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# the **TIMBERJAY**



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## SULFIDE MINING

# Twin Metals sues to reinstate leases

Claim they have absolute right to mineral leases canceled by Biden administration

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
 Managing Editor

**REGIONAL**— Twin Metals Minnesota made it clear this week that they intend to fight to reclaim two federal mineral leases critical to their plans to build a copper-nickel mine southeast of Ely.

The company, controlled by Chilean copper mining giant Antofagasta, announced on Monday that they have filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration asking the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. to overturn the administration's decision to cancel the two federal leases,

among other actions.

In a related step, the company filed a notice of related case, in hopes of airing their lawsuit before the same Trump-appointed judge, Trevor McFadden, who had earlier ruled in the company's favor. Normally, new cases are assigned randomly to judges in a pool.

Twin Metals, in a statement issued Monday, accused the Biden Interior Department of canceling its leases illegally. "In doing so, the agency contradicted the position it asserted and successfully defended in a federal court just four years

See...**MINING** pg. 11



## VOYAGEURS

# Ecklund says 'overzealous' law enforcement could impact VNP tourism

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
 Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL**- Complaints from surrounding communities and business owners about what they see as overzealous law enforcement by Voyageurs National Park rangers have reached the ears of a local state legislator, who is calling for federal and state actions to address the issue.

In a letter to the *Timberjay*, District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, expressed concern about the allegations and the detrimental impact they could have on regional tourism. That letter appears in this week's edition of the *Timberjay*.

"I have talked to the Park Superintendent (Bob DeGross) about these events. The vast majority of the folks that come to spend their vacations in our great North Country are law-abiding citizens and have decided to spend their time and money in our communities," Ecklund stated in his letter. "Bottom line: I want people to enjoy the park, provide jobs for our local businesses, have park rangers who are ambassadors for the park, and minimize harassing stops of our guests."

Ecklund is calling for action at the federal level.

"I have requested that our federal congressional delegation support starting a civilian commission to have some oversight of law enforcement activities in



**Rep. Rob Ecklund**

See...**VNP** pg. 12



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

# 'This is a magical place'

Veterans on the Lake Resort celebrates improvements for disabled veterans

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
 Ely Editor

**WINTON** - Lonn Cunningham, who is from Iowa and now lives in Texas, served his country in the first Gulf War, and after he came home from his military service he got hit by a drunk driver. He has been in a wheelchair ever since.

He has one arm and very limited mobility, but there are few places he can't get to at Veterans on the Lake Resort in his motorized wheelchair.



**Top:** Disabled military veteran Lonn Cunningham gets ready to board a pontoon boat for a Fall Lake fishing outing at Veterans on the Lake Resort. **Above:** Recent improvements to the resort include fire danger mitigation with wood chips used to make handicap-accessible paths. photos by K. Vandervort

If one looks closely, one will see a custom-made fishing rod holder and casting apparatus that allows him to catch all the

fish he wants on Fall Lake. "This is a magical place. I've been coming up here now for about 20 years," he said to

Minnesota's Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke

See...**VETS** pg. 10

## BACK TO SCHOOL

# Ely school district looks for return to a normal school year

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
 Ely Editor

COVID-19 public health protocols dialed back as students return

**ELY** - What a difference a year makes. In the late summer of 2021, as ISD 696 administrators took required steps to adjust COVID-19 public health protocols to keep students and staff safe, some in this

community aggressively pushed back against a face mask mandate and other safety measures.

As an updated Ely School Safe Learning Plan for that school year was initiated, enrollment dropped

as parents pulled their kids out of school to protest the measures. School board members heard an earful from many vocal community members as they complained of over-reach by the district. Threats

were directed at the superintendent. The Ely Police Department was present at a crowded, contentious meeting held in the school gymnasium last August.

This week, ISD 696 school board members took

state and federal public health changes to heart and revised the school district's Safe Learning Plan for the start of the new school year. Not a single parent or community member at the school board meeting

Monday night was there to complain or, for that matter, praise board members for continuing to make the hard decisions to keep students and staff safe while COVID-19 still exists in this community and across the state and nation.

See...**ELY** pg. 9



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## Community notices



### Community Night Out set for Sept. 11 at Seitaniemi House in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage of Embarrass is celebrating their annual Community Night Out on Sun, Sept. 11 from 4-6:30 p.m. at the historic Seitaniemi Homestead. Singer-songwriter Preston Gunderson will provide the music. Come for a free outdoor concert and a tour of the restored house at this family-friendly event.

Bring your own beverage, blanket and lawn chair. Chili, pie and coffee will be available.

Freewill donations are gladly accepted. Proceeds go to Sisu's restoration projects in Embarrass and the surrounding area. Local businesses sponsoring this event include C&C Winger Construction, Benville Service, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union and Wintergreen Northern Wear.

The Seitaniemi Homestead is located on Comet Road in Waasa, between Embarrass and Babbitt. Watch for signs on Hwy 21. Call 218.984.3012 or visit sisuheritage.org for more information.

### Sons of Norway to meet Sept. 1

VIRGINIA- The Sons of Norway 40 will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Virginia City Hall Club Room on Thurs., Sept. 1 for the annual Lapskaus Supper. Serving Committee: Mary Yapel, Phyllis & Richard Starich and Nancy Roseen.

Anyone interested in Scandinavian culture and heritage is invited to attend.

### Finnish Americans and Friends meeting Sept. 6 features Eric Jaakkola

A little-known part of WWII history will be told at the next meeting of Finnish Americans and Friends, Tues., Sept. 6, at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. W, Hibbing. Eric Jaakkola will tell of his experience of being a young boy sent to Sweden during the war. Eric was born in Finland but later came to the US where he had a career as a producer and editor of a Finnish talk and variety show. The public is invited to this event; a coffee social time follows the program.

### Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet Thursday, Sept. 1 in Tower

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilt Guild will meet in the lower level of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1. After the meeting, there will be a program presented by Maggie Manion and Liz Villnow, who will show samples of their favorite quilt patterns. The show and tell theme for September is showing various ways of using striped fabric in quilts. Visitors are welcome to attend.

## TRAVELING TALE TELLERS

# Road tripping writers visit area libraries

MT. IRON - The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) is presenting "Road Tripping Writers" with Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich around the area through the month of September.

After cooling their heels throughout the pandemic, Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich are overdue for a road trip. They'll make the rounds in the ALS to reconnect with readers, share what they've been up to - and maybe even what they've written. You know these Minnesota authors for such books as *Chronicles of a Radical Hag*, *Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons*, *Vacationland*, and *Reeling*.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be hosting Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich," said ALS Regional Librarian Mollie Stanford.

"It's an amazing experience to meet authors of this caliber, and we are excited patrons will have this



Lorna Landvik (left) and Sarah Stonich (right) - Road Tripping Writers in the Arrowhead Library System

opportunity at libraries in the ALS region."

Meet up with Sarah and Lorna in person to discover what writers share when they talk about writing. Program length is 60 minutes and is recommended for ages 14 and up.

This is a free program being offered at the following locations:

- Wed., Sept. 7, 6 p.m. International Falls Public Library
- Thurs., Sept. 8, 2 p.m. Hibbing Public Library

►Thurs., Sept. 8, 6 p.m. Virginia Public Library

►Fri., Sept. 9, 1 p.m. Hoy Lakes Public Library

►Sat., Sept. 10, 10:30 a.m. Eveleth Public Library

►Thurs., Sept. 15, 10:30 a.m. Ely Public Library

►Thurs., Sept. 15, 5:30 p.m. Cook Community Center

►Fri., Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m. Aurora Public Library

►Fri., Sept. 16, 3:30 p.m. Babbitt Public Library

►Tues., Sept. 20, 1 p.m. Chisholm Public Library

This program, sponsored by the Arrowhead Library System was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH). To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alslibinfo](http://www.facebook.com/alslibinfo).

## Embarrass Regional Fair starts on Friday, Aug. 26

EMBARRASS- It's time to get ready for the Embarrass Regional 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 is set for Aug. 26-28 and 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.

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.

Crafts and fair food booths are available all three days, along with a beer garden, and Wizard Kingdom Inflatables. 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.

The annual dog show gets underway at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with registration from 9 - 9:45 a.m. Races for all ages start at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

The fair action winds down on Sunday with the annual parade at 2 p.m. on Highway 21.

More details on page 12 in the Embarrass Regional Fair ad.

## THE SOUND OF VICTORY

# 40th Annual Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships names new champion

MT. IRON - The fiddle contest tradition lived on at the 40th Annual Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships held Aug. 13 in Mt. Iron. Fiddlers young and old enjoyed competing for cash and prizes, performing for a live audience, and growing as a musician through feedback from two expert judges. The audience comprised both local residents and summer tourists all of whom appeared to enjoy the show. The contest is certified by the National Old Time Fiddlers Association.

Sawyer Corcoran, from Shevlin, MN took top honors at the day's event being named the new Minnesota State Champion fiddler. This qualifies Corcoran to participate in the National Old Time Fiddle Championships in Weiser, Idaho

next June. Corcoran not only came in first place in the Championship Division, but he also won the non-fiddle division competing on the mandolin, and won the twin fiddle division with 2021 state champion, Aaron Wilcox.

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

►Championship Division: First Place Sawyer Corcoran, Shevlin, MN, Second Place Elias O'Brien, St. Paul, MN, Third Place Sheila Wilcox - Mountain Iron, Fourth Place Kailyn Spencer-Duluth, Fifth Place David Greenwood-Sanchez, St. Paul.



2022 MN State Champion Fiddler Sawyer Corcoran from Shevlin, Minnesota

►Junior-Junior Division: First Place Carmen Morgan, Britt, Second Place Katie Louks, Virginia.

►Junior Division: First Place Aaron Wilcox, Duluth, Second Place Lillian Archambeau, Virginia.

►Senior Division: First Place Teresa Walter, Rochester, Second Place

Linnea Manning, Virginia, Third Place Susan Hoppa, Chisholm.

►Non-Fiddle Division: First Place Sawyer Corcoran (mandolin), Shevlin, Second Place Ellie Norvitch (viola), Gilbert, Third Place Lynett Pearson (cello), Virginia.

►Twin Fiddling: First Place Aaron Wilcox and Sawyer Corcoran, Second Place Ellie Norvitch and Lynette Pearson, Third Place Sheila Wilcox and Lillian Archambeau, Fourth Place Maria Louks and Katie Louks. For more information on the MN State Old Time Fiddle championships see the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra Facebook page or check out the webpage at [www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/FiddleContest](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/FiddleContest)

read us online at  
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DAYS GONE BY

# Olson sisters address a packed house

Last of this summer's Tower-Soudan History Talks draws a standing-room-only crowd

by Rachel Brophy  
Staff Writer

TOWER- Sisters Lynn Olson and Debbie Olson Shields drew a big crowd to Pike River Products, which once housed the Olson Grocery and Hardware Store, with people eager to hear the story of their father, Bob Olson, and grandfather, Herman T. Olson, both of whom were business owners and prominent civic leaders in the Tower-Soudan community. The presentation hosted by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) on Aug. 16 was its final Main Street History Talk of the 2022 season.

Dianna Sundahl, whose new business Pike River Products is located in the building that originally housed the Olson family business, said her research into the history of the building led her to find out more about the Olson family.

The Olson sisters began telling the story of their family's history, including many family connections in Tower. Lynn immediately introduced her aunt Arlene sitting in the

front row. She is one of three remaining members of her father's generation of the Olson family. Her mother, Fanny, served as Breitung Town Clerk (the position now held by the day's host, Dianna Sundahl) for many years after Arlene's father, Swan, died while working in the Soudan mine.

Much of the story told by Lynn and Debbie came from the diaries and notes kept by their grandfather Herman T. Olson, whose family moved to the "booming town" of Tower in 1903 in order for Herman and his brothers to get a good education. In 1914, Herman T. Olson bought the general store where he worked along with his friend, Axel Loffgren. Loffgren was then drafted during World War I, and the store became known as Olson's Store; the official beginning of the long history of the Olson name as a mainstay on Tower's Main Street. After the death of Herman T.'s first wife, Ethel, in 1920, he became even more involved in various business, religious and political organizations



around the Tower community, including serving on the school board and city council. He also operated the Idlewild Hotel on Isle of Pines and started a branch store on Birch Point in 1921. That same year he was also elected mayor of Tower. Linda explained, "During his

tenure as mayor, the town got electricity and water and sewer, and that's when they became the city form of government."

In 1926, Herman T. Olson was remarried to Lila Towley, a nurse from the Twin Cities. The couple had three sons, and Towley adopted the first three



Above: A blaze in Feb. of 1940 burned down the family business as well as their home upstairs.

On left: Debbie Olson Shields (left) and her big sister Lynn Olson donned the aprons worn years back by their father and grandfather. Photos submitted by Nancy Larson

children from Olson's first marriage. During the 1930s, Olson, along with his brother Oscar, ran Marshall Wells Hardware, Groceries and Dry Goods, all in one building and the Olson family lived upstairs. In February 1940, the store burned to the ground.

"There was nothing

left," Linda said, adding, "Fortunately, everyone escaped, both customers and family escaped the fire."

Within five days after the fire, Herman T. had a makeshift store up and running. The building that is now the home of Pike

See SISTERS...pg. 5

# ISD 2142 board prepares for start of school year

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- Tuesday's meeting of the ISD 2142 St. Louis County School Board was a relatively short one devoted primarily to handling a number of items to prep for the return of staff and the start of classes on Sept. 6.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said that teachers would be returning on Tuesday for a professional development day focused on wellness. She also announced that district schools will host open houses on Wednesday, Aug. 31 from 4-7 p.m.

"And then all the kids first grade through 12th return the next

Tuesday (Sept. 6)," she said. "Kindergarteners don't start until that Thursday. We're ready." When Engebritson asked if there were any questions, board member Bob Larson inquired about school lunches.

"With hot lunch, if a kid doesn't have money we feed them anyway, right?" he said.

Engebritson explained that those children likely aren't served the main entrée but get an alternative, along with milk and fruit.

"Is that what we really want to do to kids?" Larson said. "Some little kid doesn't have the money to pay and we're going to make him eat a different

lunch? I have a concern with that."

Engebritson noted that families with financial challenges should be eligible for free or reduced meals, and said that they make a concerted effort to get all eligible families signed up. At Larson's request, Engebritson agreed to check on how such incidents are handled and report back to the board.

In other business, the board:

- ▶ Passed a revised drug-free workplace/drug-free school policy that has been modified to include THC-infused edibles and beverages that became legal in Minnesota on July 1. The policy was reviewed

at the Aug. 9 board working session and was enacted on an emergency basis for one year. Doing so allows the policy to go into effect immediately, circumventing the normal requirement of having a proposed policy read at three consecutive meetings before it can be acted upon.

- ▶ Passed a similarly updated drug and alcohol testing policy, also on an emergency basis.

- ▶ Acknowledged the first reading of proposed revisions to the district's internet acceptable use and safety policy.

- ▶ Adopted a three-year agreement with Teamsters Local No. 346 covering the terms of employment for

those employees working with the Indigenous Education Program (formerly Indian Education). The hourly wage for the renamed Indigenous Support I position (formerly Indian Education Program Interventionist) was raised from \$23.92 to \$26.47 for the current school year. The hourly rate for the Indigenous Support II position (formerly Indian Education Program Assistant) was raised from \$15.05 to \$15.96.

- ▶ Heard a proposal from Gary Martinson, of Cook, to purchase a school-owned vacant lot in Cook. Martinson was the successful bidder on

several adjacent lots last month, but there were no bids submitted for the lot in question. Martinson wanted to know if the board would be willing to negotiate on the sale of the property and made an initial proposal of \$2,050 on the lot, which has an estimated market value of \$4,100. Per policy, the board had no discussion and took no action on Martinson's proposal, as it was made during the public comment portion of the meeting. The board will discuss it at an upcoming meeting.

- ▶ Extended the open enrollment date for the 2023-24 school year to

See 2142...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Stauber votes no again

Eighth District congressman fails to represent the interests of our region

It seems nearly every missive from the office of Pete Stauber in recent months has left us here at the newspaper shaking our heads, jaws agape. We think we've grown used to the congressman's hyper-partisanship and his constant dissembling, but then the latest press statement arrives and, somehow, he manages to lower the bar even further.

