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HISTORIC SOUND

Soudan's siren back in action

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Soudan- The mine siren, a long-time tradition in this area's first and oldest mining town, has resumed its twice-daily sounding. The siren stopped working several years ago, and then needed to be removed from the top of the Breitung Fire Hall while the building was being removed. Township resident and Soudan Underground Mine State Park electrician Tony Zavodnik was able to repair the siren, though supply-chain issues meant the repairs took longer than expected.

The siren is once again sounding at 12 noon and 9 p.m. The siren has been used by many local families to let their children know when to come in for lunch, as well as when to be home

See...**SIREN** pg. 9

BOIS FORTE

Band drops plan for Eveleth convenience store/gas station

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- Twenty-one months after announcing to band members that they were in discussions with the city of Eveleth to open a new convenience store and gas station there, the Bois Forte Tribal Council has called off the project after Eveleth city leaders proposed numerous unacceptable changes to their agreement.

Band leaders first publicly announced the project in August 2021, and later gained band member approval through a public meeting and membership vote. The store, which was to be sited near the off-ramp from Hwy. 53 onto Hwy. 37, was envisioned as a state-of-the-art facility with charging stations, propane filling, a car and truck wash, bait store, deli, and convenience store items. A liquor store was another possible addition to the development.

Initially, Eveleth appeared ready to give Bois Forte strong incentives to do the project. In a January 2022 letter from the tribal council to Band members, it was stated that "If we proceed with this project, we would be able to buy the land for \$1 and receive much support from the city (i.e. grant monies, site prep, etc.). The project would also result in job creation for Bois Forte Band Members and allow us to venture into what we believe will be a revenue generating business for

See...**STORE** pg. 9



BUSINESS LAUNCH

OPENER ODDITY

Floating hot dog stand angled for sales on Pike Bay

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

PIKE BAY- More than a few opening day anglers likely did a doubletake here on Saturday when they saw a hot dog cart and a woman wearing a hot dog costume floating by on the water. It was the launch, literally, of a new business—the Lake Vermilion Weiner Cruiser—the brainchild of Wade and Vicki Danielson.

The Danielson's were on the lake angling for sales, pushing hot dogs and all the fixings for five bucks a shot,

Above: Hux Broten smiles as he gets a hot dog while out fishing with his grandparents on Pike Bay on Saturday. The new floating hot dog stand proved a hit on opening day.

photo by J. Broten

with boat-side drive-through service, plus stops at a few area docks.

"I'd been thinking about having a hot dog cart ever since I was a kid," said Wade. "I had read an article in 'Reader's Digest' about how a hot dog cart was a great way to make a living and only work part-

time."

Danielson, who does work full-time at his barbershop in Silver Bay, and his wife Vicki, who runs her own cleaning business, spend weekends in the summer at their camper parked at Aronson Boat Works, where he is a part-time mailboat driver and occasional handyman.

"We've been spending summers at Aronson's for 20 years," he said. "And for the past 15 years, I'd been thinking about the hot dog stand. Last year I decided to do it!"

See...**HOT DOG** pg. 11

MINING

Familiar arguments at hearing to rescind mineral withdrawal

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Familiar arguments filled a House committee room here last Thursday as the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee heard testimony and more than a bit of grandstanding on a proposal to rescind the recent mineral withdrawal in the Superior National Forest. The measure, authored by Minnesota Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber,

who chairs the subcommittee, would also restore two federal mineral



Pete Stauber

leases key to the development of the proposed Twin Metals mine, near Ely, and require that all environmental and regulatory review for the proposed mine be completed within just 18 months.

The measure, known as the Superior National Forest Restoration Act, would also prohibit judicial review of the issuance of new mineral leases or permit, which would eliminate rights that Americans have long held to challenge most significant federal decisions in court.

