals, and geometric shapes were illustrated in choreographed patterns and interpreted musically by the talented chorus and band," said Director Molly Olson.

As if there wasn't plenty to occupy the audience members' minds with the music and movement, there were also colorful dynamic images portraying aspects of each piece projected on the overhead screen.

Local creativity was on display in two musical pieces composed by Zach Baltich and poems by Joey Kenig and Tim Stouffer.

"It was the dancers who garnered the most admiration," Olson said. "From the tiny acrobats executing perfect

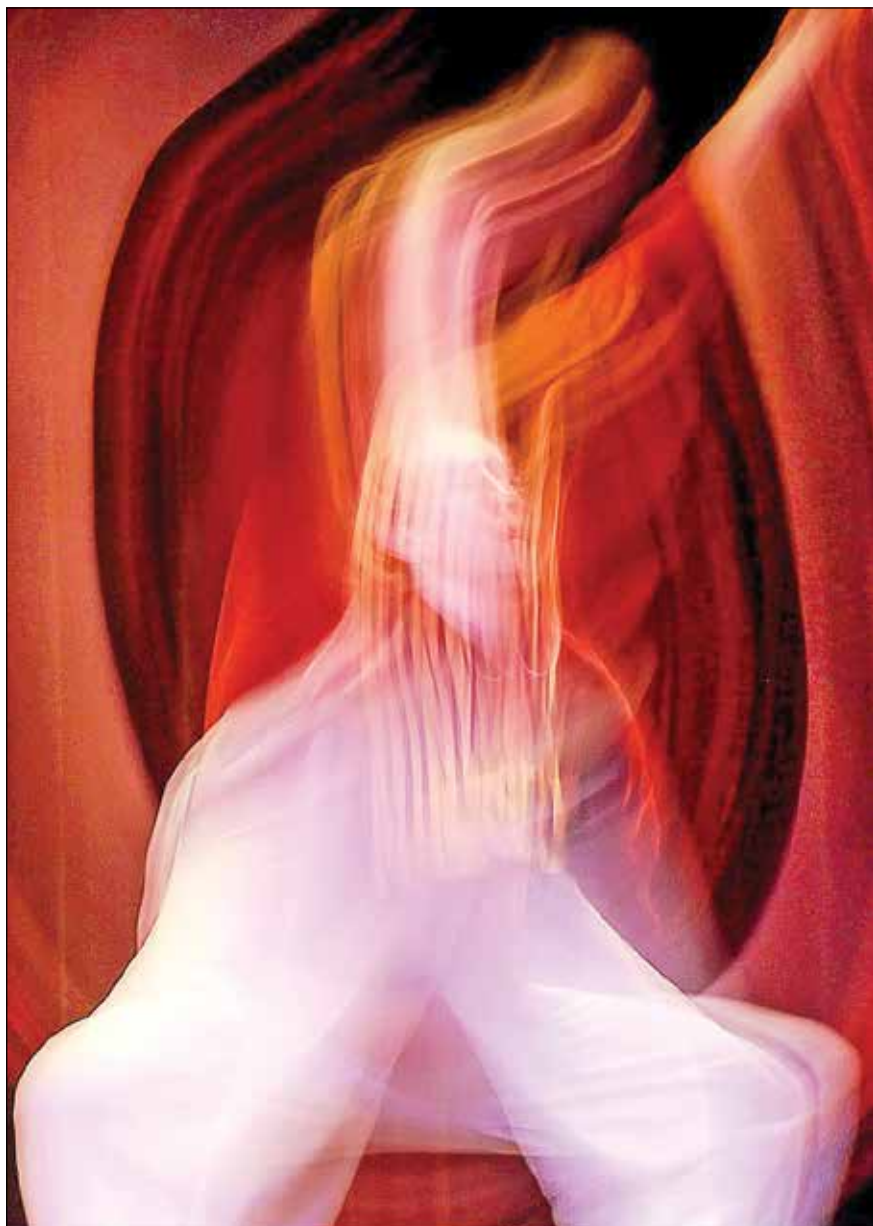


Math concepts were illustrated in choreographed patterns and interpreted musically.

Director Molly Olson

back walkovers to elementary and middle school performers defying gravity to leap and twirl, to grown women tapping and jazzing and obviously having a great time, the dancers navigated some challenging choreography and kept smiling."

She added, "One of the



Top left: Cora Olson and Charlotte Hegman perform during the Math in Motion event. Many of the performers this year were seniors and are soon headed away to college.

Top right and above: Artistic images capture the motion during the event, held last weekend at Minnesota North College-Vermilion Fine Arts theater.