Perhaps he believes that his over-the-top rhetoric will prevent his constituents from realizing a basic fact about their Eighth District GOP congressman — that he regularly votes against the interests of our region.

Take the recently-passed Inflation Reduction Act, which Stauber, naturally, voted against. The wide-ranging measure takes a number of worthwhile steps in the areas of energy, health care, and taxes.

On the healthcare side, the measure caps insulin prices for Medicare beneficiaries at just \$35 for a month's supply, far less than the hundreds of dollars that many insulin users currently pay. The law also, for the first time, gives Medicare the ability to negotiate lower prices on a number of high-use pharmaceuticals and it requires that drug companies pay a rebate to Medicare if they raise drug prices faster than the cost of inflation. The new law also sets a \$2,000 annual out-of-pocket cap for drugs purchased by Medicare Part D beneficiaries. At the same time, it maintains the enhanced premium assistance for middle income individuals or families buying health insurance on the private MNSure marketplace.

Stauber, in his statement, doesn't say much about the healthcare side of the bill, since he undoubtedly knows these items will be popular with the vast majority of his constituents. But he does take time to parrot a long-overused drug company talking point, suggesting that any controls on drug prices will stifle drug innovation. As if Americans are, uniquely on the planet, supposed to be held financial hostage by drug companies so these fabulously wealthy companies can throw a couple percentage points of their profits towards their next big seller. No other government officials in any other country have ever tried selling this line of manure to their people. It's only trotted out by Republicans, like Stauber, right here in the U.S.

On the energy side, the bill will help folks in the Eighth District save money, by paying a good chunk of the cost of improving the energy efficiency of their home. The bill includes truly hefty rebates on highly-efficient heating systems, such as air source

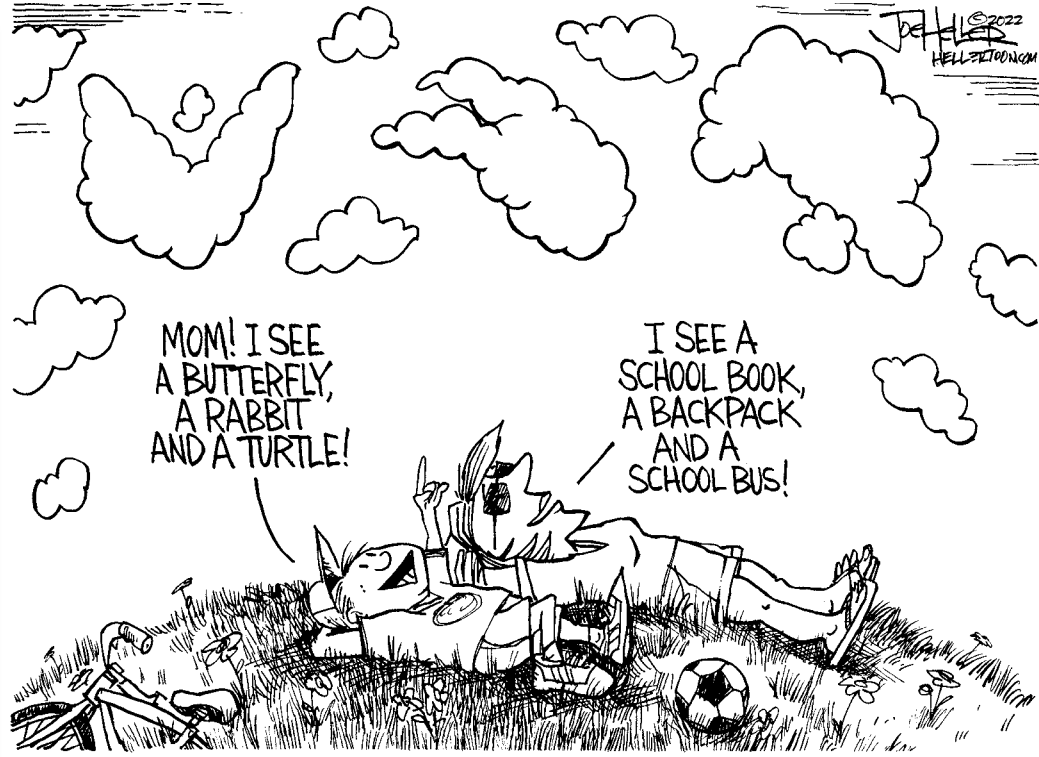
heat pumps, as well as many appliances, which will help reduce your energy bill. It also makes major investments in renewable sources of power and offers 30 percent tax credits for homeowners who install photovoltaics on their roof. That's another investment in lowering electric bills, while simultaneously addressing the climate crisis.

Stauber calls the measure “a \$12 billion attack on clean energy production, which will further punish American families at the pump.” Yes, that strikes us as unintelligible gobbledegook as well.

The measure, incidentally, had a number of sweeteners for the oil and gas industry, at the behest of West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, but Stauber doesn't mention any of those measures.

On taxes, he states that the new law's \$80 billion investment in the Internal Revenue Service is intended to “harass and intimidate American families, farmers, and small businesses.” That's not just false, it directly ignores the very real disaster the U.S. has experienced for its chronic underinvestment in the IRS. Pity the poor taxpayer who is trying to do his or her own taxes (to save money) and has a question for the IRS. Only one in ten taxpayers looking for help is actually able to reach an IRS staffer because of their depleted workforce. At the same time, the agency's auditing division is so overwhelmed that the wealthy have all but gotten away with murder in recent years. And because auditing the taxes of the wealthy is complicated and time-consuming, the agency has focused in recent years on the easy audits, mostly of low and middle-income families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Meanwhile, the real scofflaws get to skate. Current estimates put the uncollected tax bill in the U.S. at nearly a trillion dollars a year, and the vast majority of that is from the wealthy and large corporations. Having the auditors to go after these big-time tax cheats would go a long way toward addressing the federal budget deficit and allow for lower taxes on the rest of us.

A law that reduces the price of prescription drugs, helps Americans cut their energy use and save more money, addresses climate change, and makes our tax system fairer would seem to help an awful lot of residents of the Eighth District. So why is Pete Stauber voting no on this kind of legislation? Who is he really representing? Certainly, not us.



AUGUST

## Letters from Readers

### Let's keep Rob Ecklund working for our region

Whenever I have contacted Rep. Rob Ecklund, our representative in the Minnesota House, I have been impressed by his responsiveness and follow-up. I am fortunate in that I haven't had to ask for help too often but when I did, Rob was successful in getting the information to me and the necessary legislation passed.

The last time I asked Rob for help was to get better internet service to our rural home. Living in a rural area, our internet was very poor. Our school-aged kids did their homework on the computer but couldn't send their completed assignments to their teachers by the internet as was required until late at night, well past their bedtime. Rob helped me research cable internet but we found it was way too expensive to install in a rural area.

Rob saw that providing good internet service to rural areas was best done by fiber optic cable. He has had laser-like focus on securing state funding to provide rural areas with high-speed broadband internet. Rob has been a leader in the Legislature on building broadband internet infrastructure wherever it is lacking. He has enabled rural Minnesotans to get high speed internet as those in the metro areas have had. As of this summer, we now have excellent internet service and I have Rob to thank for that.

Rob has been so successful in getting broadband internet service to his mostly rural district we need to keep him working for us. Please think of his dedication, hard work and success in making our 3A District and all of Minnesota a better place to live when you vote in November.

**Steve Earley**  
International Falls

### Sense should prevail in VNP law enforcement

I want to thank the *Timberjay* for their coverage of the law enforcement events that have been taking place in Voyageurs National Park. I have talked to the park superintendent about these events. The vast majority of the folks that come to spend their vacations in our great North Country are law abiding citizens and have decided to spend their time and money in our communities. I have requested that our congressional delegation support the creation of a civilian commission to have some oversight of law enforcement activities in the national park.

I am also going to investigate whether a Voyageurs National Park Citizen Commission should be started up. I have requested legal staff from the Minnesota House of Representatives to research this possibility. In addition, I have asked the Minnesota DNR Commissioner to review their agreements with the park concerning law enforcement. Bottom line: I want people to enjoy the park, provide jobs for our local businesses, have park rangers who are ambassadors for the park, and minimize harassing stops of our guests.

In closing, I have always been a staunch supporter of our law enforcement. I believe that we can have a rational conversation about how law enforcement interacts with our tourists and the tourism economy. I have called upon the superintendent of the park to return to historic levels of ranger activity in Voyageurs, because I do not believe there is cause today to increase stops of our citizens.

**Rob Ecklund**  
District 3A  
Representative  
International Falls

### Beauty Shop cares through hair

One fine example of Cook's status as a “giving place” is the thirty-year-old Busy Bee Beauty Shop located at the Cook Care Center adjacent to the Cook Hospital. The Care Center is a real home to folks who have health and mobility issues and cannot live on their own. At the beauty shop each Thursday, residents receive free haircuts and styles provided by volunteer stylists. The shop supplies are funded by the Cook Lions Club and the Care Center.

There are two crews of volunteer hairdressers who enjoy the smiles of cherished ladies every other Thursday morning at 8:30 until about 11:30 a.m.. A few retired official hairdressers do haircuts while others apply hair rollers, curling irons and styling.

This volunteer salon has been in operation for at least thirty years! Some of the names of the volunteers I found in a newspaper article. My Mother was one of the beauticians and they worked every Thursday! The stylists from long ago you might remember: Sue Wilson, Veda Wiitanen, Gladie Tuuri, Anna Olson, Norma Ogala, Evelyn Lyke, Valda Kuharski, Goldie Knapp, Doris Kantola, Vi Harris, Betty Grano, and Marsha Baland. Marylu Refsdal, Rita Lakmann and Greta Jeske have only recently retired from the Busy Bees.

The beauty shop is going at a regular clip since quarantine. Volunteers are sparse but good teams consist of Lynde Wilenius, Mickey Maki, Kim Marwick, Barb Boutto, Bonnie Grosshauser, Claire Zwieg and substitute stylists Lucie Schwartz, Roxanne Brinker, JoAnn Anderson, and Sue Aune. There are often as many as thirteen hairstyles completed in a morning.

Busy Bee volunteers are needed, so if you like to fix hair and make ladies smile, please call 218 750-4304. Volunteers don't have to be licensed beauticians. We always need help.

**Judith Ulseth**  
Cook

## The January 6 Committee reminds us of what congress can do

Watching the hearings held by the Jan. 6 committee as it delves into the events at the Capitol last year and what lay behind them, I've been struck by what you might think of as the “meta-coverage.” It's been fascinating to see.

Most news stories, of course, have focused on the alarming revelations



**LEE HAMILTON**

uncovered by the committee—in essence, the lengths to which a sitting president and his allies went in trying to short-circuit the clearly expressed will of the American people. But some coverage has instead focused on how the select committee has gone about its work: the technology it's using and its careful structuring of the

hearings to create a clear narrative of the events leading up to and following the attack on the Capitol.

As Axios' Mike Allen put it recently, “The committee ditched the flabby traditional format and has methodically built a taut, colorful narrative with a prosecutor's precision and a cinematographer's flair.” He and others cite the influence of former ABC News president James Goldston, who, as Allen writes, “has been producing each hearing as if it were a ‘20/20’ episode,” as well

as the committee's discipline in building an easy-to-grasp accretion of facts and testimony.

There is much about this that's new: the use of relevant footage, maps, and reconstructions that are available instantly when needed; interweaving videotaped and in-person testimony to deepen the narrative; production values that make the hearings seem up-to-the-minute, rather than a throwback to an earlier era. But there is also much about this that is, in fact, time-tested congressional process.

What the hearings are doing is what congressional committees at their best have always done: focus on a complicated topic, present the facts about it to the American people, leave us all better informed than we were before, and possibly have an impact on how government operates. It's not hard to come up with a list of high-profile congressional hearings that have had this kind of effect, from the 1954 Army-McCarthy hearings

# Letters from Readers

## Moved by “Math in Motion”

We recently attended a show in Ely called, “Math in Motion,” directed by creative genius, Molly Olson, and it was an amazingly wonderful experience. We loved the music, the dancing, the poetry and everything about the show.

This was the first Reflections Dance Company show our granddaughter, Lona, performed in, and we would never miss an opportunity to see that. As we expected and proudly observed, she did an awesome job showing what she learned in “Acro,” but we didn’t expect to see so many brilliant and local performers who could easily pass for professionals. The young and the not-so-young performed flawlessly.

We thank them all for giving us a great time that we will long remember.

**Iona & Tom Lindgren**

## The power of showing up

How can just one person make a difference?

Years ago, when living in Thief River Falls, our state senator had come up with a bill that would have encouraged draining wetlands, which I didn’t think was a good idea in an area which already had a lot of spring flooding. I contacted a lobbyist with the MN Audubon Society and asked if there was anything I could do. He said to stop by the Minnesota Capitol on the day the hearing for the bill was scheduled. He would escort me to the hearing room, and I would speak in opposition to the bill.

When we went to the hearing room at the appointed time, I sat in the very front of the room. There were no others in the room. As the Senate Committee members entered the room, my state Senator saw me in the front of the room, and

knowing me and my position, showed some surprise and concern on his face.

When the committee came to his bill, he declined to introduce it.

The lobbyist said that my presence was enough to stop him from submitting the bill. A politician is very sensitive to having the only public comment on a bill to be opposition from his own constituent.

How can just one person make a difference? Just show up.

**Keith Steva Cook**

## Say thanks to the Cook Lions

If you shop at Zup’s in Cook on Fridays and Saturdays in summer, you have probably noticed the Lions Club BRAT SHACK parked in front of the grocery store. Those Lions work hard cooking the Zup’s brats, and a few

other food items, to give us a weekly treat.

Recently, the Northwoods Friends of the Arts had their annual fund-raising concert at the Cook Community Center, and our board contracted with the Lions to have Zup’s brats served at the event. In the past years, we’ve had donated potluck food available, but that isn’t a good idea in these COVID years, so we thought the Lions’ brats and cole slaw might be a good option, as people would be on site from about 4–9 p.m. The Lions made this plan work, and our audience and musicians had a supper available right on site.

So, seeing the Lions at work frequently, I wanted to know more about what else they do, besides work hard. Here’s what I learned. The Lions:

- Created and maintain the flag park near the railroad tracks.
- Have a machine that

can test student’s eyesight at the school to help parents know if their children need glasses.

➤ Have a youth group, called “The Leos,” managed by club members. The young volunteers do work like picking up litter along the highway and more.

➤ Host annual Easter and Halloween parties for kids in Cook where they give away bicycles.

➤ Fund the Busy Bee Beauty Shop at the Care Center at the hospital where residents may get their hair cut and styled for free.

➤ Help to fund Music in the Park every summer.

➤ Give funds to help other organizations such as the Friends of the Park, the Cook Hospital and projects at North Woods School.

➤ Give annual scholarships to graduating high school students going on to trade school or college.

➤ As a whole, nationally and internationally,

contribute thousands of dollars for research into a cure for diabetes and the training of sightseeing dogs for the blind.

➤ Provide insurance for the annual Timber Days parade.

➤ Contribute and help with the Food Shelf.

In a small town, we work together to help things happen. If you want to encourage the Lions, stop by the Brat Shack and say THANKS. Better yet, say, “What can I do to help this community?” The Lions will have lots of ideas and jobs that can promote our area.

**Lois J Garbisch Board Member Northwoods Friends of the Arts Cook**

## SISTERS...Continued from page 3

River Products was built in June of 1940.

Debbie and Linda’s father, Bob, joined the Army in 1940. At that same time, their grandfather, Herman T. served on the draft board. Linda pointed out that this was a very tough job.

“Even though everyone wanted to go to war, there was still the knowledge that you were sending someone’s kid off to war,” she said.

In 1945, Herman T. became ill, and Bob was able to get a hardship discharge from the Army to come home and run the store with his brother John, who was then still in high school. Bob arrived home from overseas in April 1945, just before VE day, “and from then on Bob was a critical part of the store’s operation,” Linda said. He continued running the store until he retired.

Linda moved on to talk about the 1950s.

“These were the good years. I think they were for everybody in Tower – for

Tower and Soudan both,” she said. “They were just really good years. The mine was going well, people were being paid well, business was good. It was just a wonderful decade in which to grow up in Tower-Soudan.”

In 1953, Herman T. became grandmaster of the Masonic Lodge in Minnesota.