Testifying on behalf of the measure were former state Sen. Tom Bakk, Dave Chura, chairman of Jobs for Minnesotans, and Dr. Harvey Thorleifson, chair of Center for Mineral Resource

See...**HEARING** pg. 9

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TEDA opts for harbor's original vision

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— For the first time since the city of Tower began work to re-create the community's historic harbor more than two decades ago, a developer is proposing to implement the original vision for that project as outlined in the city's 2007 master plan.

The Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA)

Right: A basic rendering of the proposed development at the Tower Harbor.

gave the green light last Thursday to a proposal by Tower Vision 2025 to construct a mixed-use development, including ground floor commercial space and upper floor condominium units. The proposal was one of two

See...**HARBOR** pg. 11



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Community notices

Ely welcomes shoppers to town for deals galore on Saturday, May 20

ELY- Kick off summer with a trip to Ely for the 12th annual City-Wide Rummage Sale, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment and Watercraft Sale. This one-day event is Saturday, May 20. Rummage sale hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and business hours vary. The event map with the sale locations and lists will be available at the Ely Chamber of Commerce office starting May 12, or at Ely.org/citywide.

Bargain hunters do not want to miss this event. Dozens of Ely residents offer garage and rummage sales throughout the city. Many retail businesses are offering in-store savings. Shoppers may stop by the Ely Chamber of Commerce Saturday morning for the sale map and receive a free market bag from Midco staff, then head out to shop all the great sale locations.

Plan to make a day of it in Ely. There will be plenty to shop for and don't worry about going home hungry. Restaurants will be open to serve even the hungriest shoppers.

Northwoods Partners Healthy Aging Expo set for Monday, May 22 in Ely

ELY- The Northwoods Partners Healthy Aging Expo is a day of education and support for older adults. Northwoods Partners is hosting the event at the Grand Ely Lodge May 22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This is a free event thanks to the support from Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital and EBCH Pharmacy along with Essentia Pharmacy.

The event features 14 vendor tables sharing valuable information and resources. Speakers will begin at 10 a.m. Topics include: Dental information by Dr. Chopp, brain health by the Mayo Clinic's Nic Rethemeier, eye health by Dr. Bremner, technology and devices to help you in your home by Lighthouse on Vital Living's Greta Jenkins, mental health by Sara Rohr from Range Mental Health, Advance Care Planning by Dr. Schwinghamer from Essentia and Transitional Care, and services at Ely Bloomenson Hospital by Greg Jonas, Linda O'Neill DeRemee and Jodi Martin.

A free lunch will be served. There is no registration required for this come-and-go event. Last year's event was well-attended, and participants raved about all the great information they received about healthy aging in a beautiful community. "This is a wonderful opportunity to come together with your friends and neighbors and get valuable information from some great professionals who are helping us to stay well and thrive in our beautiful part of the world!" says Northwoods Partners Executive Director Lisa Porthan.

Benefit set for Diane Nelmark on Saturday, June 3

EMBARRASS- A spaghetti benefit dinner will be held on Saturday, June 3 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Timber Hall in Embarrass for Diane Nelmark. The benefit will help Diane and her family with expenses while she is recovering from a car accident in April. There will be a raffle, bake sale, and silent auction. To-go orders will be available. Suggested donation is \$10 for ages 13 and up, \$5 for ages 6-12, and 5 and under free.

Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 to hold memorial service meeting May 25

VIRGINIA - The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights will be meeting Thursday May 25, 2023, at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall. Ladies will be having their memorial service. People are to wear white. Everyone is welcome.

LIVE MUSIC

First Presbyterian Church hosts Ukrainian benefit concert May 30

ELY- Jurij Fedynskyj, an American musician who now lives in Ukraine, will be performing at Ely's First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 30 at 7 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken, with funds going to Ukrainian musicians as well as medical supplies for Ukrainian soldiers. The church is located at 226 E Harvey St. The public is cordially invited to attend.