Left: Lucy Hway performs a solo. photos by Ian Lah

most polished and professional dance groups ever to perform in Ely was a group of four who have danced together since elementary school. Gracie Pointer, Brooke Pasmik, and Cora Olson head away from Ely to attend college next year, leaving Charlotte Hegman here to finish high school. These dancers sense one another's timing and place

in space, creating what looks like a single being that separates into two, three, and four bits of motion, then coalesces in unexpected formations: strength, precision, and grace personified. They have taught and inspired the younger dancers for five years, and now leave their dance shoes to

See MATH...pg. 2B

HONOR



Calvin Herrala, Ely's oldest military veteran, was recently presented with a Quilt of Valor by Joan Novosel, of the Ely American Legion Post 258 auxiliary, and Michelle Sherwood, of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

photo by K. Vandervort

Ely pays homage to its veterans

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Calvin Herrala, age 98, this community's oldest veteran, was honored earlier this month with a Quilt of Valor for his service in World War II.

Herrala and several other area military veterans were recognized by the Ely Baseball Association during opening ceremonies for the Minnesota Junior Legion Baseball Division II State Tournament at Veterans Memorial Field.

Herrala graduated from Ely High School in 1942 and entered the Army Air Corps (predecessor to the U.S. Air Force) a year later. He served in the Pacific Theater during the Second World War, maintaining radar units on Iwo Jima. Following his military service, Herrala attended Harvard University where he studied physics, and worked for Honeywell until 1989. He moved back to Ely in 2005 following the death of his wife.

The Ely Honor Guard and several Ely veterans opened the Legion baseball tournament on Aug. 4 with a special ceremony that included the eight teams in the competition. Herrala was presented with a Quilt of Valor from Michelle Sherwood, of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, and Joan Novosel, president of American Legion Auxiliary Post 248 of Ely.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts. Her son Nat was deployed in Iraq at the time. According to Roberts, she had a dream that led to forming the foundation.

"The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over," she said. "The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change."

A Quilt of Valor is a handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted, and awarded to a military service member or veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." There have been 300,000 such quilts presented to military members.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

New federal law will invest in public and private forests

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — With President Biden's signing of the Inflation Reduction Act on Tuesday, the media has focused much of its attention on the big ticket items in the bill. Those include investments in green energy and energy efficiency, possible savings for Americans on prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices, as well as tax changes that will ensure that big corporations can no longer book big profits without paying taxes.

But for property owners in the North Country, the new law will also bring new investments in forests as a means of both sequestering carbon and providing cooling shade. The measure includes \$1.5 billion for urban and community tree planting and protection. According to the organization American Forests, the funding should allow for the planting and care of 23 million trees in communities across the country. "That's a game-changing life for communities across America," stated Jad Daley, president and CEO of American

Forests. Parts of cities with limited tree cover are known to be as much as 20 degrees hotter than those areas with abundant tree cover, so the tree-planting effort will help cool urban areas that currently lack trees. Many of the neighborhoods that lack trees are low-income, so the investment in urban forestry will help those vulnerable communities most of all. The new trees will not only provide cooling shade, they'll gather and store carbon in their tissues as they grow. A number of studies have shown that trees and

forests, which act as carbon sinks, can play a critical role in helping to address climate change. For rural forestland owners, the bill provides \$700 million for the Forest Legacy Program, designed to permanently protect private forest lands through the purchase of voluntary conservation easements or direct acquisition by local governments. This will help to encourage the retention of private forest lands that might otherwise be lost to development or conversion to other uses. The new law also provides

\$450 million to the U.S. Forest Service to develop incentives for private landowners who agree to adopt voluntary forestry practices that aid in the fight against climate change. At the same time, the new measure will provide over \$2 billion in funding for thinning and prescribed burning on public lands, to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Those funds can also be used for restoration efforts on public lands that have burned.

TRAINING...Continued from page 1B

the area was down, which meant that firefighters had to go door-to-door to notify Lake 4 residents to evacuate and verify that houses where there was no response were empty. Most residents actively participated in the evacuation, rendezvousing at the command center at the township hall.

Meanwhile, Eagles Nest and Morse Fall Lake firefighters put into action a plan that Eagles Nest Fire Chief Larry McCray had been working on for about a year.

"I've been looking for water access points," McCray said. "We have only two dry hydrants for lake access, which doesn't make sense to me. I thought, 'I've got 11 lakes, I've got a lot of water. How do I get to them?' The problem is that most of these lakes are surrounded by private property."

McCray started approaching some of the homeowners and had about a dozen agree to let fire-



Left: Eagles Nest Fire Chief Larry McCray talks with another firefighter during last Saturday's simulation.

photo by D. Colburn

fighters use their property if needed. If the property has soft ground or the potential access point is a mucky area they can't pump from, those won't work, McCray said. "But where we find them," he said, "we're reducing traveling time and we're increasing firefighting time."

Drawing water directly from a lake for firefighting takes the tenders out of the mix, McCray said.