“What that meant was there were 70,000 Masons and 287 Masonic lodges, and he had to travel to all of them, so he wrote (in his diary) ‘What I would do is travel to all of them and tell them how they needed to come to Lake Vermilion (as tourists)’.”

In 1956, Herman T. sold the business to Linda and Debbie’s father, Bob, and mother Olive, also known as “Ollie.” In the 1960s, Bob and Ollie expanded the grocery business to include a hardware store, “Olson’s Our Own Hardware,” which was managed by longtime employee Etsy Swanson. This is where Linda first

got her start in the business at 16 years old as a summer employee.

Linda said, “My dad inherited the public service gene from my grandfather, so he was president of the chamber of commerce and the development council. He was on the board of Vermilion housing and Old Settlers, and he was also involved in regional affairs. They were both public service oriented.”

In 1962, the Soudan mine closed, and Linda pointed out what a blow this was to the Tower and Soudan communities.

“Within three days of the mine closing, the Tower-Soudan Development Council met, my grandfather (as secretary) wrote a letter to U.S. Steel with a copy to the governor and congressman Blatnik, ‘We



**The butcher counter at Olson’s grocery harkens back to days gone by. Photo submitted by Nancy Larson**

the community. The sisters shared additional stories of their memories growing up in Tower and all the many people who worked for the family business over the years.

TSHS President Nancy Larson explained that the history talks are part of an effort to restore Tower’s Historic Fire Hall to be an active community building that honors Tower’s history and to “help bring history alive in the Tower community.” Larson said that TSHS also has brochures available that feature 30 places around the Tower-Soudan area that are historically significant, along with a map and links to learn more about the history of various things and places around the area.

need to turn the mine into a state park.’ It was his idea and the development council supported it, and that’s how it came about.”

In 1963, Bob and a friend, “Wally,” opened an A&W “root beer stand” where Benchwarmers is now located. Bob sold the A&W business in 1969 and their house, which was

purchased after the fire in 1940 left them in need of a new home. In a return to their history of living right where they worked, the family bought a trailer and lived behind the store until they sold the store in 1977.

Linda and Debbie said their father and grandfather worked hard and had a love of the outdoors and

## 2142 ...Continued from page 3

June 1 with the intent of trying to recoup some of the enrollment lost during the COVID pandemic.

➤ Increased adult meal prices to \$2.70 for breakfast and \$4.95 for lunch.

➤ Hired Colin Walker as a full-time social studies teacher at North Woods.

➤ Hired the following support staff at Northeast Range: Dawn Merrill, part-time library assistant and paraprofessional; Lara Poderzay, part-time paraprofessional; Jennette Pratt, full-time site secretary III

and health office assistant; and Brianna Buschman, full-time nutrition employee.

➤ Hired the following support staff at North Woods School: Steven Correll, full-time custodian; and Megan Nemec, full-time student and family advocate.

➤ Hired Muriel Deegan as full-time student and family advocate at Tower-Soudan.

➤ Hired or rehired the following coaches for Northeast Range: Ellen

Pierce, head, cross country; Cheri DeBeltz, head, and Sue Pasmic, assistant, swimming; and assistants Sen Bissonette and Lara Poderzay, volleyball.

➤ Hired Andrew Jugovich as head boys basketball coach and Rebecca Lappi and Ellen Shuster as assistant volleyball coaches at North Woods.

➤ Accepted the following resignations from Northeast Range: Kyle Ballou, music teacher; Maggie Schulze, Hannah Peitso, Brooke Gruba, April

Reichel, and Trista Miller, paraprofessionals; Chloe Pecha, Check and Connect mentor; Sena Bissonette, site secretary III and health assistant; and Jodi Rogers-Reichensperger, head volleyball coach.

➤ Accepted the following resignations from North Woods: Jodi Whiteside, paraprofessional; Julie Smith, ECFE teacher aide; and Connie Harju, teacher aide/community ed coordinator (shared)/substitute bus driver.

## COMMITTEE...Continued from page 4

to the Watergate hearings in 1973 to the 1987 Iran-Contra hearings and the 2019 hearings on special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 elections. But I would argue that even low-profile committee work—hearings aimed at checking in on the operations of the executive branch or how well policy initiatives have performed—have held similar value for our democracy.

I’ve always believed that part of the job of a politician is to educate the public—about the facts and about their meaning for the US and for public policy. It is incredibly difficult these days for voters to sort out information—we’re

all bombarded with facts, opinion, information and misinformation and even disinformation. But if, as a country, we’re to build consensus based on the real world, then you have to start with the facts. Ultimately, a democratic society depends on the ability of citizens to form good judgments based on the realities facing us; if they don’t, the country suffers.

The same, of course, goes for policy-makers. In that case, the country depends not just on their ability to ground their work in the facts, but to explore an issue and then deliberate on what to do about it. The deliberative process—which in Congress was once rooted in the work of com-

mittees—produces better law: It forces members of Congress to understand an issue, accommodate different interests, and ultimately knock out bad ideas and bad proposals in favor of initiatives that can command a consensus. Overall, as congressional power has consolidated in the hands of a few strong leaders, committees have lost that kind of influence; Congress generally holds far fewer hearings than it did a few decades ago.

So, I take the Jan. 6 committee’s innovations as a good sign. It has updated the mechanics of the process to create a compelling lesson in the value of thorough research and leveling plainly with

the American people about what the facts show. In short, it has demonstrated what Congress is capable of achieving. Here’s hoping other committees are taking note.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IUO’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

## the TIMBERJAY



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# SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS

# D'Erick's Tower Liquors looking for a new owner

Ericksons hoping to find another local family interested in taking over

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor



From left: Dave, Lisa, and Dale Erickson. photo by J. Summit

TOWER- Back in 1986, the city of Tower decided to sell its municipal liquor store and bar, and Denny Erickson decided it could become a family business that would help support the family cabin on the Pike River. The Ericksons had moved to the area in 1969. The plan worked, and the family cabin continues to host dozens and dozens of Ericksons throughout the year.

"My dad died in 1992," said current D'Erick's owner Dave Erickson. "My mom called all of us kids, one at a time and asked if we wanted to keep it going."

Of the nine kids in the family, Dave was the last she asked, and he was the one who said yes.

At the time, Dave was working full-time as the EMS Chief for the St. Paul Fire Department. He had a bachelor's degree in both business and fire safety, and a master's degree in public safety. Not quite the normal resume to run a bar, but he said he really wanted to keep the business in the family. He shared his parents' love for the family cabin, which served as a vacation spot for the always growing clan, which now numbers over 80 with the addition of great-grandchildren to the first three generations, a total of 78 Ericksons.

Dave ran the business as an absentee owner until he retired in 2004 and took over the day-to-day management.

The bar's finances had suffered a bit without an owner on site.

"I got the business stable and up-to-date," Dave said. "I righted the ship."

But now in his late 60s, with some health issues and a desire to spend more time out of the area, especially in the winter, Erickson decided it was time to sell the business. His wife Lisa retired from Delta Airlines in 2020, and

has been working with Dave, along with Dave's brother Dale, the past two years.

Business has been good and growing. While the pandemic certainly hurt, with the help of federal relief payments they were able to keep the off-sale open and their full-time bartender on the payroll while the bar had to remain closed.

"My parent's legacy was to have the bar to take care of the cabin," Dave said. "And now I will take the proceeds of the sale and set up an account to pay the expenses on the cabin."

Dave said having a bar is like taking care of a child who never quite grows up.

"I start at five or six in the morning catching up on the bookkeeping," he said. "Then it's time to stock the off-sale and bar, and make sure all our staff can make it in."

Lisa has been a huge help stocking the off-sale, Dave said, since he can't handle that type of physical work on a daily basis anymore. The two also take turns filling in if staff can't make it. The bar currently has one full-time employee, and about eight part-timers.

The decision to sell the business was made in July, after Dave talked with his entire extended family over the Fourth of July weekend.

"None of my siblings said they could take it over," he said.

Dave and Lisa's first choice is to sell the business to a local family. The business is uniquely suited to being run by a couple, they said.

"The business is profitable," he said, "and it pays a respectable wage for the owners."

This July was the bar's best month ever.

The off-sale store has faced competition from the opening of the Ledge Liquor Store and the new large liquor store in Ely, but after initial drops in sales, has continued to show growth.

The construction of an outdoor patio has really helped grow the on-sale business, Dave said. "Our local business has exploded, even if it seems that tourist traffic is a little down," he said.

Regulars, who have become like family to the Ericksons, show up at the bar each morning right before 10 a.m., in time to watch "The Price is Right."

"It's been a great 35 years," he said. "But it is time to move on."

Anyone interested in learning more about the business can call Dave at 218-753-4071.

## TOWER-SOUDAN HIGH SCHOOL

### TS Class of '71 reunion

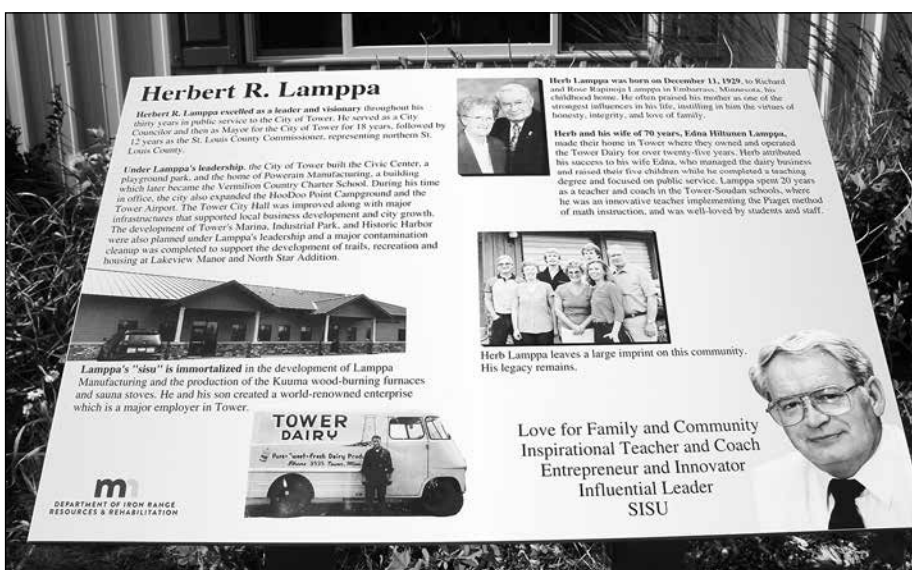
TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Class of '71 held their 51st reunion on Aug. 5-6, 2022. On Friday evening the classmates and spouses gathered at Sulu's for a social get-together. On Saturday they held their formal reunion at the Breitung Town Hall, complete with a catered dinner and a most enjoyable program.

In 1971, 41 students graduated with this class. Over the two-day event, 23 classmates attended the festivities. Four classmates are deceased: Douglas Miller, Gene Reindahl, Jane Planton, and Scott Carlson. These four were remembered with a moment of silence and an arrangement of four yellow roses.

**Front row (from left): Ann Nevin, Barb (Laitinen) Theno, Corrine (Kotzian) Hill, Jere Lynn (Burgess) Wujcik, Diane (Crayne) Johnson, Rick Johnson.**  
**Middle: Jane Aronson, Connie (Harma) Childs, Julie (Olson) Mickle, Gary Heikkinen, Paul Carlson.**  
**Back: Terry Trembath, Dede (Swanson) Yapel, Donna (Hendrickson) Manos, Vicki (Beyer) Larsen, Tim Trembath, John Suihkonen.** submitted



## NEW NAME FOR AN OLD LANDMARK



The Tower Civic Center has been formally renamed in honor of past mayor, county commissioner, teacher, and business owner Herbert R. Lamppa. A sign placed in front of the building details Herb's contributions to the area. The building is now named the Herbert R. Lamppa Civic Center. photo by J. Summit

## Breitung Township votes to accept truck bid at special meeting Aug. 11

by RACHEL BROPHY  
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- The Township of Breitung held a special board meeting on Aug. 11 at the Breitung Community Center.

The town board received one bid of \$32,250 for the old International dump truck with a plow, from Tom Nemanich of Mesabi Bituminous. A motion was made by Su-

pervisor Tekautz to accept the bid as presented with delivery or pick up of the truck to be Sept. 1. Motion passed 2-0. The township had set the minimum bid at \$32,000.

The board also discussed the bid for work on the McKinley Park bike trail to make sure the mapping and design is correct, and ensuring the new trail avoids man-holes. They also needed

to adjust enough other bid details that the board decided to reject the current bid from Mesabi Bituminous and call for bids on the revised scope of work, to be opened at their Sept. 23 meeting.

The next regular board meeting was set for Thursday, Aug. 25 at noon.

Read us online at  
[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

# Third author to join 2023 girls writing retreat

Erin Soderberg Downing to join Mary Casanova and Margi Preus at Camp Atsokan

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - Camp Atsokan, the popular writing retreat for teen girls in the Ely area, will include a new author, Erin Soderberg Downing, in 2023. She has local ties to this community and is the author of more than 50 books for kids, tweens, teens and adults, according to organizer Heather Cavalier.

“Erin will help expand the program to offer three sessions of camp from June 7-21 in 2023,” Cavalier said. “Author Mary Casanova, who started the camp, and author Margi Preus from Duluth will return to lead small groups of girls in creative writing, critiquing, and revising activities during the five-day camp.”

Camp Atsokan was held earlier this summer for 28 teen girls, including 16 participants from Ely, despite a last-minute relocation. “Traditionally, the camp takes place on Atsokan Island on Rainy Lake near International Falls but due to extreme flooding, organizers were forced to scramble



The 2022 edition of Camp Atsokan was held in Remer because of flooding in the Rainy Lake area this summer. The girls from Ely who participated included, Emily Bialik, Evelyn Cavalier, Maggie Fetterer, Aila Harding, Abigail Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Morgan Lassi, Morgan McClelland, Ella Nappa, Isabella Macho, Cora Olson, Tracy Thibodeaux, Chantel Ridings, Chloyann Ridings, Sylvia Shock, and Juliet Stouffer. submitted photo

to find a new location,” Cavalier said.

The 2022 edition of Camp Atsokan was held at Pineridge Grouse Camp in Remer. The facilities were equipped with enough lodging and meeting space, but the plan is to return to Atsokan Island on Rainy Lake next summer, she said.

“The Ely girls of Camp

Atsokan would like to thank the Ely Rotary Club and the Ann Bancroft Foundation for their generous scholarships,” Cavalier added.

Ely participants to the 2022 Camp Astokan included Emily Bialik, Evelyn Cavalier, Maggie Fetterer, Aila Harding, Abigail Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Morgan Lassi, Morgan McClelland, Ella

Nappa, Isabella Macho, Cora Olson, Tracy Thibodeaux, Chantel Ridings, Chloyann Ridings, Sylvia Shock, and Juliet Stouffer.

Visit [atsokan.weebly.com](http://atsokan.weebly.com) or contact Heather Cavalier at [CampAtsokan@gmail.com](mailto:CampAtsokan@gmail.com) for more information.

Several of the Ely-area girls are planning to attend

another writing event this fall at the Ely Folk School, organized by the Tofte Lake Center. This one-hour Writing Workshop with Karin Killian will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 28, and will focus on craft and writing in first person. Anyone can join this class. Contact the Ely Folk School, [www.elyfolk-school.org](http://www.elyfolk-school.org), for details.

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](mailto:ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com) or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► 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.

► Sept. 13: Meet New Elyites.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



still pickin’ the blue later season than ever

memorable taste

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

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

# Upcoming events at the Ely Public Library

► **Preschool Storytime** – Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. – for young children. Join Tricia or Jessie for fun-themed stories, songs, and activities that center on books. Kids will learn a little American Sign Language as well.

► **Take and Do Kits** – limited availability (quantities per patron may be restricted, ask at the desk): September – Leaf Wreath – sponsored by Friends of the Library; October – Fire-Breathing Dragons – sponsored by Friends of the Library; November – Napkin Rings; December – Puzzle Piece Ornament Frame

**Individual Programs**

► **Monday, Aug. 29** starts at 3 p.m. – Dragonriders of PERN Kahoot – for all ages - online.