From Bunker Hill to the bunkers of Ukraine, American Troubadour Jurij Fedynskyj is currently touring the United States. Fedynskyj risked his life on the front lines of Ukraine playing in the bunkers of Ukraine - keeping up the spirits of the soldiers. He will be performing on the lost, national instruments of Ukraine, the traditional torban, bandura, and kobza, in defense of Ukraine today. The concert will feature traditional Ukrainian sacred songs, epic psalms, historic songs, folklore, as well as related genres, and information about the war in Ukraine today.

For the past 12 years, Jurij Fedynskyj has worked to resurrect the traditional Ukrainian torban, bandura and kobza, after Soviet attempts to erase all memory of the instruments, players, and traditions related thereof. Since very little information has been passed on to present generations, the task of reviving traditions of instrument making, playing, and professions of propagating such music, has been significant.



VOLUNTEERS



Helping neighbors...

Volunteers from the Tower Fire Department and Tower Area Ambulance Service held a very successful spaghetti dinner fundraiser last Saturday for the families of April and Lucy Pecchia, who lost their lives in a car accident in April. photo by J. Summit

EDUCATION

MDE official tours area schools

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Bobbi Burnham, Assistant Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education, visited Vermilion Country School last Friday, as part of an area-wide outreach tour, which included visits at many area schools.

Burnham, whose family has a cabin on Lake Vermilion, has been spending time in the area for over 40 years, she said.

Burnham visited with VCS Director Sam O'Brien, Office Manager Karla Lundstrom, and School Board Chair Jodi Summit, while touring the school.

"The purpose of these visits is to get to know you and your team; listen to your concerns and ideas; experience the great work you are doing for your students and strengthen the relationship between your school community and MDE," said Burnham.

Burnham said she was impressed with the "great learning environment" she saw at VCS, as well how engaged the students were in their classes during her tour.

Above right: Burnham visited with VCS Director Sam O'Brien. photo by J. Summit



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MOVIES, COFFEE, AND MORE

Live opener broadcast tradition renewed at resort

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- A long and sometimes sporadic fishing opener tradition at the Life of Riley Resort on Norwegian Bay logged another edition on Saturday as radio station WEVE 97.9 FM and sister station WTBX 93.9 FM broadcast live cut-ins from the resort promoting Lake Vermilion and the opener.

“We’ve hosted WEVE before for many years, from way back in WEVE history when they were in Eveleth,” resort founder Rock Gillson said. “It was a bit different. Sometimes they would come and stay in a cabin, sometimes they would bring their own camper trailer. Sometimes, just like today, they would travel up for the day.”

For on-air personality Rollie Dethloff, known to listeners as Rollie D, it was his first time broadcasting the fishing opener, but he was clearly in his

element with live segment interviews and commentary, due in no small part to the reception he received from the folks at Life of Riley.

“The people here are so kind – that’s nice to see,” he said. “It’s nice to come to a place where everyone wants to just get to know you and talk to you.”

Dethloff said the broadcast was a good fit with their listeners.

“We try to do broadcasts of interest that target our audience,” he said. “WEVE has done that for a long time, and this is just kind of where we ended up last year. And now we are here again.”

While Dethloff was set up in a waterfront room with an expansive view of Norwegian Bay for the broadcast, Gillson said some past broadcasters had been a bit more adventuresome.

“They actually tried to get out in a boat and do live-on-the-water interviews where they would

pull up to some boats on the water,” he said. “It’s a little different these days, with folks a little worried about who’s coming to my boat, that kind of thing. Life changes, so you’ve got to change with the world.”

The broadcast was sponsored by a wide array of businesses with a connection to Lake Vermilion and the opener, and current resort owner Josh Gillson spent as much or more time promoting the area as he did the resort.

“I want people to come up to Lake Vermilion and enjoy the area, whether you stay with me or you stay with somebody else. I’m one of 28 options on the lake, and that’s not counting all of the Vrbsos and Airbnbs. We want everybody to come up and enjoy the lake and the many many options that are here and available. There’s food, activities, amenities and attractions for all.”