"A typical house fire

is going to take at least 400 gallons per minute for about 45-60 minutes to extinguish," he said. "The problem fire departments run into is that they can't continuously flow that much water because they run out of water waiting for the tender to show up. Instead of hauling water from a point three miles away, I can draw water from the lake and I can concentrate more of my people on fighting that fire. I have

access to all the water I will ever need to fight that fire instead of hauling every ounce of it down the road." Saturday's test, conducted on West Lake 4 Rd., was to set up a pumper truck at the end of a narrow sloping 550-foot driveway with a steeper 20-foot drop in the final section down to the lake and pump the water back up the hill to an intermediary truck that then sent the water on to tenders from both departments. The tenders were just used to receive the 15,000 gallons of water pumped during the exercise. Had there been an actual fire at the location, the water pumped from the lake would have been deployed directly on the blaze.

McCray summarized the result during the post-event luncheon and debrief-

ing. "We have discovered just what we hoped, that we could draw water out of the lake in a timely manner and have plenty of water to fight the fire," he said. "Our goal here today was to reduce that dead travel time by getting water from the lake, and it worked. This is going to become our new plan. We're going to be able to draw water quicker, we're going to have less down time, and we're going to put it into action."

The evacuation portion of the simulation also went well, but participants had suggestions to improve it.

St. Louis County Emergency Management personnel facilitated radio communications for the evacuation and made several recommendations that the township will implement, including headphones to help isolate calls from multiple radios and having "a plain old clock" where the operators are stationed for quickly being able to record call times.

Another issue with the evacuation was having adequate parking at the town hall for evacuees, particularly if a larger number needed to be evacuated. It was also noted that the development of more lake access points will continue, and that there are obstacles to be overcome to do so.

"There are a number of areas in the township I worry about," McCray said. "One of those is Bird's Nest. Nobody's heard of that road. It's an old railroad bed and that road down through there is growing up because of a lack of traffic. But I have 13 lots and eight structures in there. That's a disaster. We'd never get fire equipment down there." But with a new firefighting strategy in hand, McCray hopes to build momentum and find the funding over the next several years to further enhance the safety of Eagles Nest homeowners.

MATH..Continued from page 1B

be filled by the upcoming talent."

Reflections Dance Company is entering its sixth year. Olson said she

is excited for the company to become officially part of Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA), "so leaving the administration

to others and focusing her work on dance."

Classes for the 2022-23 year begin Oct. 3. Registration and more

information is available at NorthernLakesArts.org. All ages and levels of experience are welcome to join acro, ballet, contemporary,

tap, adult tap and jazz, and the company group, which is choreographed in a style with movement for beginners and pros.

Math in Motion performance DVDs will be available for sale through NLAA.



Memories of the Early Days

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

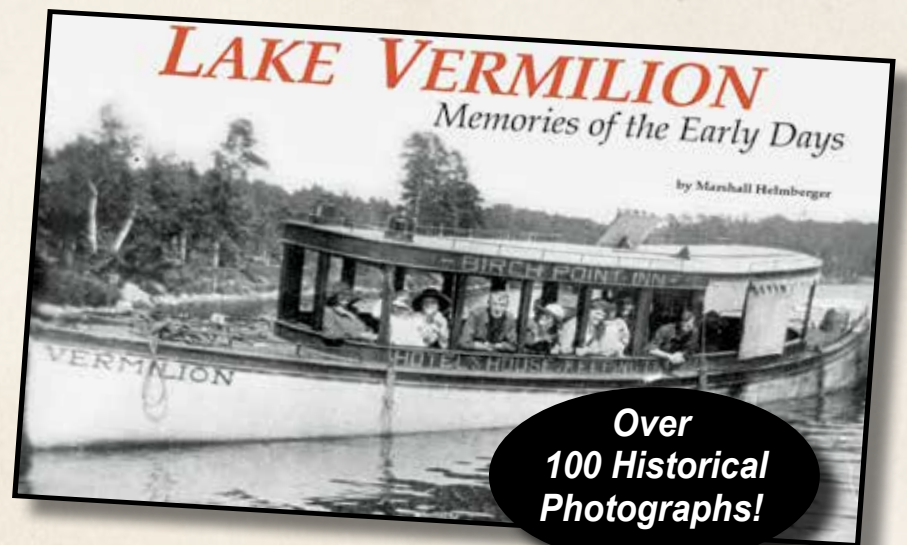
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Obituaries and Death Notices



Frank A. Planton

Frank A. Planton, 82, of Soudan, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by all his family on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022. Funeral mass will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower with Rev. Fr. Beau Braun as celebrant, with a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Frank was born on Oct. 11, 1939, to Frank G. Planton and Angela (Yapel) Planton in Soudan. Frank graduated from Tower High School in 1957. In 1959 he started his career at Erie Mining Company where he completed his welding apprenticeship, was a welder for 14 years before becoming a supervisor. In 2001, after 42 years of service, he retired from LTV Steel. He was proud to work in the mines, and he cherished the friendships that he made throughout his career.

On Oct. 21, 1961, he married the love of his life, Maria Zoe Zupancich and started a family. Frank's family was his priority. Frank and Zoe were blessed with five loving children and their families.