Online trivia game on books (original trilogy, the Harper Hall trilogy,



Fans of the Ely Public Library “boogied with the books” last Friday night during the continuing 100th anniversary celebration at the library. A “street dance” last Friday evening, featuring the Christopher David Hanson Band, was moved indoors because of inclement weather. photo by K. Vandervort

Moreta’s era, and the initial settling of Pern) of the “Dragonriders of Pern” series by Anne McCaffrey. There will be prizes for the top three contestants. We will need an email address for each person who wishes to play to send the link to the game, so you must

pre-register. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

► **Wednesday, Aug. 31** – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Friends of the Library Mini Book Sale – for all ages – on the front lawn (weather permitting). One table of books at a reasonable price. The first five books

are free if you join Friends of the Library or renew your membership. No donations of books/items to sell will be taken for this mini sale.

► **Monday, Sept. 5** – Library closed for Labor Day.

► **Thursday, Sept. 8** at 2 p.m. – Movie Showing – “The Time Traveler’s

Wife” – for adults – at the library. This movie showing links to the Friends of the Library Book Group who will be discussing the movie versus the book as part of their September discussion. You do not need to be a member of the Friends (or plan to discuss the book) to attend. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

► **Monday, Sept. 12** at 3 p.m. – Friends of the Library Book Club – for adults – at the library. Discussing “The Time Traveler’s Wife” by Audrey Niffenegger. This year’s discussions have the theme of “Reading through 100 Years” in conjunction with the library’s 100th anniversary and will feature a book from a particular decade (this month, the 2000s) each session. The movie made from the book discussed each month will also be shown at the library for participants (and others who are interested). You do not need to be a member of the Friends to attend.

# Ely Police Department Activity August 1-15, 2022

**Arrests/Citations**

Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with an outstanding warrant arrest.

**Complaints**

Paper Service- Person served with a trespass notice from a local business.

Loud Music- Officers were called about music that was playing too loud. Officers were unable to hear the music.

Disturbance- Officers were called about a group of people that were arguing in the street. Officers arrived and all people were sent on their way.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

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

Check Welfare- Officers were contacted about a person that was intoxicated and needed to

be checked on. Officers checked on the individual and determined the person to be fine.

Theft- Officers responded to a report of an ATV theft. This case is under investigation.

Animal Disturbance- Officers responded to multiple dogs barking inside a house. Officers were unable to hear any dogs barking.

Counterfeit- Officers were contacted about fake money being spent. This case is under investigation.

Security Alarm- Officers responded to a security alarm at a local business. The alarm was determined to be false.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their vehicle.

Disturbance- Officers were called about ongoing construction past working hours. Officers contacted the workers and construction was stopped for the night.

Hazard- Officers located a low hanging power wire. The wire was lifted by city workers.

Disturbance- Officers were requested to stand by for safety while papers were being served.

Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a mental health crisis.

Mental Health- Officers were contacted to assist with a person having a mental health crisis. Officers assisted the person to the hospital.

Unknown Trouble- Officers were called about a person outside yelling. Officers determined the person was having a bad day and they agreed to go inside for the night.

Public Assist- Individual brought back to their residence.

Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with an unwanted person.

Trouble Kid- Officers were contacted about a juvenile that was refusing to talk to anyone. Officers were able to talk with the juvenile and resolve the

problem.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Check Welfare- Officers were requested to check on a person that was not heard from in a while. The person was not at their residence.

Check Welfare- Officers were requested to check on a person that was not heard from in a while. The person was located at home safe.

Extra Patrol- Officers were requested for extra patrol while a family was out of town.

Burglary in Progress- Officers were called about people breaking into a house. Officers arrived and the construction workers were there working. Officers contacted the owner and it was determined to be a misunderstanding.

Information- Officers were requested to contact a friend that was not answering their phone. Officers called the person and they were fine.

Disturbance- Officers were called about a

person yelling in a yard. Officers were unable to locate anyone yelling.

Security Alarm- Officers were dispatched to a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined the alarm to be false.

No Pay- Officers were called about someone not paying for gas. The owner returned and paid the bill.

Civil Issue- Officers were called about an issue between contractors and a home owner. Officers assisted with information.

Burglary in Progress- Officers were called about someone inside a garage with a flashlight. It was the homeowner’s friend looking for some property.

Check Welfare- Officers were requested to check on a person that was not heard from in a while. The person was located at home safe.

Assist other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a suicidal person.

# Group touts benefits of Cook's three diverse parks

by TAMMY PALMER  
Cook Friends of the Parks

COOK- We are blessed in our community to have three beautiful parks within the City of Cook. Whether it is a baseball game, ice skating, playing at the playground, listening to music, enjoying the great outdoors or simply having a picnic and relaxing, Cook's parks have something to offer to everyone.

The largest park lies within the Doug Johnson Recreation Area, along Gopher Dr. between 3rd Ave. SE and Johnson Rd. Here you will find an ice rink, pavilion, ball fields, a beautiful playground, and more, with the Cook Community Center as an additional focal point for community activities and enhancing the many park

experiences to be enjoyed.

Cook City Park is located in the heart of downtown on River St. Beautiful murals are present for all to view. Picnic tables and benches and room to relax and enjoy the beauty of Cook. The gazebo plays host to the popular Music In The Park series on Wednesday evenings during the summer, and numerous other activities take advantage of this location as well. Cook City Park is also the hub for the annual three-day Timber Days community festival every June. The Cook Area Farmers Market is located in this park as well, with a wide variety of fresh produce, canned and prepared items, and arts and crafts, as well.

The third and newest park in Cook is Veterans Riverfront Park. This

beautiful park is located on a parcel of land on N River St. on the banks of the Little Fork River. It is with great respect, dedication and thanks that we honor all veterans with this park. A dedication flag area and reflection area is there for all to enjoy. Picnic tables, barbecue grills, benches and swings make this park a place for all families and individuals to enjoy. The final phase of the park, paving the parking lot, is now in the works. A grand opening will be held when all work is completed.

These three parks are an asset to the City of Cook and its community members. People are encouraged to visit these beautiful parks. Cook has a lot to be proud of. Friends of the Parks, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, has been and continues to



Veterans Riverfront Park is a "swinging" good time for Easton Palmer, Audree Palmer, Casen Palmer and Hannah Fox. Friends of the Parks wants a paved parking lot to complete the project. submitted photo

be essential in developing and maintaining the parks in Cook. The organization was formed exclusively to support the City of Cook

parks and Community Center by raising money through gifts, contributions, grants and events. Donations are always

welcome. If you would like to donate, donations may be sent to Friends of the Parks, PO Box 1141, Cook, MN 55723

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Beefeater Brothers are closing act for Cook music series

COOK -The Cook Music in the Parks summer series is bringing back the always popular Beefeater Brothers for the final free concert of the season on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at 6 p.m.

Come to the gazebo on River St. to hear Eric Pederson and the Beefeater Brothers with singer Anna Pederson perform classic country and rock and roll hits.

St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church will have food and beverages available at its burger/brat stand. In case of rain the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

Eric Pederson was responsible for pulling together the artists who performed this season, and event sponsors are already looking forward to a new season next June.

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

### Open Art Mondays return to NWFA

COOK- The Open Art weekly artists working group at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery is making a comeback, beginning Monday, Sept. 12, with a new leader in a venue that honors the group's past.

The locally beloved artist, the late Sue Wolfe, always managed the group, and now artist Jody Feist will revive the activity on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. in the gallery's Wolfe Den, named in honor of Wolfe.

All artists are invited to bring their own supplies and tools and art projects to work with and share ideas with other artists at the gallery at 210 S River St.

### Sketch book class rescheduled for Sept. 17 at gallery

COOK- Do you like to sketch wherever you go? If so, then you haven't missed your chance to create your own sketch book by participating in an upcoming workshop at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Originally scheduled for August, "Make a Field Sketch Book" with watercolor artist Brenna Kohlhasse has been rescheduled for Saturday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m.-5

p.m. at the gallery at 210 S River St.

It's a full day class so there will be discussion about color theory and students will make a shade diagram and color wheel to use during practice. Kohlhasse will help students make a personalized watercolor journal from scratch and fill it with Arches 140 pound paper that she will provide.

Students should bring some recycled leather, a used U.S. Postal Service Tyvek mailer, blue jeans, matte board or other heavy paper or fabric with which to design your own cover. Cereal boxes covered with fabric work well. Your favorite watercolor brush and apron are also suggested to bring.

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

To register for this class contact Alberta at 218-666-2153 or email NWFA at nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

### Friends of the Library seeking more volunteers

COOK- On August 27, 2007, a group of dedicated local and summer residents formed a Friends of the Library group with the goals of augmenting funding, increasing volunteers, running a used book sale, and encouraging community engagement with the library.

Fifteen years later, The Friends of the Cook Public Library are still going strong, continuing to support the library through fundraising and volunteering. The Friends pay for special events, enlightening programs and reading incentives.

Friends of the Library are actively seeking volunteers to help in the following areas: special events in the library (Fiber Arts Month, Gingerbread Event, Holiday Basket Raffle), summer reading and story times, book sales, mailings, and board members.

Become a new Friend or renew your membership by stopping in at the Cook Public Library. Or consider making a donation to support the many activities the Friends provide. The Friends are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and accept free-will monetary donations.

The Friends of the Cook Public Library meet bi-monthly, and the next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 11.

### Arts group end of summer sale set for Sat., Sept. 3

COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts annual end-of-the summer garage sale is fast approaching, but there's still plenty of time to make donations of art and collectibles for the Saturday, Sept. 3 event. Donations should be delivered to the gallery between Wednesday, Aug. 31 and Friday, Sept. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery in Cook.

When the gallery doors open wide from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on that Saturday, shoppers will find many unique 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.

### Chapel to host men's recovery group on Sunday

CRANE LAKE- Crane Lake Chapel will host Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge on Sunday, 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 Berger-son at 218-252-2180.

### Alzheimer's benefit is Friday at Cook's Country Connection

COOK- Cook's Country Connection will host a fundraiser on Friday, Aug. 26 to raise money for the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

This reprise of last year's inaugural event, which will be from 5-8 p.m., will be fun for the entire family beyond the usual delights of the farm's clever critters. The Beefeaters Brothers Trio will be providing live music, and there will be arts and crafts vendors, raffle baskets, and more.

"Memories should last a lifetime," said Lois Pajari. "Let's capture memories at the farm to fight Alzheimer's."

## Candidates flock to Cook and Orr city council races

REGIONAL- Voters in Cook and Orr could reshape the look of city governance in those communities in the Nov. 8 general election, with a dozen candidates vying for five city council seats and two candidates running for Orr mayor.

Mayor Harold Johnston, of Cook, is the only candidate running unopposed for re-election after the Aug. 16 filing deadline.

Orr is assured of having a new mayor after

incumbent Joel Astleford did not file for re-election. Orr voters will choose between Robert "Bob" Antikainen and Rocky Hoffman to fill the position.

The Orr City Council seats currently held by Bruce Black and Ericka Cote are up for election and both incumbents will seek to keep their seats. This will be the most crowded field in the area, as Joshua Gaskell, Jim Gray, Sean Luce, and Hannah Manick have all filed to run against them.

The council seats will go to the top two vote getters.

In Cook, incumbents Jody Bixby and Kim Brunner both have filed to retain their spots. Ivette Reing will be looking to replace one of them.

With the recent resignation of long-time council member Karen Hollanitsch, a special election will determine who will take her place. Erin Danielson, Dave Danz, and Liz Root will compete for that spot.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



National Night Out in Crane Lake, hosted by Crane Lake Chapel was a huge success this year. The community raised over \$3,000, allowing Crane Lake Chapel to give over \$1,500 to both Crane Lake and Buyck fire departments. Crane Lake Fire Department Chief Jeff Sandborn, left, and Buyck Fire Department Chief Kathy Weiand, right, receive the donations from Crane Lake Chapel representatives Jody Driggs, Gretchen Janssen, and Bill Bloss. submitted photo

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN



North Woods Head Football Coach Joel Anderson puts his running backs through their paces at practice on Monday in preparation for their season opener on Thursday, Sept. 1 at Rock Ridge. The Grizzlies volleyball team already has some competition under their belts with a pre-season tourney in Hibbing last Saturday. The girls will take to the home court for two matches next week, taking on Mt. Iron-Buhl on Monday and International Falls on Tuesday. photo by D. Colburn



## NORTHLAND FOUNDATION

## DEED program to provide grants for Tower, Ely business improvements

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL - The Northland Foundation and The Northspan Group hosted a presentation earlier this month at the Tower Civic Center to share updates and gather feedback about the Minnesota DEED Main Street Revitalization Program.

This program will infuse \$1.1 million in grant dollars into commercial/business projects in both Ely and Tower, as

well as provide additional resources under a loan program.

The program is targeted at commercial properties in the Highway 169 corridor between Tower and Ely, and will target funding to projects that rehabilitate blighted properties, create additional housing, add or improve retail spaces, provide additional vacation and rental property, create more commercial office space for lease, include environmental and efficiency improvements, address

code compliance issues, and enhance green spaces.

About 50 Tower-area business owners attended a meeting on this program last spring, which was used to gauge interest in the program and get a rough idea of how businesses would use it. At that time program details and whether or not the funding would actually be available were unknown. Businesses that expressed interest last March will need to submit a formal application in September. Applications will

open on Sept. 1 and will be accepted through the end of September. In October, Northland and Northspan will notify applicants on their decision to approve a project, put it on a waitlist, or deny a project. Awards will be sent to business owners in October.

The grant will be for 30 percent of total project cost. Total project cost can include items from July 1, 2021 and forward; however, only 50 percent of project costs from July 1, 2021 through Sept. 1, 2022 may be counted.

100-percent of project costs from Sept. 1 through 2023 count towards the total project cost. Loan terms for the program will be included in the application documents. The loan can be used to cover the remaining 70 percent of the project not covered by the grant, or for other purposes as well.

The Tower/Ely application will be scored on three points: physical improvements to commercial buildings, affordable housing units created, and number of quality jobs

created.

The Northland Foundation / Northspan Group will provide a virtual Q&A session and a tutorial on how to fill out the grant and loan application once it is available.

For more information on the program and how to get a copy of the application once it is available, contact:

Amanda Vuiccich - avuiccich@northspan.org  
Zack Filipovich - zfilipovich@northspan.org

Tony Sertich - tony@northlandfdn.org.

## SCAM ALERT

## Phone scammer posing as St. Louis County Sheriff's office personnel

REGIONAL- If you receive an unsolicited phone call from someone claiming to be from the St. Louis County Sheriff's department, you're likely the target of a scam.

An unknown person posing as a St. Louis County Sheriff's officer has been

calling citizens and trying to convince them that a warrant will be issued for their arrest for missing "jury duty" or a "court date," a problem that sending some money will supposedly take care of.

A press release from the Sheriff's Office said that the latest scam victim was told

to drive to a CVS Pharmacy to make the funds transfer. The potential victim hung up the phone and reported the incident.

The scammer has left messages for potential victims and has a voice-mail set up for return calls. When making contact with

a victim, the suspect tries to convince or scare victims to send money to avoid a warrant for their arrest.

The names of deputies Nate Skelton and Jon Skelton and Undersheriff Jason Lukovsky have been used by the scammer, according to the release. People should

be wary of anyone who calls who identifies themselves as being with the county sheriff's department and attempts to arrange a money transfer to avoid a warrant. The Sheriff's Office does not reconcile warrants in that manner, the release said.

The Sheriff's Office

would like to remind the public to protect personal information. Identity thieves will pose as various professionals in order to "verify" some data to try to gain personal information or in this case an immediate financial gain through electronic means or gift cards.

## ELY...Continued from page 1

The revisions to the plan, recommended by the school administrative team and reviewed by the district's safe learning plan advisory committee, removes many requirements that were in place last year.

Since the indoor face mask requirement for Ely schools was abandoned last winter, the latest safe learning plan takes into account the updated guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

"We were required by the state to update our plan," said Superintendent John Klarich. "We now have a workable plan."

K-5 Principal Anne Oelke noted that the recent safe learning plan advisory committee meeting was brief.

"We struck everything out of it pretty much, except what we are required to do," she said.

The Ely school board unanimously approved the Safe Learning Plan for the 2022-23 school year with minimal discussion. The two-page document was created using the limited number of requirements set forth by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the CDC.

Among the highlights:

► COVID-19 vaccinations are strongly recommended for children age five and older.

► Face masks are recommended but not required for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, in all indoor school settings.

► Students in the nurse's office with COVID-19 symptoms may be pro-

vided a mask to wear while screening.

► Ely Public Schools offers free on-site testing for COVID-19.