And Gillson was happy to sell listeners on the

opening day conditions.

“It’s been good to us this year,” he said. “We squeezed it in – the ice went out on May 10, only a few days before, but we’re off and it’s golden. People are here and fish are coming in on the boats. We’ve already had two boats come in with fish.”

But the biggest trophy for the Gillsons came the afternoon before the opener, when Shannon Gillson, Rock’s daughter-in-law and wife of son Caleb, gave birth to Guston “Gus” Gillson, measuring 21.5 inches and weighing in at seven pounds, nine ounces, a precious catch the size of which any Lake Vermilion angler would have been proud to have added to their creel this weekend.

“My brother and his wife definitely did not plan an opener baby,” Josh laughed. “We actually thought the weekend between, we were threading needles between opener and Memorial Day for

when she was due.”

“Babies and fishing are two of God’s greatest gifts to mankind,” Rock said. “However, he never intended for them to inter-

fere with one another.”

And Gus already has an indication of what his future may have in store for him – his given middle name is Riley.



“Rollie D” Dethloff broadcasts live on WEVE and WTBX from Life of Riley Resort. photo D. Colburn

Ely City Council lifts calendar parking early

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- An Ely City Council vote at its May 16 meeting is sure to cause rejoicing with city residents. With the blessing of Police Chief Chad Houde, the council voted to lift winter-season calendar parking rules two weeks early, a sure sign that it might finally be spring.

In a blitzkrieg meeting of just 36 minutes, the council also approved the first applications for the city’s new cannabinoid dealer licenses. The council also declared the property at 109 W. Conan St. to be blighted, which is the subject of a separate article in this edition of the *Timberjay*.

The council did hear from both the fire and police departments regarding public safety matters.

Houde stated that Ely drivers should be aware that crossing the single white line to pass on the right on streets in the downtown districts is illegal. Houde described “a close call” last week with a car that narrowly missed injuring a minor after attempting to pass on the right across the single white line.

Fire Chief David Marshall remarked that the city has not had any grass or brush fires to date; however, there have already been several grass fires in the communities adjacent to Ely and that residents should be aware of the current hazardous fire conditions. “All of northern Minnesota is under high fire danger right now,” said Marshall. “No open burning is permitted but campfires are still allowed for now.”

Ambulance

The council agenda originally included an item to make the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board (EAAJPB) meeting on May 18 a special city council meeting. Such a declaration is a necessity which allows city council members to attend without violating Minnesota’s open meeting law. Mayor Heidi Omerza requested the council strike the item from the agenda because the meeting had been canceled.

Langowski explained that the EAAJPB ad hoc committee tasked with working on a draft lease and scope of work proposal for the ambulance property last year needs a little more time to complete their work and that a new meeting will be rescheduled “in one to two weeks.”

In other matters, the city council:

►Received a proclamation from Mayor Omerza for Oct. 15 to be observed in Ely as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

►Heard from Fire Chief Marshall that former Ely Fire Chief Tom Erchull is retiring from the fire department. At Marshall’s recommendation, the city council will prepare a letter thanking him for his 11 years as chief and his even-longer service as a firefighter.

►Heard from Angela Campbell, the city council representative on the Heritage Preservation Commission, that the commission is working on a potential video and oral history project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Ely Memorial High School.

►Approved a recommendation from the Projects Committee to direct city staff to develop a price for a turn-around “vacation” on Chandler for the property David Franks is interested in purchasing. A vacation is when a government which owns a street or other right-of-way “vacates” that property and sells it to a private individual or business.

►Approved a recommendation from the Projects Committee to proceed with the environmental work on the city property next to the depot and former rail yard area. The fee for the work is not to exceed \$15,000. Council member Paul Kess commented that “it’s good to see this project going forward.” According to the discussion on the matter in the Projects Committee

meeting on May 9, this property and the adjacent private property around the former round house and rail yard are areas under active consideration for potential new commercial and recreational development.