Frank had a love for the outdoors, which included hunting, fishing, and collecting rocks for Zoe's and his rock gardens. His real passion was fishing. He loved to fish with his family and friends and enjoyed sharing fishing stories with everyone. Fall fishing and netting whitefish in late October brought Frank great enjoyment.

Frank was an avid gardener who maintained three large gardens for many years. He loved to can and pickle vegetables and always provided an abundance of food for his family. You would often find him outside tending to his gardens and making sure they would be ready for the fall harvest.

One of Frank's joys in life was listening to Polka music. You could hear Frank's polka music playing throughout the day. At night he would fall asleep listening to beautiful polka songs. Frank and Zoe also loved polka dancing and attended 36 polka festivals in Cleveland, Milwaukee, and Chicago.

Frank is survived by children: Margie (Rodney) Burgess, Frank J. (Carmen) Planton, John Planton, Mike Planton, and Annie (Tony) Tekautz; eight grandchildren, Carleen (Mike), Brian (Julia), Cole, Bradley, Leanne, Stefanie, Brent, and Nathan; and four great-grandchildren, Mason, Greyson, Noah, and Landon, sister, Mary Lou, sister-in-law, Jana Planton and many nieces and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his loving wife, Zoe Planton of 60 years, parents, Frank and Angela Planton, his brother,

Ray and his brother-in-law, Joseph Zupancich.

A very special thank you to the East Range Hospice Team. The family would also like to recognize nurse Jo for the exceptional care provided to our dad.

Keith J. Vagle

Keith Joseph Vagle, 73, of Tower, formerly of Biwabik, died on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022, at the Solvay Hospice House in Duluth after a courageous fight with cancer. A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 19 at the Biwabik Pavilion. Private inurnment will take place in Lakeside Cemetery in Biwabik. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia. He was born on April 26, 1949, in Hallock, the son of Arnold and Nina (Crow) Vagle. He was a graduate of Biwabik High School and attended the University of Minnesota. In high school, Keith was an accomplished athlete, lettering for five years in swimming, four years in track, and three years in football. He competed in the state swim meet during three years. He sang in the choir, lettered in band, and earned the John Philip Sousa Award. While attending university, Keith was a member of the prestigious U of M marching band. His love of bands continued after college with his performing in the Biwabik Clown Band, the Hopkins West Community Band and the Mesabi Community Band.

Keith was a certified dive instructor, enjoying many hours of SCUBA diving. He had a life-altering accident in 1973, after which he was helped by the Courage Center and worked as a lab tech

for Cargill. Keith loved fishing, dogs, camping at Pathfinder Village, and always saw the best in everything. Keith is survived by brothers, Nick (Connie) Vagle of Grants Pass, Ore., and Scott (Terry) Vagle of Tower; sister-in-law, Joanne Vagle of Cross Lake; nieces and nephews, Jason (Tracy), Sarah, Ian (Amanda), Dan, Autumn and Molly; grandnieces, other extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Nina; brother, Chris; and nephew, Ricky.

Gloria M. Vertin

Gloria Mae DeBernardi Vertin, 88, a lifelong Ely resident, passed away on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022, at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital surrounded by family. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with Father Charlie Friebohle as celebrant. Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m. Private family interment will be in the Ely Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Northwood Partners - Senior Services in Ely. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia. She is survived by her daughters, Marie (Matt) Baudek, Diane (Frank Guldbrandsen) Vertin, Kathy (Ed) Vertin-Erchul, Anne (Dennis) Portinen and JoAnne (Bob) Vertin-Franklin; grandchildren, Nick (Kari), Melissa (Garrett), Sara (Charles), Amanda, Brian, Max, Alex, Lauren, Ashley (Kyle), Taylor, Shelby, Mathew and Gianna; great-grandchildren, Aiden, Christina, Mariah, Easton, Reagan and Xander; and numerous nieces and nephews. Billie J. Burritt, Billie Jeanne "BJ" Picek Bur-

ritt, 76, of Virginia, originally of Cook, died on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022, surrounded by her family. A celebration of life will be held at the historic Little Fork Lutheran Church in Cook on Friday, Aug. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Little Fork Cemetery, 9897 Wien Rd, on the corner of Samuelson Rd and Wien Rd). Refreshments and bars will be available; however there are limited facilities at the historic church. Flower delivery is not available. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia. She is survived by her mother, Margaret Picek; children, Troy Burritt and Jena (Jason) Lamppa; grandchildren, John Burritt and McKenzie Burritt; siblings, Dan (Kathy) Picek, Tom (Char) Picek and Bobbi (Roy) Siegfried; special friend, Jerry Snell; and countless friends and family she cherished.

Joni L. Dahl

Joni Lynn Dahl, 39, of Genoa Location, rural Gilbert, died tragically on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022, when her car was hit by a drunk driver on Hwy. 21 in Embarrass Township. She was a true and loyal daughter of the Iron Range who touched a multitude of lives.