► Cleaning practices continue in the school buildings to support mitigation of COVID-19, and water filling stations remain available.

► Hand sanitizer is available at the main entrance for visitors.

► A sick child must be kept at home.

► ISD 696 is mandated to report all positive COVID-19 cases to the MDH.

In conclusion, the district will continue to review guidance from MDE and MDH and will make changes to the plan as necessary.

The safe learning plan concluded, "We believe it is important that we all remember to respect the decisions and actions of others in our community while we seek the common goal of a safe environment."

## Building project

The board received their last update from construction officials prior to school opening in three weeks on Monday, Sept. 12. School families and the community will get a sneak peek in the renovated school during an open house on Thursday, Sept. 8.

Todd Erickson, project manager for Kraus-Anderson, said the \$21.5 million project is 94 percent complete, and told the board he estimated final completion for the end of September.

The gymnasium floor in the new building addition is complete. The bleachers are in, and the basketball hoops are installed.

"The volleyball net is not installed but is on-site," Erickson said. "And the pads on the walls need to be installed."

Open house participants will not be allowed to enter the new gymnasium.

In the commons areas, construction crews spent nearly eight weeks grinding and polishing the terrazzo floor, according to Erickson. Construction of the arched ceiling is expected to begin next week, he added.

The new school kitchen is essentially complete.

The Health Department visited last week and everything passed," he said. "The school is now allowed to deliver dry goods and cooler items in there."

The kitchen area will also be off-limits during the open house.

Nine welding stations in the industrial technology area are installed and ready for use.

The second floor of the Washington building is "essentially" complete and ready for occupancy, according to Erickson.

"Cleaning in each classroom up there was conducted last week with carpet shampooing, floor sweeping and wall cleaning," he said.

On the campus exterior, the curbing was set to be completed by Tuesday.

"Concrete sidewalks will be installed and back-filled to bring them up to grade this week, and the asphalt crew for the parking lots comes in next week," Erickson said. "By Sept. 2, it is our intent to have all the parking lots paved."

The rock blasting necessary for the water and sewer infrastructure installation was the main reason for the project completion delay. Erickson noted that an area of the southeast parking lot, near the campus pickleball courts, "had rock that was actually higher than the proposed asphalt elevation, and mass excavation was necessary."

The process for rock excavation was originally estimated to require about ten days.

"The process for the rock excavation took four weeks because of the quantity involved," he said. "The actual volume of rock that was removed is still being verified, so we don't have the total amount of contingency funds used for that."

Erickson remains in doubt as to when the renovated locker rooms in the Memorial building will be completed.

"I need more input from the flooring contractor about the duration needed to get the job done. That is the critical factor," he said. "Our goal is to be done with the locker rooms by early October."

Erickson told board members that a certificate of occupancy for the school

will be issued this week by the Ely building official.

## Other business

In other business, the board:

► Heard more details from Klarich about the open house scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 8, beginning at 3:30 p.m. The new secured entrance in the school addition will be open for use. The existing entrances in the Memorial and Washington buildings will also be open for that event. In addition to the new gymnasium and kitchen being locked that day, the Industrial Technology Education area will likely be off limits. "The public will be able to snoop and look at the new facility and ask questions," he said.

► Heard from new 6-12

Principal Jeff Carey that 14 new students are enrolled in high school to start the school year. A high school social studies teaching position vacancy remains.

► Approved Washington and Memorial school handbooks and revised class schedules for the new year.

► Accepted the resignation of cafeteria aide Holly Maxwell, effective Aug. 16.

► Hired Virginia Anderson, Quinn Vidas and Molly Holtz as paraprofessionals at \$17.23 for 6.5 hours per student contact day.

► Approved sports events worker pay increases for the new school year as recommended by the athletic director.

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**VETS...**Continued from page 1

and other regional officials Tuesday afternoon as they visited with resort representatives to hear how the facility, located just outside of Ely, utilized a \$50,000 State of Minnesota grant to help disabled Minnesota veterans visit the North Country.

"I was up here at a time when this place was at its worst," Cunningham said as he described the improvements completed to make the resort more handicap accessible. "That road out here was in such need of repair ever since I started coming up here," he said as he described muscle damage in his legs that causes unbearable pain every time he hits a bump. "You guys got it done. I love this place."

Herke, Minnesota House Veterans Committee chair Rep. Rob Ecklund, officials from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, Minnesota's Legislative Citizens Commission on Natural Resources (LCCMR), and St. Louis County learned about the recent accessibility



From left, St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald, Minnesota Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke, and Minnesota House Rep. Rob Ecklund, visited the Veteran's on the Lake Resort, located on Fall Lake, this week. photo by K. Vandervort

upgrades at the resort. Veterans on the Lake was founded in 1982 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization providing recreational resources for disabled veterans and their families. Board chair Eric Mayranen said the organization also serves able-bodied veterans, active-duty veterans, their families, and friends. "In 1978 there were two resorts here," Mayranen said. "Both of them were shut down. Back in the early 1980s, a group of

volunteers came up with the idea of putting the two resorts together and focused a mission to help disabled people enjoy the outdoors."

The U.S. Forest Service owns the land (about 28 acres with Fall Lake frontage) and the organization owns the buildings, consisting of a main lodge, heated outdoor swimming pool, numerous outbuildings and workshops and 28 cabins and rental units, with 11 that are ADA accessible.

Mayranen noted that construction will begin

next month on replacing two aging cabins with new, up-to-date and ADA accessible structures.

"It took two and a half years to get through the permitting process to build the new cabins," he said.

Andy Berkenpass, general manager at the resort, chimed in with a goal of making all the resort cabins handicap accessible.

"I want to see every unit here to be fully wheelchair accessible. That is our long-term goal and it is on our radar," he said.

Iron Range lobbyist Jeff Anderson, who orga-

nized the event, described Veterans on the Lake Resort, "as the easiest entity I've worked for in telling the story about this place."

"These funds invested in this resort by the groups gathered here today are being used for numerous upgrades," Anderson said. "The State of Minnesota also invested funds to provide scholarships for individual disabled veterans and their families to come here and experience northern Minnesota."

Last year, with the help of LCCMR and Rep. Ecklund, Veterans on the Lake was awarded \$553,000 to be used for paving and trail work, renovations to their cabins, and the

construction of the two new cabins, according to Anderson.

"In addition, \$125,000 was awarded by IRRR for the paving project, and \$100,000 came from St. Louis County," he said. "That is on top of the \$50,000 in scholarship funds from the State of Minnesota. And we wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't request more support from these entities for continued support for this great resort."

In 2021, Veterans on the Lake served 713 disabled veterans, along with 78 helpers and families for the veterans.

"We had 170 active duty military personnel here last year," Mayranen said. "In total, we served a total of 1,981 people, and our statistics are up for this year already."

Cunningham described the reaction from most people when they encounter someone who is wheelchair-bound.

"When you have a disability, nobody pays any attention to you," he said. "People stare holes through me at restaurants."

He added, "But here at this resort we are the normal ones, and you all are the odd ones. I can't express to you what it means to me and thousands of people over the years to come up here to Veterans on the Lake."

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**MINING...**Continued from page 1

ago," wrote the company in its statement. "The lawsuit seeks to restore the leases and other rights, which will restart the environmental review process as required by law for the company's mine plan," added the company.

"We are standing up for our right to a fair and consistent environmental review of our proposed mining project," said Dean DeBeltz, Twin Metals' Director of Operations. "Our plan is backed by decades of exploration and analysis and is rooted in the most environmentally sophisticated design, which is tailored for our project location and mineral deposit. It deserves a fair evaluation by federal regulators based on its merits."

In a 45-page brief that the court on Monday, the company cites the company's roughly half-billion-dollar investment in exploration and mine plan development and the country's need for the minerals Twin Metals proposes to mine. It also cites the jobs the mine would create and criticizes opponents of the mine for lobbying in Washington, an action that Twin Metals has repeatedly undertaken itself.

In legal arguments, the suit alleges that the Biden administration engaged in arbitrary and unauthorized decision-making when Interior Department Deputy Solicitor Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes overturned a Trump-era legal opinion issued by then-Interior Solicitor Daniel Jorjani. Jorjani had determined that Twin Metals had an absolute right to three ten-year renewals under the original lease. Twin Metals was seeking the third and final of those permit renewals when the Obama administration canceled the leases in 2016.

Jorjani's opinion, issued in 2017, overturned previous opinions issued by Interior legal counsel from the Reagan, Bush, and Obama administrations, which had all determined that any lease renewal was discretionary on the part of the Interior Department. Based on Jorjani's opinion, the Trump administration argued it had no choice but to reinstate the leases that the Obama administration had canceled.

In reversing Jorjani, the Biden administration was largely consistent with the view of previous administrations, based on the language in the original 1966 leases, which appeared to condition any right of renewal on the start of mining operations within

the first 20-year term of the lease.

Jorjani, who had previously worked for a Koch brothers-funded legal foundation, was infamous during his three and a half-year stint at the Interior Department for reinterpreting a slew of longstanding legal positions that had been taken by Interior on matters ranging from native rights to the protection of migrating birds. Jorjani's opinions regularly put the interests of industry above those of other stakeholders on issues affecting land management.

Interior Solicitor Bob Anderson, an Ely native, told the Timberjay late last year that one of his motivating factors for accepting Interior's top legal post was to undo some of the

damage that the previous administration, and Jorjani in particular, had done to the federal land management through his many reinterpretations of law.

**Reactions mixed**

Supporters of the Twin Metals mine expressed support for the company's lawsuit and their efforts to revive their mining proposal.

The group Jobs for Minnesotans, in a statement, said Twin Metals has a right to a fair review of their project. "We are extremely disappointed by the series of seemingly politically motivated federal actions to kill their project over the last 10 months. These actions set a dangerous precedent. They are an attack on all mining in northeast Minnesota,

jeopardize domestic access to critical clean energy minerals and are an affront to the people of northeast Minnesota who have proudly and responsibly developed natural resources for generations."

Opponents of the mine proposal saw it differently and questioned the merits of the suit. "I see no credible lawsuit here," said Becky Rom, chair

of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, the leading organization to oppose the mine. "The Biden administration was being utterly consistent on the lease renewals. Every other previous administration, before Trump, had determined that the lease renewals were discretionary once they failed to start mining within the first 20 years," she said.

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**New Building Secure Entrance**

Ely Public Schools is excited to open our new building with a new secure entrance for our students and visitors. All students and visitors will be expected to enter the school using the new secure entrance. The new entrance will be staffed every morning to greet students as they enter the school. All visitors must check in to either the Elementary Office, Middle/High School Office, or District Office and sign in on a Visitor's Log and will be required to wear a Visitor Badge.

**ARRIVING AT SCHOOL**

**Riding the School Bus:** The school buses will drop off students at the designated Bus Loop (see map) at 7:45 am and the students will be expected to enter the building using the new secure entrance. All other doors will be locked. Students are then to report to the cafeteria for breakfast or their assigned locker.

**Parent Drop Off:** Students that are dropped off will be dropped off in the Parent Drop Off Loop (see map) located in

front of the school campus. Students will be expected to enter the building using the new secure entrance. All other doors will be locked. Students are then to report to the cafeteria for breakfast or their assigned locker.

**Student Drivers:** Students that drive to school will be expected to park in the Student Parking Lot (see map) on the east side of campus. Students will be expected to enter the building using the new secure entrance. All other doors will be locked. Students are then to report to the cafeteria for breakfast or their assigned locker.

**DEPARTING FROM SCHOOL**

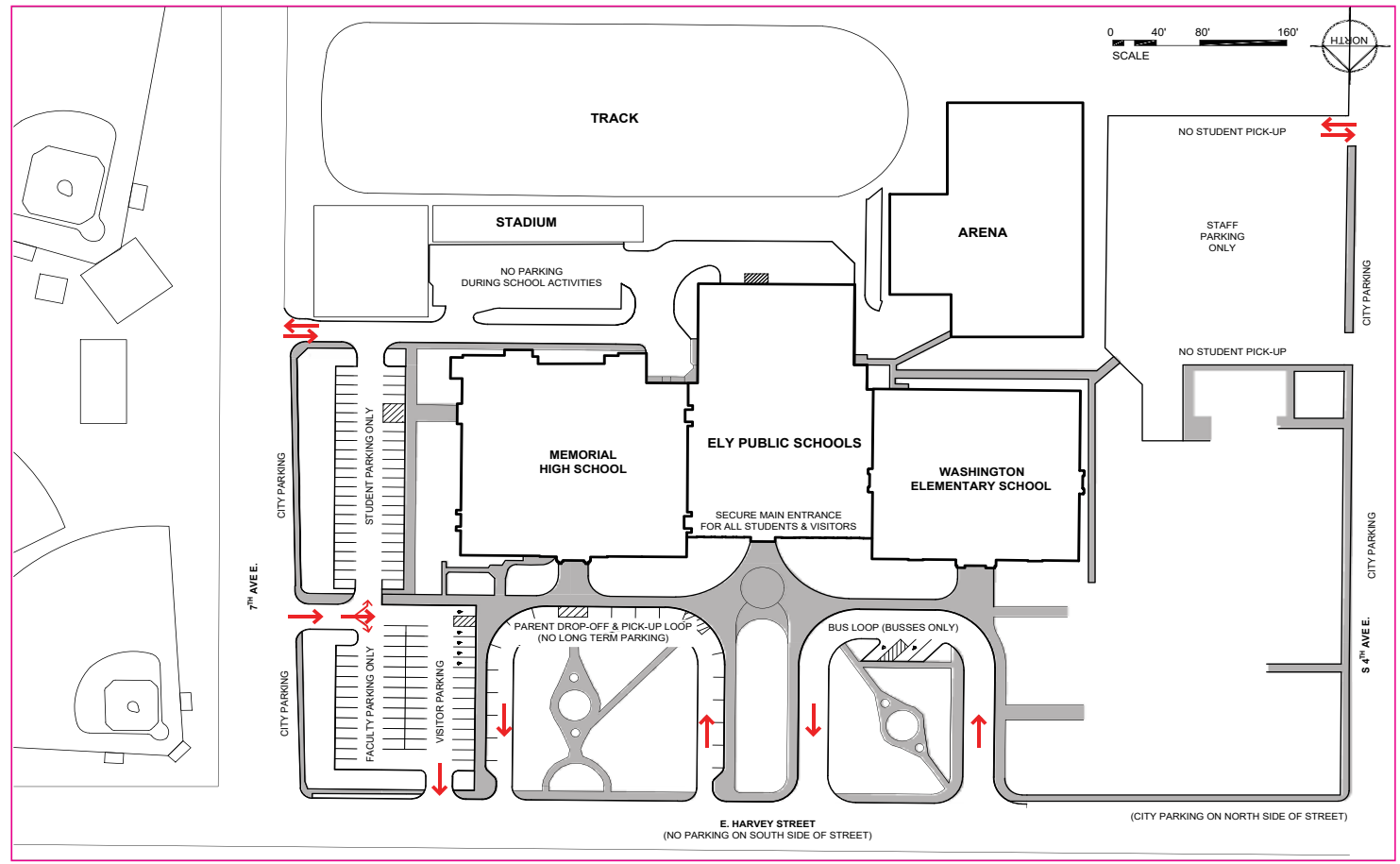
**Riding the School Bus:** Buses will be in the Bus Loop (see map) at the end of the school day. Elementary students that ride the bus will exit the building using the Washington North Door closest to the Bus Loop. Memorial students that ride the bus will exit the building using the Memorial North Doors closest to the Bus Loop.

**Parent Pick Up:** Students that walk

home or are picked up by their parents will exit the new main doors. Parents will enter the Parent Pick Up Loop (see map) at the end of the school day to pick up their child(ren) or parents can park in the Visitor Parking Lot on the east side of campus (see map). There are 15-minute parking spots in the Parent Loop. Parents will be expected to stand in the plaza to pick up their child(ren) and then walk to their car with their child with them.

The new entrance was developed by a contracted civil engineer and reviewed by local fire and police departments, the city of Ely, and the school administration.

Subject to change: New procedures often bring confusion and frustration. Please be patient as we work through the new procedures of our new building and new secure front entrance. Contact your child's building principal for specific questions.



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**FALL PREVENTION**

## VNP...Continued from page 1

the national park," he said.