►Approved a recommendation from the Tree Board that all future requests to tap trees for sugaring be denied.

►Approved a recommendation to appoint city council member Adam Bisbee as the ad hoc representative of the council to the Tree Board.

►Approved a recommendation to advertise for an open citizen position on the Tree Board.

►Approved a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board to lease the basement of Se-

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

The sausage grinder

Stauber's congressional hearing a reminder that lawmaking can be an ugly process

Otto von Bismarck once quipped that: “Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made.” That would certainly apply to two recent congressional hearings, one held here in Minnesota, the other in Washington, D.C., meant to make the case for legislation introduced by Rep. Pete Stauber that would rescind the recent mineral withdrawal affecting a portion of the Superior National Forest.

The bill would also reissue, by congressional order, mineral and prospecting leases and permits for the Twin Metals project, and give federal agencies no more than 18 months to complete both environmental and regulatory review, for any and all mine plans submitted within the Superior National Forest.

It would also remove long-standing rights of affected parties to challenge the reissuance of leases or permits in federal court. As such, litigation that had challenged the legality of the reissuance of Twin Metals leases by the Trump administration would no longer be permitted.

The public would, in effect, be shut out of this decision-making process to grease the skids for a foreign mining company.

If that's not disturbing enough, just watching Congress “deliberate” on such a piece of legislation is, well, depressing. Most of us would probably like to think that such legislation is advanced based on solid information and rational consideration but having watched two recent hearings related to Stauber's bill, it appears that misconception, misunderstanding, and distortion are the real orders of business.

The lawmakers, at least those on the Republican side of the aisle, seemed most impressed with the vastness of the mineral wealth of the Duluth Complex and can't understand why the Biden administration would deny access to all of those minerals at a time when they're desperately needed.

That, of course, is a misconception. The Duluth Complex is certainly vast, spanning about 1.2 million acres, but it is not a mineral withdrawal (which encompasses about 19 percent of the complex) that is preventing exploitation of the vast majority of this deposit— it is basic economics. The Duluth Complex is enormous in size, which accounts for the mind-numbing tonnage of the various metals it theoretically holds, yet no one has any idea how the vast majority of it could be profitably mined, at least with current technology. Even those slightly higher-grade deposits, such as Twin

Metals has proposed to mine, are marginally economical, which is likely one reason that the venture has yet to release financial projections for its most recent mine plan.

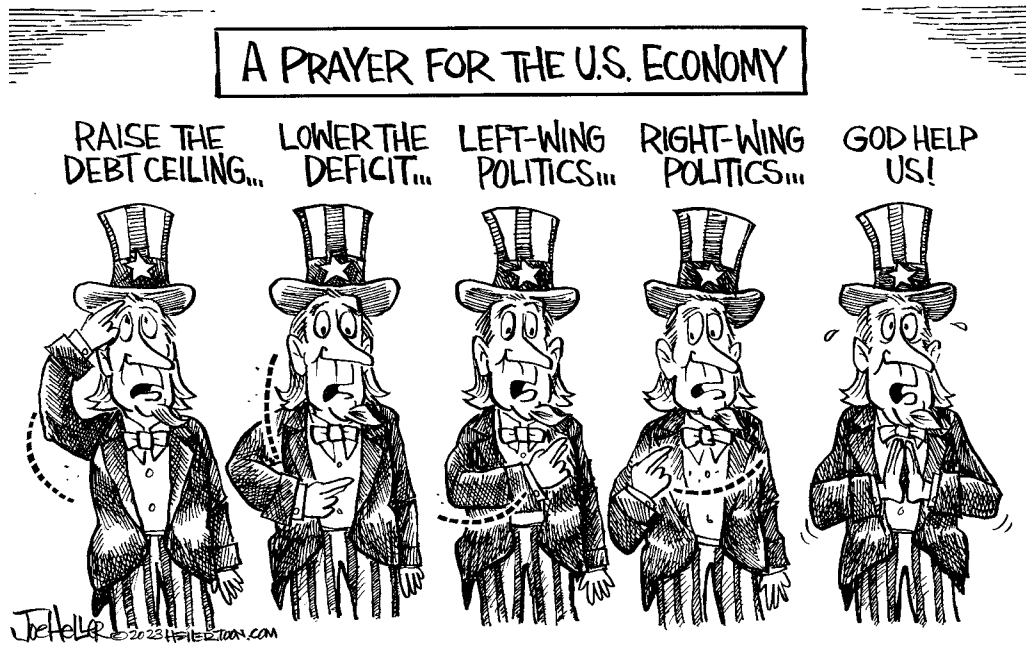
Other basic misunderstandings of the situation presented themselves constantly in the questions posed by committee members. “If this is so bad, how is it that gold mines in the Rainy River watershed in Canada aren't causing pollution in the Boundary Waters?” is a common refrain. Becky Rom, who was one of four witnesses who testified at a congressional hearing on the measure last week, had a simple answer: Those mines are located in watersheds that don't flow into protected areas, such as the Boundary Waters and the Quetico. The Twin Metals mine would flow into those areas.