Funeral services will be private. A celebration of Joni's life will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26 at the Mountain Iron Community Center. Friends, colleagues and teammates are invited to join the family to share tears, laughter, memories, photos and a meal. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Alberta F. Lah

Alberta F. "Betzy" Betzler Lah, 92, of Hibbing, died on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, at Majestic Pines of Grand Rapids.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Hibbing. Rev. Fr. Daniel Weiske will celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 19 at Dougherty Funeral Home with recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. Visitation will then continue on Saturday, Aug. 20, for one hour prior to the Funeral Mass at the church on Saturday. Interment will be in Maple Hill Cemetery of Hibbing. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Blessed Sacrament Parish or the Hibbing Hospital Auxiliary. Arrangements are with Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing.

She is survived by her children, Teresa (James) Matetich of Grand Rapids, George Lah of Cloquet, William J. Lah of Hibbing, James E. (Ruth) Lah of Ely and Steven (Siiri) Lah of Rolla, Mo.; ten grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

Rudolf J. Jensen

Rudolf J. "Rudy" Jensen, 77, of Ames, Iowa, died on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at his family's cabin on Burntside Lake near Ely.

No formal memorial service is planned at this time. A private family remembrance will be held in Minnesota at a later date. Donations and memorials may be made to the Ely-Winton Historical Society, 1900 E Camp St. Ely, MN 55731; the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation, PO Box 1832, Ames, IA 50010; or a charity of your choice in Rudy's memory. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Hannay Jensen of Ames, Iowa; son, Tomas Jensen (Heidi) and grandchildren, Lukas, Malin and Aina of Anchorage, Alaska; daughter, Eleanor Jensen of Dennison; brother, Paul (Sherill Hudson) of Daniel, Wyo.; and sister, Katharine A. Jensen (John Protevi) of Baton Rouge, La.

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LIFE AT THE LAKE

A short history of water on The Rock

You would think that when you live on an island and are surrounded by water that there couldn't possibly ever be a problem with, well, water. Only here's the rub. It's all in the lake. And as adventurous as it seems at first; the hauling buckets up for dishes, the jumping in for a cold bath, or drilling holes in the ice, eventually our modern convenience



APRIL WAMHOFF

seeking minds or our aging bodies turn to the possibility of having indoor, running water.

Of course, our journey with water started like everyone's. You know, it's only a short distance to grab a couple of 5-gallon buckets for house water and dog water. The dogs, of course, never really drink from the lake. They liked it hauled

up, too. Is it girls or boys at the docks for first "baths?" And, lest we forget, the midnight jaunts to the little shack out back. Of course, we modernized as we could: electricity meant a heater and a light we could turn on from the house before heading out to the shack and eventually we could draft lake water in the summer for house water and an indoor potty! The addition of a water heater meant hot showers out on the deck. Oh, for wilderness luxury!

All that still left us stranded off the rock for winter or, as we

Right: Drillers installing a new well at The Rock.

photo by A. Wamhoff

were coming to think of it, back to the caveman days of drilling holes in the ice and carrying buckets. I doubt that cavemen had ice augers and plastic buckets but still...

A few years ago, when I decided the rock would be my full-time residence, I put heat lines into the water lines.

See **WATER...pg. 5B**



RECOVERY EFFORT

Big hopes for Big Rice

Wild rice project making progress this year in wake of COVID, drought challenges

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

BIG RICE LAKE— For much of this summer, the roar of an airboat engine has regularly broken the sounds of nature that normally dominate the shores of this remarkable lake, tucked away in the Superior National Forest about 12 miles north of Virginia. It's been the most productive season yet in a multi-year effort to return this 2,000-acre water body to its former status as one of the state's premier lakes for wild rice.

It's been three years since the state's Outdoor Heritage Fund agreed to dedicate \$845,000 to the restoration effort but planned work has been delayed the past two years, first due to COVID-19, and, last year, due to the extreme drought, which made parts of the lake inaccessible even to airboats.

The airboat and the roving DNR crews that man the machine have been waging a battle with pickerel weed, a native, aquatic plant known for its somewhat showy purple flowers, emergent heart-shaped leaves, and its propensity for forming thick mats of rhizomes and vegetation that effectively block other plants, like wild rice, from growing.

In many of the shallow lakes where wild rice grows, the competition between wild rice and pickerel weed has gone on for generations. In recent years, however, perhaps due in part to climate change, aquatic plants like pickerel weed and



water lilies, have seemed to gain the upper hand on many lakes, including Big Rice.

The Department of Natural Resources, which controls the public waters even on lakes in the national forest, has taken on the mission of restoring the lake, in part because the agency acknowledges it played a role in the decline of rice here.

For years, beavers essentially controlled the lake level on Big Rice, and the natural fluctuations that caused provided variable wild rice crops on Big Rice. In a good year, the lake looked like a wheat field from the shore and would attract hundreds of rickers as well as tens of thousands of ducks, geese, and other waterfowl.