Ecklund has also initiated action at the state level, asking Minnesota House of Representatives legal staff to research the possibility of starting up a Voyageurs National Park Citizens Commission.

He has also asked Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen to review the agency's agreements with the park concerning law enforcement.

"I have always been a staunch supporter of our law enforcement," Ecklund said. "I believe that we can have a rational conversation about how law enforcement interacts with our tourists and the tourism economy. I have called upon the superintendent of the park to return to historic levels of ranger activity in the park, because I do not believe there is cause today to increase stops of our citizens."

DeGross and other park officials were made aware of concerns about overly-aggressive law enforcement in a series of four community meetings in July that were initiated by DeGross. As previously reported in the Timberjay, the final meeting was held July 21 at Crane Lake, where participants registered a litany of concerns, some of which included a park law enforcement culture of unwarranted and excessive stops, rangers acting rudely or in a demeaning manner to visitors, a lack of transparency from park officials about law enforcement activities, and fear of retaliation among visitors and businesspeople should someone register a formal complaint about the conduct of rangers.

Participants also said the negative law enforcement culture they have perceived this summer is a sharp departure from summers past, with some suggesting Supervising Ranger Joshua Wentz's arrival at the park last fall could be a contributing factor.

Underlying all of that was the collective ire directed at the tasing earlier this summer of Ebel's Houseboats owner Justin Ebel by rangers and the ongoing refusal of park officials to release any information about the incident or to acknowledge its impact on members of the business community. Both Wentz and DeGross declined to provide the Timberjay with any information and indicated information would have to come from the Minnesota U.S. Attorney's office, which has also failed to respond to multiple requests by the newspaper for information. A referral to the U.S. Attorney's office suggests the likelihood that the incident is currently being or will be reviewed by a grand jury for possible charges against Ebel. Ebel and his attorney also declined to provide any information.

#### Action plan

DeGross said he would review the comments and other information provided in the meetings and develop an action plan to address the concerns. He released his response by email on Aug. 11, four days ahead of his self-imposed deadline.

DeGross began his letter by contrasting a "typical year" of park law enforcement case numbers and citations with the current year.

"Voyageurs averages around 167 law enforcement case numbers resulting in an average of 53 citations, in relation to 240,000 visitors annual-

ly," he said. Two-thirds of those cases occur during open water season, he said, with four out of 10 citations involving vessel and vehicle safety issues. Another 33 citations involve natural resource violations.

As for the current year, DeGross said, "With the historic flooding in 2022, a notable increase in stops and citations is related to no-wake zone violations. It is likely we will end the year slightly up for that reason, potentially having around 185 case numbers with around 70 citations issued."

Five of the eight items in the action plan directly address issues of communication. DeGross committed to:

► Having park rangers visit in-person with the owners and staff of willing area resorts/businesses, and maintaining those relationships by checking in annually, at a minimum, with meetings serving as opportunities to maintain open communication and answer questions. DeGross also said he would continue to attend lake/property owner association meetings with staff and continue hosting annual meetings with commercial operators and houseboat companies.

► Developing ways to increase community-oriented enforcement for more positive and professional visitor contacts.

► Requiring park rangers to immediately

introduce themselves and give the reason for initiating a contact with visitors.

► Communicate monthly as to trends related to visitation, law enforcement activities including common violations or safety issues.

► Improve organizational communication about the role of park service visitors and resource protection (law enforcement) rangers, including as it related to standard polices, procedures, and partnering with other agencies.

The three additional steps DeGross outlined may provide solutions to specific issues raised in the meetings. They are:

► Exploring solutions to limit the potential of checking the same vessel multiple times in short succession unless there are observed violations, and improving how contacts are tracked.

► Exploring the option of an early or pre-season vessel safety inspection and providing a sticker to identify vessels that passed to limit the likelihood of being repeatedly stopped and reinspected.

► Continue the current ranger performance assessment practices for quality control and investigate complaints or refer them to the NPS Office of Professional Responsibility.

DeGross also asked business owners and community members to help them by providing park

visitors with information about various regulations, sharing safety messages, encouraging compliance with vessel safety laws, and providing feedback to Wentz when a business or visitor has a complaint, comment, or positive experience.

#### Business owner reacts

While several business owners were reluctant to be interviewed for this article, one who wasn't was Cabins on Crane owner Drake Dill, who was an outspoken critic at the Crane Lake meeting.

"I've heard a few comments that Crane Lake was pretty hot about some of the situations that have happened this summer in the park. Quite frankly, I think with what's gone on in the park, it's been pretty mild. I'm not aware that Bob's action plan has produced anything of any substance because everything that he's proposed is what they were supposed to be doing all along. And I think a lot of people feel that way."

"It was eight basic bullet points," Dill said. "It's that mentality that we're going to avoid conflict. We've been saying all along there is a serious problem here. How easy it would have been to address that. That's what's bizarre, is that this was a relatively easy fire to put out."

And Dill confirmed that the park's response to the tasing incident remains

a significant issue that needs to be addressed.

"The expectation of the four gateway communities to Voyageurs National Park after the tasing incident was that Superintendent DeGross was expected by the communities to bring his rangers to all of our communities and tell us, 'This is ridiculous, this will never happen again.' That's what we're looking for," Dill said.

Like Ecklund, Dill would like to see a citizen's council for the park be resurrected.

"We used to have a citizen's council for the park," he said. "Back when the park was formed there was so much friction with the local communities not trusting the federal government that the legislation to form the park

mandated that there had to be an independent citizens' council that works with the park to keep them honest." Dill said that the council was state-funded and was discontinued during a period of state budget deficits.

"Now that the state has a \$9 billion surplus it may be time to look for avenues to get that citizens' council funded again," he said.

But for now, seeing is believing for Dill, and he's taking a wait-and-see approach regarding the potential outcome of the action plan.

"Everyone's telling the same story, and the park service, if they're listening they're not acting like it," he said. "Because their actions are speaking a lot louder than their words."

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**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).

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

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## RESTORATION

### Fire hall facelift part of ongoing renovation

by RACHEL BROPHY  
Staff Writer

**TOWER-** Anyone driving down the Main Street here recently likely noticed the flurry of activity at Tower's historic fire hall. As part of a multi-stage overhaul, the building is currently undergoing repairs to its exterior brick.

According to Tower-Soudan Historical Society President Nancy Larson, crews are working to rehabilitate, repair and tuck point the exterior masonry on the entire building. Last summer, she noted, contractors replaced the roof and in 2019 they restored the windows and doors.

"Our goal with these three projects is to 'seal the envelope'," she said. She noted that the first step in any restoration project is to take all necessary steps to ensure that the structure will not suffer any further water damage.

See **RESTORATION...pg. 2B**



## COMPETITION

### Eden Prairie team wins student bass tournament

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**VERMILION RESERVATION-** Fortune Bay Resort Casino hosted a large group of high schoolers this weekend who were betting that they could out-hustle and outfish all the others in the Student Angler Tournament Trail (SATT) Tournament of Champions bass fishing tournament on Sunday on Lake Vermilion. Competitors met Saturday for a rules meeting after spending several days pre-fishing the lake looking for hot spots, and bright and early Sunday morning 81 two-man teams hit the lake to compete for over \$52,000 in scholarships, including \$10,000 for the winners. The anglers had to earn their way into this tournament with qualifying performances at SATT events earlier this summer.

The Eden Prairie team of Danny Frischmon and Asher Weinberger came out on top with 30.67 pounds of bass in their seven-fish creel, a whopping seven pounds more than their nearest competitors.

This was the second consecutive year that the North Woods brothers team of Jake and Louie Panichi qualified for the tourney. Their take of 20.25 pounds was good enough for 18th, just out of the running for scholarships but ten places better than last year.

**Right:** A Voyageurs National Park staff member adjusts a telescope as night descends on the park. Voyageurs National Park has been designated an International Dark Sky Park.

**Below:** Well-known amateur astronomer "Astro Bob" and a young night sky enthusiast point out an early-appearing star as dusk was descending.



VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

## Star Party

VNP's dark sky celebration draws a hefty crowd

Story and photos by David Colburn

**R**EGIONAL - Humans have forever looked to the night skies in awe and wonderment, and those emotions were on full display at the Kabetogama Visitors Center at Voyageurs National Park on Saturday during the second night of the Voyageurs Star Party 2022. The event, intended to celebrate the park's designation as an international dark sky location, was sponsored by the Voyageurs Conservancy and the Park Service.

Paul Bogard, author of the critically acclaimed book "The End of the Night," kicked the event off on Thursday with a lecture at Thunderbird Lodge in which he talked about the importance of darkness, how much has been lost, what we still have, and what we might regain.

The telescopes came out at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center on Friday, but inclement weather in the area may have caused some to stay away, as turnout was reportedly light. But the skies above the visitors center were kind, affording those who came opportunities to gaze at planets and stars and a display of the northern lights.

The skies at Kabetogama on Saturday couldn't have been more favorable as star gazing kicked off in the bright mid-afternoon light with viewing of the star closest to us, the sun. Using specialized solar viewing equipment, visitors had an hour and a half to look for sunspots and elusive solar flares.



**Above:** Jesse Gates, an education specialist with the Voyageurs Conservancy, talks about the solar system ahead of star gazing at Voyageurs National Park.

"This is our second ever annual star party, and we had maybe a quarter of this crowd last year."

**Jesse Gates**  
Voyageurs Conservancy

The activities moved indoors at 6 p.m. as Ranger Kassey Trahanas introduced the creatures of the night, the nocturnal animals that inhabit the park. Armed with a slideshow and props of pelts and skulls, Trahanas covered everything from owls to pine martens, teaching some scientific terminology along the way while keeping things fun and engaging. As she passed out cards for a game of nocturnal animal bingo that tested people on some of the facts that she had presented, the crowd had grown to standing room only.

Participants had two choices when Trahanas was

finished. They could go directly to a spot near the boat ramp for campfire stories and s'mores, or they could choose to go on a "planet walk" first and hope there would be plenty of marshmallows and other fixing left once they were done.

About 30 people decided to take the planet walk with Voyageurs Conservancy Education Specialist Jesse Gates. As Gates prepared to take folks on a walk through the solar system, he commented on the turnout.

"I'm really excited for this, and for the events later on," Gates said. "This is our second ever annual star party, and we had maybe a quarter of this crowd last year. I'm so happy to have seen it grown."

The group moved along a 100-foot-long piece of

See **STARS...pg. 2B**

## INTERNET

### Broadband funding windfall may be headed our way

by WALKER ORENSTEIN  
MINNPOST

Minnesota could be in line for an unprecedented windfall of money to help build high-speed internet in rural areas.

Every state was promised a minimum of \$100 million for broadband development from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed by Congress late last year. But some states could get more, based on need.

Now, Minnesota officials have an estimate of that extra cash: \$550 million. That would bring Minnesota up to \$650 million for broadband from the infrastructure bill, a sum that would far eclipse any government spending in the state for developing high-speed internet in recent memory.

"This is a remarkable amount of money," said Nathan Zacharias, a technology policy analyst for the Association of Minnesota Counties. "The good it will do — especially for rural communities — is almost indescribable."

Minnesota's Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) cautioned that the projection is just a rough estimate and could change. It also wouldn't be enough for universal broadband access at blazing fast speeds.

But if the end result is anything close to \$650 million, Minnesota's goals for high-speed internet connection will be much closer to reality.

#### What was in the infrastructure bill

The \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill — passed with some bipartisan support under President Joe Biden — contained \$65 billion for broadband across the country. Of that, \$42.5 billion was earmarked for states to distribute. But so far each state has known only that they would get a minimum of \$100 million.

Diane Wells, deputy director of DEED's Office of Broadband Development, said the federal government recently gave Minnesota an estimate of how much money it could receive so the state could start planning. The cash is distributed based on need, so Kevin McKinnon, a deputy commissioner for DEED, said the relatively rural Minnesota was expecting to get more cash compared to states that are more urban and well connected to the internet.

The final amount Minnesota will get won't be known until later, and it's dependent on maps of areas without access to broadband that the feds need to update. Minnesota also must submit a plan for how it would use the money over a five-year period.

See **FUNDS...pg. 2B**

**RESTORATION...**Continued from page 1B

Architects from MacDonald and Mack are overseeing the entire project as the firm specializes in historic preservation and Larson explained they are premiere in this industry.

"We have the contractors in place (now), so we can move along with the project. Things are really falling into place," she said.

Even with the project moving along nicely, Larson said it is unlikely that the exterior work will be done this fall. In addition to favorable weather (including consistent temps above 40 degrees) being required for this type of work, "Everything is very particular in the way it needs to be carried out," Larson said, noting that everything from texture, color and mortar composition to the method of its application has to be just so. Once the exterior of



the building is complete, the next step is to work on the HVAC system and restoration and repair of the masonry on the building's interior. Plans are also

**Left: Grinding out old mortar is a painstaking and dusty job.**

photos by J. Summit

in the works to finish an addition to the building that was not part of the original structure. Framing was done in the addition in 2019, and once plumbing, electrical and finish work is completed, the space will be available to host area events like the history talk held last week at Pike River Products.

While Larson was unable to give a firm number on the cost of the project at this time, she said that the next set of construction documents will address costs in more detail. In addition, to the escalated prices of building materials in recent years, costs often are higher for the restoration of historic buildings due to the

requirement of work being performed by experts with specialized background and skills.

To meet the financial needs of the project, the Tower-Soudan Historical Society has been holding ongoing fundraising events like the Charlemagne's Attic Sale. This sale of 100-percent donated items helps to secure the funding match required by grant funders like the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for their Culture and Tourism grant. The project has also received funding from the Minnesota Historical Society, and TSHS has established a special fund for supporters of the project to make pledges and one-time contributions. Larson asked people to consider making a multi-year pledge or one-time donation to support the fire hall restoration. Private donor funds

suggest strong community support for the project. Contact Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514 or at tshs-donations@gmail.com if you would like to donate or make a pledge.

Larson said that the TSHS is also hoping to roll out a capital campaign in 2023. "We have a great board, and we're making a lot of progress (on that)," she said.

The timeline for completing the project is always dependent on fundraising and available grant funding, but Larson is optimistic.

"We have a grant opportunity that we didn't know about a year ago," she said. "It could give us a definite boost to move along sooner than later. Our hope is that we're able to do the interior in the winter of 2024. It all depends on the fundraising and community support is critical to securing grants."

**STARS...**Continued from page 1B

string, with Gates placing a picture of each planet along the string at points representing their relative distance from the sun. Gates carried a sheaf of pictures illustrating the planets, moons, and various geographic features, and described both basic information and little-known facts as he went. For example, Gates said that under International Astronomical Association rules craters on Mercury have to be named for artists, composers, or writers who were famous for more than 50 years and have been dead for more than three years, illustrating that with pictures of craters named

for composer Ludwig van Beethoven and Beatles singer/songwriter John Lennon.

Well-known amateur astronomer and planetarium educator "Astro" Bob King from Duluth was set to warm up the still growing crowd at 9 p.m., but he was there well before that to set up his big 15-inch Dobsonian telescope, augmented with two smaller telescopes provided by the park service. Before twilight had set in, he was already encouraging people to look up at the first star of the night, and then a second, naming and describing information about them as they appeared.

After King set the context for what people would be viewing that evening, the crowd formed three long lines at each of the telescopes and waited patiently for their turn. King's telescope was trained on Saturn to begin with, but his infectious excitement was evident when he spied another planet beginning to appear on the eastern horizon.

"Folks, if you want to see this, Jupiter is just rising over the lake to the left," he said. "How often do you just get to see it for the first time like that. And we also have a little northern lights starting over here, so keep an eye on that."

**Right: Park staffer Kasey Trahanas gives a presentation on the night life at Voyageurs National Park, highlighting some of the park's nocturnal wildlife.**

photo by D. Colburn

Jupiter and Saturn were planetary highlights, but telescopic views of star clusters, galaxies, and nebulae also captivated the crowd for nearly two hours before the successful event wound down for the night.



**FUNDS..**Continued from page 1B

McKinnon said it could take roughly a year before Minnesota gets any money to spend under the infrastructure bill program, known as Broadband Equity, Access and Employment, or BEAD.

The feds have previously outlined several potential purposes for the money, including allowing states to install Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings. But Wells said Minnesota's money is expected to be spent entirely on "deployment" of internet, primarily subsidizing the development of infrastructure — traditionally, fiber-optic cable — in places where it would be too expensive for internet providers to otherwise justify.