In a truly head-slapping moment, another member of the committee, pointing to an aerial image depicting the maze of water and forest that makes up the BWCAW, asked: “But, if this mine is located ten miles from the Boundary Waters, how will any canoeist even see it?”

Rom, who must have felt like a Kindergarten teacher at times, then had to explain that the concern is the impact of the proposed mine on downstream water quality and cited peer-reviewed and published studies that have determined the risk of such contamination is high given the abundance and interconnectedness of water in the region.

“But what about the Eagle Mine?” is another popular one, paired with the suggestion that modern mining techniques deployed there are preventing pollution. The Eagle Mine, located in the Upper Peninsula, is a high-grade, underground, copper-nickel deposit that encompasses an ore lode approximately six acres in size. It began operation in 2014 and is expected to close in 2027. It is infinitesimal compared to the scale of the proposed copper-nickel mine operations in northeastern Minnesota and we still don't know whether the site will generate acid runoff in the long-term since it's been open less than a decade.

Sadly, none of the answers to these questions will have made any difference in how members of the committee vote in the end. The members had their preconceived notions and were sticking to them. Most just ranted or asked rhetorical questions, at best, to score political points. If this is how the work of lawmaking is typically done, it's a miracle we've survived this long. For anyone with a sensitive stomach, it's probably best to stick to making sausage.



Letters from Readers

Don't throw away clean water for another momentary boom

Pete Stauber is a myopic man on a mission but not for the sake of northern Minnesota's future. Sometimes “you don't know what you've got till it's gone.” For those long suffering economic hardships of boom and bust of all northern Minnesota residents, the cataclysmic loss of those pristine waters and fragile ecosystems that are so rare and irreplaceable would be the final devastating blow, and all lost for the sake of a decade or so of promised prosperity. My family has property in Winton and see a brighter future for this very special community only in the absence of copper nickel mining's impact.

**Dan Iverson
Winton and
Mound, Minn.**

Trump not deserving of another platform

CNN's misguided attempt at even-handedness, if that's what it was, in providing a “town hall meeting” for Donald Trump, was just that— misguided. An attempt at impartiality with regard to some run-of-the-mill, light-

ning rod politician would be one thing. But this is a man who attempted to overthrow the government and would do so again in a heartbeat if given the chance, a man who in the near future could very well be, and certainly deserves to be, behind bars.

And yet CNN, as moderate as any of the news outlets, gave him yet another platform from which to spew his delusional nonsense. The fact that he probably made things worse for himself, as he usually does whenever he speaks, is beside the point. Whatever their motivation, CNN should not have done it. Shame on them.