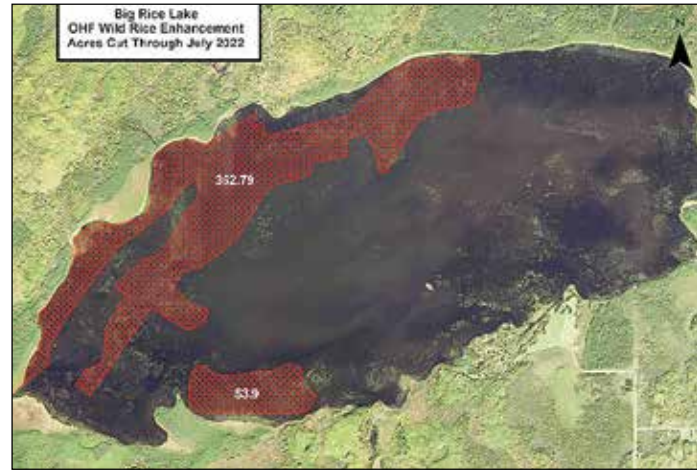
In 1995, DNR officials

See **BIG RICE...pg. 5B**

Top: A DNR crew member operates the recently-purchased air boat on Big Rice Lake. Cutting blades that hang out the back below the water line, slice off the leaf stems of the pickerel weed, setting the stage for a possible recovery of wild rice.

Above: Looking along the edge of the pickerel weed patch being "mowed" shows the effectiveness of the mowing process.

Below: A map showing the area treated so far this year in red.



Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
CANADA GOLDENROD



The wispy, yellow flower stalks of the **Canada Goldenrod**, *Solidago canadensis*, are always a reminder that fall is just around the corner. Technically, there are three very similar goldenrods that are commonly lumped under the heading of Canada Goldenrod, but there's little need for the average wildflower lover to worry about such things. In general, this plant is readily identified by its height (typically about three feet although it can be much taller), its narrow, pointed leaves and its wisps of tiny golden flowers, that are highly attractive to bees and other pollinators this time of year.

Like most fall-blooming wildflowers, it's a member of the aster family.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing has slowed as walleyes are scattered and food is plentiful. Anglers have been covering ground in an attempt to locate biters. Trolling crankbaits continues to be the best option to not only locate walleyes, but locate feeding fish. Trolling shad raps in size seven, eight and nine with lead core and trolling tail dancers down to 18-25 feet of water has been very effective. Perch, firetiger and white have been the best colors. Anglers have also been catching walleyes trolling spinner rigs tipped with leeches. Increasingly anglers are finding walleye out on sunken islands, in 18-25 feet of water. Hammered gold, copper and nickel blades have been very popular here. If you're marking walleyes, but are having a hard time getting them to bite, jigging raps have been triggering walleyes. We are also seeing more reports of bigger minnows starting to work as well.

Panfishing has been very popular this last week as weed beds are hitting their peak and panfish are located in and around them. Sunfish anglers have been using medium size leeches, waxies and angleworms, inside and on weed lines. Small beetle spins have also been very popular. Anglers seeking crappies have been fishing weed lines or just outside the weed lines. Again, beetle spins, jig and twisters and crappie minnows, fished under a bobber have been very popular. As evening approaches crappies start sliding up and into weed beds to feed.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, in Ely

SUMMER SUN DOGS



While common in winter, sun dogs, like these visible last week from a kayak on Stuntz Bay, are unusual in August. photo by M. Helmberger

WATER...Continued from page 4B

A huge improvement for drafting water from the lake in the winter. Goodbye, Caveman! Almost.

While the heat lines did keep the water from freezing there seemed to be other factors affecting the lines themselves. The plastic pipe itself would shrink or the ice would shift and pull the pipes apart at the weakest connection. I found myself, on a couple of occasions, having no water halfway through a shower, while quickly producing a lovely ice rink in the front yard. And, of course, it always happened when it was at least 20 below.

Now, while I have a bit of a do-it-yourselfer bone, which I get from my father, I decided it was time, and maybe past time to contact the professionals. I don't suppose that I can give a shameless plug to who I have come to think of as MY plumbers and well drillers, but I contacted Froe Brothers and they returned my call right away. Yes, they

would look at my lake water system and see what could be done but the real solution to my water problem was to drill a well. Oh boy...

And so, the decision was made. I cannot say enough about the professionalism and dedication of the Froe Brothers and staff. They were almost as excited as I was when we hit water at 65 feet. They kept handing me pieces of the drilled rock from the well shaft and I still have them. The water is clear and delicious. And when all was said and done, they say we have enough water to run a car wash. An interesting idea for an island place, so stay tuned!