Universal broadband access has been a goal of both political parties, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted inequities in internet access. But exactly how to use American Rescue Plan money on internet projects was a point of contention.

Legislators this year directed the state to use \$110 million from the American Rescue Plan stimulus program passed under Biden for broadband infrastructure. In 2021, the Legislature approved \$70 million from the plan for broadband development. That was already a large sum compared to historic spending on broadband.

Minnesota also was in line for another \$408 million from a grant program run by the Federal Communications Commission. But \$311 million of that cash was awarded to one company, LTD Broadband, which was recently rejected by the FCC. Starlink, which was initially awarded \$8.4 million in Minnesota, was also rejected. The money is expected to be redistributed for broadband by the FCC, though it's not clear how

much will be dedicated for Minnesota.

**How far would the money go?**

Minnesota currently has two goals in law for broadband access across the state. One is for every home to have access to internet with download speeds of at least 25 mega-

bits per second (Mbps) and upload speeds of 3 Mbps "no later than 2022."

But the state also has a faster speed goal of 100/20 Mbps by 2026, which has been the primary focus of Minnesota broadband officials. (Netflix recommends at least 5 Mbps download speeds for high-definition

streaming, though faster speeds are likely needed for more complicated tasks involved in, say, running a business.)

In October, the state estimated about 88.5 percent of Minnesotans have access to wireline internet like DSL, cable and fiber at speeds of 100/20

Mbps. And in March, before the Legislature approved \$110 million for broadband, DEED officials said they would conservatively estimate the cost of meeting the 2026 goal for adequate broadband at \$1.3 billion.

Daniel Lightfoot, a lobbyist for the League of

Minnesota Cities, said the federal estimate was "exciting to hear" and higher than expected. But he said it doesn't completely solve the problem of lack of broadband access.

"If it was \$650 million total, that's about half of what we would need to meet that goal," Lightfoot said.



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## VERMILION LAKE ASSOCIATION

## VLA: Celebrating 54 years of protecting Lake Vermilion

LAKE VERMILION — Vermilion Lake Association (VLA) members gathered for their annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 6 at Camp Vermilion, located on the west end of Lake Vermilion. More than 100 members and guests attended.

A brief business meeting was held after a social hour and a buffet-style meal. Members re-elected board members Lori Ptak, Dwight Warkentin, and Craig Bev-

erth. Jeff Lovgren was recognized by Nancy Watkins on behalf of the whole VLA board for his years of service on the board and heading the Aquatic Invasive Species program. Bylaw changes regarding membership categories and dues were approved. These changes will be available on the website.

Following the business meeting, Keith Reeves, Area Fisheries/Division of Fish and Wildlife for the DNR

was the featured speaker and gave a talk about birds in the Lake Vermilion area, where to go birding (hunter walking trails mowed by the DNR are great spots), what to use to take photos (need a good zoom lens), and apps to identify birds (Merlin).

The 1,500-member Vermilion Lake Association is one of the largest and most active in Minnesota. The VLA welcomes all who care about Lake Vermilion and

wish to protect her for the next generation. More information on membership or volunteering is at [www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org](http://www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org) or contact Pat Michaelson 612-306-7702.

**Right: DNR Fish and Wildlife's Keith Reeves spoke about birds of Lake Vermilion.**



## Obituaries and Death Notices

**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.

Joni was born in Virginia on June 17, 1983, to Linda Marie Strukel Dahl and John Emil Dahl. She was raised in Genoa Location in Gilbert. Joni also attended Salolampi Finnish Language Village in Bemidji for eight summers to study Finnish, the language of her Warho and Dahl ancestors whose sisu she inherited. She was a 2001 graduate of Eveleth-Gilbert High School, where she was a champion swimmer and mentored younger members of the team. She set the school record in the 100-yard freestyle which stood for 17 years. Joni earned her undergraduate Business Administration degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and a master's degree in Integrated Supply Chain Management at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Joni's early employment opportunities took her to other regions of the country but before

long she returned to her beloved Iron Range. She was a hard worker, often holding two part-time waitressing jobs while working elsewhere full-time. For the last seven years she worked as the Materials Manager at Iracore International, LLC in Hibbing. Joni didn't just talk about improving the lives of her fellow community members, she got involved. She was the Executive Director of the Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce, served on the Gilbert Planning and Zoning Commission, ran for a seat on the Gilbert City Council, was a board member of the Iron Range Racing Association and served as its Recording Secretary, and was a board member of Better In Our Back Yard which promotes responsible industrial development in Northern Minnesota. Joni was always there for others, inspiring and aiding them to achieve.

Words often used to describe Joni include generous, thoughtful, big-hearted, strong-willed, smart, tough, outspoken, bold, accomplished, fun-loving, confident, spirited and athletic. Joni loved playing hockey and was a goalie for Chix with Stix, a local senior men's league, and a women's team in Canada. She earned a brown belt in karate. Joni was an outdoors woman who fished, hunted, kayaked and gardened; she trained her dog, Lemmi, to be her bird-hunting buddy. Her cabin on One Pine Lake was her favorite place to relax. She also enjoyed riding her motorcycle and loved to spend time at the Hibbing Raceway in support of friends and the racing association.

Joni is survived by her father and stepmother, John Emil Dahl and Jackie Westby Raymond Dahl; her partner-in-life, Matt Lenci of Tower and his sons, Nico, Nolan and Nash, who Joni was helping to raise; half-sib-

lings, Kimberly (Bradley) Day of Babbitt, Theresa (Raven) Dullea of Tacoma, Wash., and Torben Sorenson of Frederica, Denmark; step-siblings, Tim (Amy) Raymond, Terry Raymond and Tammy (Michael) Stahl; uncle, Tony Strukel of Arizona; cousins, Dennis (Jane) Dahl of Pelican Lake-Orr and Duane Caywood of Duluth; other cousins; nieces and nephews, Amanda, Amber, Aaron and Dale Jr. Boshey; great-nieces and great-nephews; numerous extended Westby family members; and a legion of heartbroken friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Linda Marie Strukel Dahl; grandparents, John and Alma Warho Dahl; and uncles and aunts, George (Marion) Dahl and Art (Lillian) Dahl.

**Karen Karni**

Karen Karni, 81, originally of Soudan, has died. A service will be held at the Tower Cemetery later this fall. An announcement will be published.

Karen was born on Jan. 10, 1941, to Carl and Bertha (Westerin) Soderberg in Soudan. She graduated as co-valedictorian of her 1959 class at Tower-Soudan High School and graduated with distinction in medical technology in 1963 from the University of Minnesota. Karen then graduated with an Ed Master's degree in 1969 from the University of Buffalo in New York and earned a PhD in Education from the University of Minnesota. She worked as a clinical laboratory professional in Bar Har-

bor, Maine, Virginia, Minnesota, and Buffalo, New York. Following those years as a faculty member at the University of Buffalo, she returned to the University of Minnesota as an instructor in 1970, and served on the faculty for 30 years, attaining the rank of full professor. Karen was the Director of the Medical Technology Program for 16 years, retiring in 2000.

Karen married Michael Karni, of Cook, located at the western end of Lake Vermilion, on Dec. 26, 1964, at her family's church in Soudan. Karen and Mike (who earned a PhD in American Studies in Immigration Studies) had two sons, Erik and Jake, each a source of great pride in their lives. Erik and Jennifer Cox were married in 1998 and they have three beautiful children. Jake has been the beloved 15-minute uncle to them, as well as the one who has kept up the Karni home in New Brighton. Life at the cabin has brought considerable joy to the family. It has also been a welcoming experience for scholars in ethnic studies as well as laboratory science scholarship. Many have worked at the dining room table Up North or pontificated on the deck.

In addition to her career, Karen traveled to many countries, over 40 in total, including Australia, Panama, Kuwait, Hong Kong, most of Europe and many times in Scandinavia. She loved these adventures. Karen was elected president of the Minnesota Society for Clinical Laboratory Science in 1992 and president of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science in 1998. She also served on or chaired numerous U of M committees. As an academic, research and publications were important. She was the author/editor of two books, over 50 peer-reviewed scientific articles,

and 60 workshops. She also procured \$1.5 million for two endowed professorships in laboratory science, the only two in the nation, together with over \$250,000 for student scholarships.

Karen and Mike cherished their ethnicity, quality education, opportunities to grow and succeed, and to return good things to their professions. Still, their greatest joys were in being at the lake, enjoying family, friends and colleagues. For Karen, additional pleasures were picking berries, making jams, jellies, pickles and salsa. She believed she lived a fulfilled life, and through this voyage, wished to thank all who enriched it.

Karen is survived by her sons, Erik (Jennifer) and Jake Karni; grandchildren, Emma, Nickolas and Finn; numerous nieces and nephews; and several aunts and uncles.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents; brother; and husband.

**Jesse Laakkonen**

Jesse Laakkonen, 83, of Orr, departed to his heavenly home on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022. Jesse had chosen to donate his body to the U of M Medical School Anatomy Bequest Program. Per his wishes, there will be no service.

He is survived by his wife, Judy; son, Curt and daughter-in-law, Wendy; granddaughter, Cassie; and great-granddaughter, Fae.

**Terry R. Strong Babaamadizi Geshigikwe**

Terry Rose Strong Babaamadizi Geshigikwe, 52, passed on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, after a 28-day hospital stay at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. She succumbed to her bodily condition surrounded by her immediate family and children, as she began her journey to the

relatives who had moved on before her. A wake was held on Saturday, Aug. 13 and traditional funeral rites were held on Sunday, Aug. 14, both at the Tribal Government Building in Nett Lake. Interment was at the Nett Lake Village Cemetery. George Boshkaykin, Spiritual Advisor from Seine River Reserve, Ontario, Canada, performed and advised the family and attendees on traditional rites.

She is survived by her mother, Rosemary Mexican Strong; children, Michael John Connor Jr. and Rhianna Mae Connor (Michael L. Connor Sr., father), and Terrence Joseph Strong-Boshey (Eugene Boshey Sr., father); brothers, George Joseph Strong, George Roy Strong and Anthony Nichols; numerous uncles and aunts; many cousins, nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

**Glen E. Economy**

Glen E. Economy, 59, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to service. A reception will follow at the Old Muni in Cook. Donations can be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Shriners Children's Twin Cities - [lovetotherescue.org](http://lovetotherescue.org). Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his father, Norman C. Economy Sr.; children, Patrick Bonham and Ally Economy; siblings, Mary Elizabeth Dracy (Steve), Norman C. Economy Jr. (Linda Campbell), Jean Black (Douglas) and Annette Butala (Keith); dear friends, Bob Lasko and Therese Zadra; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; and a great-great niece and great-great nephew.

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## HUNTING

# Advantage goes to bears as season opens Sept. 1

Hunters' baits less of a pull for bears luxuriating in a bonanza berry crop

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— What a difference a year makes. Last year in late August, area guides were eagerly awaiting the Sept. 1 start of the bear hunting season. With the region then in extreme drought, natural foods were in short supply and black bears were pounding the baits that guides and hunters use to pull the bruins in close to their stands.

This year, after a wet summer and with the lingering effects of a bumper berry crop in much of the area, it's looking like hunters will have to work harder this time.

"It's making it a lot harder," said Jesse Brunner, a longtime Cook area bear guide. "The bears are coming in but they're not hitting like they normally do." Bear baiting got underway Aug. 15, as allowed by law in Minnesota.

Brunner said an abundance of blueberries, raspberries and chokecherries are keeping the bears pretty content out in the woods right now. He noted that one of his baits is located on the edge of a big patch of plump, ripe blueberries. "A bear could just sit out in the middle there and eat all day," he said.

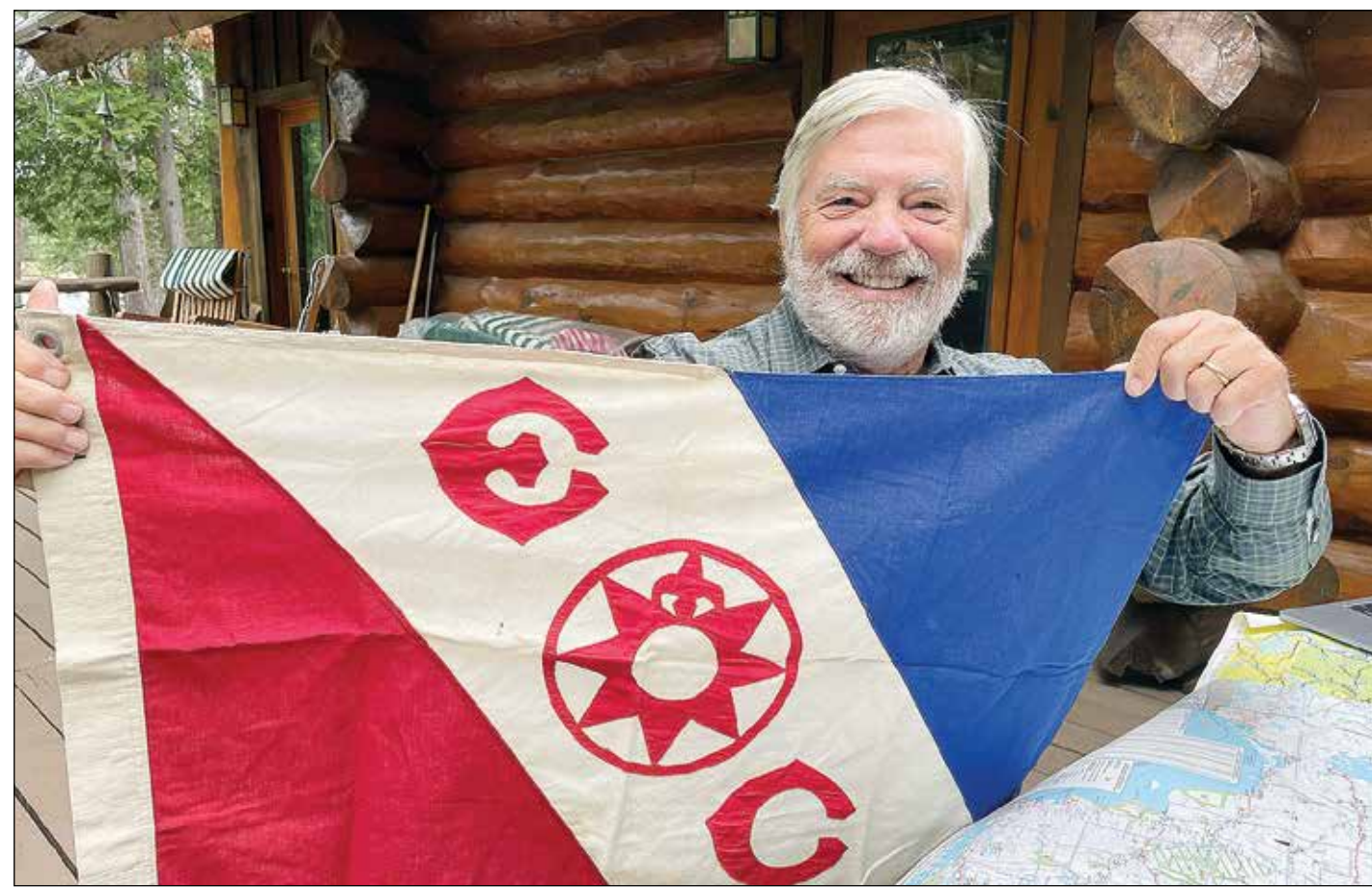
After three years of relatively high hunter harvests, DNR officials are predicting the bears might get a break

**Right: A mother bear and her cub rest in the morning sun. This year's abundant berry crop should limit the take of female bears.**

photo by M. HelMBERGER

this fall. "We're expecting average to below average hunter success," said Jessica Holmes, the Tower area DNR wildlife manager. The impact of a solid crop of wild foods has

See **BEAR HUNT...**pg. 5B



## PROFILES

# Adventure's in his DNA

For Bill Rom, the canoe country launched a lifetime of explorations in the north

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Bill Rom was sporting a bushy gray beard recently when we sat down to talk on the deck of his Burntside Lake summer residence. It was a sign that his sense of adventure had gotten the best of him yet again.

Rom, now in his late 70s, had just returned from a weeks-long journey down the Winisk River in northern Ontario, a huge wilderness river that Rom acknowledges was probably the most dangerous he'd ever visited in his 70-plus years of travel by canoe. Just as our own NorthCountry experienced record high water earlier this year, the vast and remote Winisk River was exceptionally high and dangerous, with almost continuous rapids for hundreds of miles, clouds of mosquitoes, and little hope of rescue had Rom and his small party of fellow adventurers run into trouble.

In other words, it was right up Rom's alley — a journey deep into the wilderness, requiring skill, experience, and a certain obsession with the unknown.

It's an obsession honed beginning as a child growing up in Ely, the son of a successful canoe outfitter. Rom was born in 1945 in San Francisco, to Bill Rom Sr., who had just been discharged after his service in the Navy in World War II. Bill Sr. had grown up in Ely and was eager to return to his hometown at the end of the road, where he used a GI loan to found Canoe Country Outfitters, the business that soon introduced Rom and

**Top: Bill Rom with his latest Explorer's Club flag in recognition of his recent trip down the Winisk River in northern Ontario, which he completed in July.**

**Right: Rom, second from the left, back in 1965, at the end of his first canoe trip in northern Ontario, on the Albany River.** submitted photo

**Below right: Rom recently examines his map of the Quetico-Superior, which highlights the many routes he's traveled there over the years. He estimates he's visited close to 1,000 of the 1,100 lakes in the BWCAW.**

photo by M. HelMBERGER

his siblings, including his sister Becky, to life in a canoe.

For the young Rom, exploring the canoe country was a passion he has yet to outgrow. While, in his earliest years, he helped out at the outfitting shop, at the ripe old age of 14 he became a wilderness guide, apprenticing under the likes of Jeep LaTourell and Fred McReady.

When he wasn't working in the wilderness, he was exploring it.

"When I had free time, I talked my friends into long trips, usually the kind with 30 or 40 portages," recalls Rom. He was always up for a challenge, the tougher the better. Back in the 1960s, he regularly took part in the International Canoe Derby, a race from Atikokan to Ely and back again, which totaled 200 miles there and back along with 52 portages. The annual event, which was sponsored in part



by Canoe Country Outfitters, only survived a few years as Rom noted the organizers had trouble finding competitors willing to subject themselves to the abuse.

Through his years exploring the canoe country, he figures he's been to 90-95 percent of the roughly 1,100 lakes found on the American side alone. He still regularly ventures to those few Boundary Waters lakes he's yet to visit, and most of those trips involve a considerable amount of bushwhacking. "A lot of the smaller lakes have no developed portages," he notes. At first, Rom was motivated by curiosity. "But once you've gotten to so many lakes, you begin to think you should just get to them all," he said.

Earlier this summer, he made the trip to Sinneeq Lake,



located in the northwestern part of the Boundary Waters, off of Wagosh Lake. Among other things, the journey required a three-quarter mile bushwhack from Wagosh. To call it difficult is an understatement, but there are sometimes rewards along the way. "We ran into some incredible old growth," he said.

Rom's fascination for the canoe country extends well

See **ADVENTURE...**pg. 5B

## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
**INDIAN PIPE**



The ghostly white flower stalks of the **Indian Pipe**, *Monotropa uniflora*, are in bloom right now, typically in the deep shade of mature pine or spruce. This is an unusual wildflower to be sure, which could easily be mistaken for a fungus. It gets its ghostly color from its lack of chlorophyll. Instead of generating its own nutrients like most plants, the Indian Pipe relies on fungi of the *Russula* family, which it parasitizes for the food it needs in a process known as mycotropism.

The flower clearly got its name from its appearance, which is like an upside down smoking pipe. They typically stand five or six inches high and grow in small clumps.

You might not guess it, but it's a member of the Blueberry (*Vaccinium*) family.

## Outdoors briefly

### Deer lottery application deadline set for Sept. 8

REGIONAL— If you're hoping to snag one of the few antlerless tags being offered in northern St. Louis County for this fall's regular firearms deer seasons, you'll need to purchase your deer license by Thursday, Sept. 8.

Hunters who purchase their license on or before this date are automatically entered into the DNR's lottery for the deer permit area or special hunt area they select.

Successful applicants will receive a postcard in the mail authorizing them to take an antlerless deer using their regular license in that antlerless permit lottery area.

Hunters who want to participate in special firearm or muzzle-loader deer hunts also need to apply for permits that are issued through a lottery. That application deadline is also Sept. 8.

More information about designations and regulations for deer permit areas, as well as details about special hunt opportunities, are available on the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/Hunting/Deer](http://mndnr.gov/Hunting/Deer)) and in the 2022 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook, which is available in print wherever DNR licenses are sold.



**BEAR HUNT...**Continued from page 4B

been obvious to DNR officials for some time. "My problem bear calls have certainly dropped off," said Holmes. And if bears aren't raiding bird feeders and garbage cans, it's because they've got all the food they can handle out in the wild. That's good news for bears, but Brunner said it's going to make hunters have to work harder than in the past few years. "They're just going to have to put the time in, and try a few different things," he said.

A lower harvest would help the DNR in its efforts to recover the bear population, which was cut in half in the 2000s by a series of aggressive harvests. The DNR dramatically dropped the number of bear permits it issues each year in the

quota zone, from more than 20,000 in the early-to-mid-2000s to a low of 3,350 in 2017 and 2018. But back-to-back poor food years beginning in 2019 had pushed harvests up again in recent years, including the harvest of female bears, which provide the foundation for population recovery.

Female bears are even less likely than males to approach hunters' baits when wild foods are abundant, so this year's berry crop could help keep sows out of the crosshairs. And if the sows go into their winter dens with a healthy fat reserve, as is typical in a good food year, they are likely to have a bigger litter come late winter, when the tiny young cubs are born in

the den.

While conditions in northern St. Louis County are likely to tilt in favor of the bears, that's not true in every part of Minnesota. Brunner said guides he's corresponded with in

central Minnesota, where the summer was considerably drier, are seeing good activity at their baits. And Holmes said the strong berry crop is somewhat spotty even in the north, depending on where and

when rains fell, and how much.

For now, Brunner said he's hoping for drier weather, which will ease access in some places and help to spread his bait scent. Once the season opens

next Thursday, hunters will likely be looking for some cooler nights to help chill field dressed meat— assuming they're successful. "Temperatures below 50 would be ideal," said Holmes.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
76 57					76 61					80 60					76 55					73 51				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
08/15	80	49	1.63		08/15	80	56	1.33		08/15	81	52	0.00		08/15	75	57	0.01		08/15	80	48	1.40	
08/16	74	56	0.00		08/16	76	57	0.00		08/16	77	56	0.00		08/16	66	57	0.00		08/16	76	56	0.00	
08/17	71	59	0.37		08/17	73	57	0.55		08/17	66	58	0.80		08/17	81	61	1.07		08/17	69	58	0.53	
08/18	81	55	0.13		08/18	81	54	0.11		08/18	82	57	0.01		08/18	79	57	0.94		08/18	81	54	0.02	
08/19	78	56	0.03		08/19	78	59	0.05		08/19	82	57	0.30		08/19	75	59	0.00		08/19	78	55	0.04	
08/20	74	61	0.01		08/20	77	60	0.15		08/20	75	61	0.10		08/20	75	54	0.00		08/20	72	56	0.05	
08/21	77	50	0.00		08/21	76	48	0.00		08/21	77	54	0.00		08/21	77	45	0.00		08/21	76	48	0.00	
YTD Total			18.71		YTD Total			20.88		YTD Total			20.09		YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			25.76	

**ADVENTURE...**Continued from page 4B

beyond its headwaters in the Quetico-Superior. "When you grow up in Ely, on the Voyageurs Highway, your dream is naturally to go to Fort Chipewyan, which was at the far end of the trail on Lake Athabasca," he said. Further inspired by Sigurd Olson's third book, "The Lonely Land," published in 1961, Rom was soon making plans for his first of many trips into northern Canada. In 1965, he spent weeks portaging and canoeing hundreds of miles through the northern Ontario bush, then finally down the enormous Albany River, which eventually empties into James Bay. Rom provides his most detailed account of the trip in his first book, "Canoe Country Wilderness," published in 1987 by Voyageur Press.

In 1967, Rom canoed for 40 days and over 1,500 miles down a portion of the Peace River in northern Alberta, later connecting with the Churchill River, which extends all the way to Hudson Bay.

Rom began medical school later that year and his studies put a temporary crimp on his adventuring. Even so, every summer he made a point of returning to Ely for at least one trip into the wilderness. On one of those trips he was accompanied by his future wife, Holly, for whom the Boundary Waters was a kind of proving ground. "Of course, we had to do a canoe trip," said Rom. "It was ten days and she caught the biggest lake trout, so that was that."

According to Bill, the two first met when he was jogging near the Harvard campus during his medical school days and he spotted her across the river. He took the next bridge and crossed to catch up with her and introduced himself.



Left: Bill and his wife Holly along the Nahanni River in Northwest Territories in 1992.

Right: An aerial view of the Nahanni River. The gorge created by the river is often called the 'Grand Canyon of the North.'



By the late 1970s, after completing his degree at Harvard and accepting a fellowship at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City, Rom made time for another adventure, a weeks-long trip on the Back River, in what is now Nunavut, with a friend and serious mountain climber he'd met in medical school. They journeyed first to Yellowknife on Great Slave Lake, where they chartered a flight north to the Back River, which flows to the Arctic Ocean. It was, indeed, a lonely land, as Rom discovered even as their ride was departing. "Up there, just seeing the plane take off is when your stomach drops," he said. This was barren ground, which did make the portaging somewhat easier, Rom said. It was late July

and snowbanks still lined the river in places. In their 300 miles of paddling, they saw no other signs of humans, other than a few rock cairns, Roms recalls, although they did see plenty of musk oxen.

In 1992, Rom and Holly ventured with a small group down the famed Nahanni River in the Northwest Territories. The Nahanni goes through some of the most dramatic geology in all of Canada, including a portion of the river known as "Canada's Grand Canyon." The journey down the enormous river started just downstream of Virginia Falls, a massive cataract approximately 300 feet high, or nearly twice the height of Niagara Falls.

For Rom, exploration is part of his DNA, and his social set. He's a member

of the New York City-based Explorer's Club, an elite group of hardcore explorers whose adventures are expected to contribute in some way to a scientific understanding of the remote places they visit. Members earn flags for journeys of significance and Rom just earned his fifth flag for his trip down the Winisk. He's earned other flags for such things as taking part in a spring hunt with Inuit in Greenland—a trip he joined with Paul Schurke— as well as for a ski and crampon trek across glacier-covered South Georgia Island, a trip he undertook with Holly and his youngest daughter, led by five guides seasoned on Mt. Everest. He was also among the first westerners to ever visit a remote mountain in Tibet that's

the ultimate source of the Yangtze River. He, along with his mountain climbing friend from medical school, also managed to summit the previously unclimbed Mt. Doonerak, a 7,400-foot peak in the Brooks Range in northern Alaska.

Rom has been equally high achieving in his medical career, where his clinical research on cytokines, an area of study he shared with his colleague Tony Fauci, has broken new ground.

He also studied lung scarring in asbestos workers and coal miners and along the way founded the Rocky Mt. Center for Occupational and Environmental Health in Salt Lake City, an institution that still exists today. Later, he went to the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland,

before moving on to a 25-year stint at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. At age 70, he stepped down from that position to take up a new job at the NYU School of Global Public Health, where he teaches graduate students about climate change and undergraduates about environmental health. He's written a number of books over the years, including several on his medical studies.

Though his work and travels take him around the world, Rom finds his grounding each summer when he returns to the pine-studded family property on Burntside, where he maintains a log cabin, a guest house and an art studio for Holly above the garage. His father bought the point on Burntside's north side in the 1940s and it's been in the family ever since. From here, Rom and others can sit at the southern edge of the Quetico-Superior and at the very head of a vast watershed that is an integral part of that lonely land to the north that still beckons him even as he nears his 80s. Here, in his one true home, he can pore over his maps and plan his next adventure.

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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

## CryptoQuote answer

If all the cars in the United States were placed end to end, it would probably be Labor Day weekend. — Doug Larson

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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.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆  
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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

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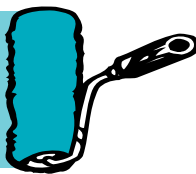
## Super Crossword

### APT CITY SIGHTS

- ACROSS**  
1 Inexpensive  
8 Nazareth's ancient locale  
15 Carbo-loading food  
20 Conditionally free prisoner  
21 Ram into from behind  
22 Voices below mezzos  
23 Pooch in a Texas city?  
25 Vegas machines  
26 Certain snake  
27 Employ  
28 Margarine, quaintly  
30 Eight in front?  
31 "That's — -brainer"  
33 Lock opener in an Oklahoma city?  
38 Display stand for curios  
42 Marked, as on a ballot  
43 Toothy tool  
44 See  
56-Across  
45 Young lady in a California city?  
50 Song satirist Tom  
52 Stroll along
- 53 Aegean, e.g.  
54 "Shrek!" writer William  
56 With  
44-Across, "In all probability ..."  
57 Cake alternative  
58 Cake levels  
60 Subway in a Duke Ellington title  
63 West of film  
64 Long seat in a Kansas city?  
70 Year-by-year records  
72 AFL —  
73 Pooh's mopey pal  
74 Band gig in an Arkansas city?  
81 Playfully shy  
82 Hispanic woman  
83 Lines on street maps  
84 Plato's "T"  
85 "M\*A\*S\*H" co-star  
88 Microbe-filled  
91 Municipal law: Abbr.  
92 — Carlo  
94 "The Far Side" cartoonist Gary
- 97 Opening for light in a Wisconsin city?  
100 Alias letters  
101 "— So Fine" (1963 #1 hit)  
103 Singer Yoko  
104 Anybody  
105 Boxy vehicle in a Virginia city?  
111 Scarlet, e.g.  
112 Casino game with 80 balls  
113 Ruinous end city?  
114 Banks do it  
116 Cooked in the style of  
119 Maya Angelou's "Still —"  
121 Sluggard in a Florida city?  
127 Dr. Watson player Bruce  
128 As a help to  
129 Sign off on  
130 Disney Hall architect Frank  
131 Try  
132 Arrange in a different way
- DOWN**  
1 Links gp. for women  
2 Sculling tools  
3 Prepare a gift  
4 Cheat  
5 Aged  
6 Chain of cosmetics stores  
7 Actress Garr  
8 Rosey of the 1960s Rams  
9 — Lingus (Irish carrier)  
10 China's Chou En —  
11 Angry feeling  
12 Strung along  
13 — Gay (warplane)  
14 Yard tools  
15 Fathers  
16 Sign off on  
17 Actress Channing  
18 Walked unsteadily  
19 Ore analysts  
24 Wall St. opportunist  
29 Of speech  
31 Light-footed  
32 Campbell of "Scream" films  
34 Acne care brand  
35 Ale barrels  
36 Emend  
37 Pile up debt  
38 That, to Lucia  
39 Orchestral drums
- 40 Surrounding, as sound  
41 Cow on milk cartons  
46 Lustful look  
47 Noble Brit  
48 Get, as profit  
49 — fire under (roused)  
51 Sweetums  
55 Fido's threat  
58 Boob tube  
59 Large bag  
61 "Nine" Tony Karen  
62 Cynical reply  
63 — de mer  
64 Earthen pot  
65 Actor Cage, to pals  
66 Entryway  
67 "Not possible"  
68 Toasted bread cube  
69 "Yo!"  
71 Map source  
75 Highway semi  
76 Blood type, for short  
77 Vocalist Vikki  
78 Net tyro  
79 "Fame" singer Irene  
80 Singers Arnold and Grant  
84 Moderately muscular  
85 "Great Jewish Joke Book" writer  
86 Body of water off Buffalo  
87 Get closer, quaintly  
89 Kitty's call  
90 Yearnings  
92 Act silently  
93 Fleecy female  
95 "Well well!"  
96 Dweeby sort  
98 11th mo.  
99 Vocabulary  
102 "Enough!"  
106 Tough puzzle  
107 Opposite of 104-Across  
108 Actresses Stone and Watson  
109 Off the ground  
110 Omaha loc.  
115 Get closer  
116 Between the sheets, say  
117 Mandolin kin  
118 Love god  
120 "Tarzan" star Ron  
122 Fruit stone  
123 Major fuss  
124 — -TURN (street sign)  
125 — -Magnon man  
126 That woman



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