Do you think that I have reached the end of the history of water on the island? Or maybe the highlights will change only every century or so. My modern convenience seeking mind and my aging body hope so.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
72 56				73 56				75 56				76 55				74 52			
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.
08/08	67	49	0.05	08/08	67	50	0.05	08/08	72	54	0.00	08/08	73	50	0.47	08/08	66	49	0.10
08/09	75	50	0.00	08/09	73	48	0.00	No readings at presstime				08/09	82	55	0.00	08/09	73	48	0.00
08/10	83	48	0.01	08/10	83	47	0.01					08/10	75	57	0.00	08/10	82	47	0.00
08/11	76	41	0.00	08/11	75	40	0.00					08/11	73	45	0.00	08/11	75	41	0.00
08/12	77	42	0.00	08/12	79	40	0.00					08/12	70	54	0.00	08/12	75	41	0.00
08/13	70	51	0.11	08/13	71	53	0.10					08/13	75	59	0.00	08/13	69	50	0.00
08/14	75	48	0.00	08/14	74	47	0.00					08/14	81	54	0.00	08/14	75	48	0.00
YTD Total	16.54			YTD Total	18.69			YTD Total	18.88			YTD Total	NA NA			YTD Total	23.72		

BIG RICE...Continued from page 4B

decided they could provide more reliable rice crops on the lake by getting rid of the beavers, installing a water control weir at the lake's outlet, and maintaining lower and more stable water levels. For the first year or two, the strategy appeared to work, but the stable water levels eventually gave pickerel weed the competitive edge and wild rice crops declined quickly and sharply.

Melissa Thompson, who is now the DNR's shallow lakes specialist based in Tower, is overseeing the restoration effort. She acknowledges that some members of the public at the time had predicted the DNR's management plan could unleash the pickerel weed. But lower water levels had seemed to help some other wild rice lakes in the state, so the DNR persisted — and learned a lesson the hard way.

"It turns out, some instability actually benefits rice," said Thompson.

Now, they're trying to tilt the balance back in favor of wild rice, using the airboat and attached cutting blades, purchased through the grant funds, to essentially mow the large patches of pickerel weed that have come to dominate parts of the lake that once held wild rice. Using methods pioneered by the Fond du Lac Band, Thompson said the DNR has learned that by mowing the emergent pickerel a foot or two underwater at least twice a year, they can set it back enough to give wild rice a fighting chance. Sediment

core samples taken on the lake show there's still rice seed in the sediment and research from other lakes suggests that seed can remain viable for as long as 20 years. In other words, if the DNR can set the stage, the rice should come back.

With help from Fond du Lac, the DNR initially tested the method on Big Rice using several plots. Thompson said the rice showed it could recover, which led to the plan to seek big-time money for a major restoration effort.

Some of those funds went initially to rebuild the public access on the north side of Big Rice. The lake there was too shallow to accommodate the large airboat and a barrier of larger rocks a bit further offshore proved another impediment. So, the DNR excavated a new channel to provide better access.

In 2020, the DNR had planned to hire a seasonal crew, based in Tower, to operate the airboat but COVID put a temporary hold on that plan. In 2021,

the agency used a roving seasonal crew to operate the airboat, but as water levels dropped precipitously throughout the summer, the work had to be suspended.

This year, both COVID and Mother Nature have been more cooperative and the battle against pickerel weed has resumed in earnest, as the airboat has been out on the lake most weekdays for the past couple months. Last year, the airboat crew was able to mow about 400 acres twice, before the low water halted the work. This year, as of the first week of August, Thompson said the airboat has already mowed about 400 acres, with about a month remaining in the cutting season.

"We just want to cut as much as we can, now," said Thompson.

So far, the mowing has been focused on the lake's north and west side where the pickerel weed is the thickest.

It's been an especially expensive effort this

summer. Thompson said the airboat can consume 80 gallons of gas in a full day, and with current gas prices, that adds up quickly. Even so, she said she doesn't expect to expend all the grant funds when they expire at the end of the 2024 fiscal year. That's because COVID prevented much of the hiring Thompson had anticipated for the work, and the crews working the airboat this year are being funded by another pot of money unrelated to the grant.

In addition to mowing the pickerel weed, Thompson said the DNR hopes to utilize a harvester barge from the Fond du Lac to dig out some of the thicker mats of pickerel weed roots and rhizomes. The DNR also bought a much smaller "mudboat" and motor, with a front-mounted cutting attachment that crews can use on the thicker mats.

In addition to the work on pickerel weed, Thompson said the DNR also plans to remove the

rock weir that agency officials installed in 1995 and allow the lake level to fluctuate naturally, as it did in the past. Thompson said that work should be completed in late fall this year or spring of next year.

The DNR is also considering trying to till the sediments in some parts of the lake in order to bring old rice seed closer to the surface, in an effort to encourage its germination.

The grant budget also includes funds to purchase wild rice seed from elsewhere, but Thompson said the agency will try to avoid doing that if possible. Wild rice varies remarkably from lake to lake and Big Rice was well known for the high quality of its rice kernels, which were exceptionally long and thick enough to avoid splitting during processing. Importing seed from other lakes could impact that quality, once again disappointing ricers. Thompson said the sediment cores taken on the lake suggest there's enough seed remaining for a recovery,

so for now it appears any plan to use rice seed from elsewhere is on hold.

Future in question

While the DNR is optimistic about the prospects for restoring the rice crop on Big Rice, Thompson acknowledges that managing for this iconic Minnesota crop is likely to be more challenging as time goes by, and that even once recovered, Big Rice is likely to require ongoing maintenance to keep pickerel weed at bay.

"We've seen pickerel weed exploding in other lakes as well," she said. "It's likely climate change related." As Minnesota's climate continues to warm, its most famous wild grain could easily vanish into history. At least for now, Thompson said the agency remains focused on its current goal. "The bigger picture is we just want to bring the rice back," she said.

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

Table with 10 columns and 10 rows of numbers for a puzzle.

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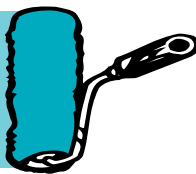
NFL MIX-UP

- CROSSWORD CLUES: 1 Cheddar-like cheese, 6 Pointy heel, 14 Catching with a lariat, 20 Love to bits, 21 Decorative park shelter, 22 Intro, 23 NFL team whose logo is a red planet?, 25 Canadian metropolis, 26 Guitar ridge, 27 Manning of the Giants, 28 Co. kingpins, 30 Cookout raiders, 31 NFL team whose logo is a prairie?, 38 President of Syria, 41 Small-time Longoria and Mendes, 42 Actresses, 43 NFL team whose logo is a bracelet?, 48 Poet Jonson, 51 Estrada of "CHiPs", 52 D-Day invasion river, 53 Here-there link, 54 Opposite of staccato, 56 Headed up Thurman of "Robin Hood", 58 NFL team whose logo is a steak?, 61 "Fideles" (yule carol), 63 Go by ship abbr., 65 Pre-takeoff abbr., 66 Biblical "ark-itect", 67 NFL team whose logo is a Lipitor pill?, 72 Gillette razor, 75 Rhinoplasty doc, 76 Nix from Nixon, say, 77 Like most slasher films, 81 NFL team whose logo is a sword?, 85 Diving seabird, 86 Wood chopper, 87 Venus — (Louvre statue), 88 Brian of electronica, 89 Super-close buds, 91 Where a goatee grows, 92 Just-OK mark, 93 NFL team whose logo is a cheese curd?, 98 Old film critic James, 99 Justice Kagan, 100 Oscar winner Witherspoon, 101 NFL team whose logo is an amoeba?, 108 Arkin of film, 109 San —, Italy, 110 L-P link, 111 Final Four org., 115 "Honor Thy Father" author Gay, 117 NFL team whose logo is a perfume bottle?, 123 Lounging, 124 Board, as a train, 125 Slabs, 126 Alleviate, 127 Half a school year, 128 Really vexed, 7 Lucky charm, 8 "— done it!", 9 Fleur-de- —, 10 "A Nightmare on — Street", 11 Carrer of "True Lies", 12 Illuminator on a dime, 13 Advent, 14 President on a dime, 15 Choose, 16 Floral parts, 17 Nonsensical, 18 Pond wrigglers, 19 Lawn stuff, 24 Catch on to, 29 Baseballer Hershiser, 32 Tyrant Amin, 33 Light meal, 34 Prefix with cycle, 35 Burglarize, 36 Actor Hugh, 37 Artist's stand, 38 Amtrak train, 39 Fathered, 40 Sarcastic, 44 Ladies' club policy, 45 Target of the Million Mom March, for short, 46 What the weary have, in a saying, 47 Little cave, 84 Chachi player Scott, 49 Volcano in Sicily, 50 Light meal on — call?, 55 "Who ya — call?", 57 Colorado tribe, 58 Affront, informally, 59 Pupil, in Paris, 60 Suffragist — B. Wells, 62 "My Two Dads" actress Keenan, 63 Karate teacher, 64 Former name of Kazakhstan's capital, 68 Prefix with 101-Down, 69 Ending for auction, 70 Bridge beam, 71 Rile, 72 "Moneytalks" rock band, 73 You, quaintly, 74 "The — of the Ancient Mariner", 78 Western lake, 79 Leaves, 80 Concentrated, 82 Put straight, 83 Taken eco-friendly measures, 84 Like filets archiving org., 89 U2 vocalist, 90 Apartment sharer, to a Brit, 91 Neat and wholesome, 94 Nixing mark, 95 High peak, 96 For every screen, 97 Old PC, 98 Trojan hero, 101 Birth-related, 102 Thrill, 103 Swansea locale, 104 Stockpile, 105 Opposite of day, in Italy, 106 Soon to receive, as a treat, 107 Fa follower, 112 Traffic marker, 113 Singer Paul, 114 Office helper: Abbr., 116 Iceland-to-Ireland dir., 118 NASA lander, 119 Chimp, e.g. Denials, 121 Blast creator, 122 "Eureka!"

19x19 crossword grid with black squares and numbers 1-128.



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