**Lynn Scott
Soudan**

Thanks to those who made a successful fundraiser possible

Tower Fire Department's (TFD) fire chief Paige Olson along with her hard-working Tower Fireman Relief Association members and/or TFD members, including Terri Joki-Martin, Jessie Hinkle, Shawn Gawboy, Steven Olson, Chaz Hanna and Jordan Purkat worked tirelessly alongside amazing community volunteers to set up the civic center on Friday afternoon, May 12, and all day Saturday, May 13, cooking and

then serving a spaghetti meal, running a bake sale and silent auction to benefit the surviving family members of April and Lucy Pecchia who died from injuries sustained during a devastating car accident April 20, 2023.

Thank you to those who volunteered their time, donated food items, baked goods, and/or silent auction items, as well as everyone who came out to support the family of April and Lucy!

In the words of Paul Wellstone, “Successful organizing is based on the recognition that people get organized because they, too, have a vision.”

We are blessed to live in such a wonderful area!

Thank you all,
**Dena Suihkonen
Tower**

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

COMMENTARY

Helping veterans struggling with addiction

Memorial Day is a time to honor the memory of all the men and women who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. military. It can be a somber time for veterans and their families.

Outside of this day, we must never forget the countless veterans who made it home but are struggling with addiction and mental health issues. Many other veterans have lost their lives to this and suicide. Early intervention and prevention is critical to help veterans find



**VERONICA
RAUSSIN**

the treatment they need.

Minnesota has over 300,000 veterans, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Approximately 16 percent of the veteran population in Minnesota had served since Sept.

11, 2001.

“There are many reasons veterans become addicted to drugs or alcohol, but addiction and mental health issues are treatable,” said Michael Leach

of Addicted.org.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over 3.9 million veterans have a substance use disorder or mental illness. Substance use disorders significantly increase suicidality among veterans ages 18 and older. Suicidal thoughts and behaviors remain stable in veterans ages 18 to 49.

Many veterans struggle with adjusting to civilian life and battle financial hardships, difficulty finding employment, and accessing benefits.

See **VETERANS...pg. 5**

Angling through my memories of fishing

I've not yet jumped in to join the fishing opener frenzy here in Minnesota, but the big event has sparked a bit of reminiscing about my angling past.

I remember the first rod and reel I held in my hand was the toy variety, the kind with a magnet instead of a hook and fish that were easy pickins for a persistent eager five-year-old. I was never so proud as when I managed to “hook” one of those colorful little things. I



**DAVID
COLBURN**

was truly a champion angler.

Going after the real thing came when my family moved to a house overlooking the creek that ran through my hometown. Dad worked hard clearing brush and small trees along the bank to create a spot where we could toss in our lines and fish for

perch, catfish, and for the sport of it, occasionally carp. I remember well the battle that ensued when a big ol' carp sucked in my corn-laced hook for the first time, as the huge tug threw me off balance and nearly into the creek. It was hard work pulling it in, and I didn't really understand why Dad immediately threw it back, though eventually I learned. Catfish were way better eating than carp.

The next memorable experience was when my best friend and his dad took me with them to try for northern pike in the

relatively new and extremely big (to me, a fourth or fifth grader at the time) federal reservoir west of town. It was my first time fishing from a boat, and being out on those rolling waves was an exciting adventure. Pulling in a northern was as much of a tussle as landing that carp, but more fun. My friend's dad was going to toss our catch back, but when I begged he let me take them home. My dad sent me straight down to the creek to dispose of them – evidently, at least in our neck of the woods, northern weren't worth the trou-

ble of eating, either.

I was in junior high when I “graduated” to the big time – Dad took me out with his buddies for an overnight fishing trip on nearby Clear Creek. The prey was catfish and flatheads, and the method was setting limb lines. We first seined for baitfish, of which perch were the prized catch. We dumped them all into buckets, loaded them into a flat-bottomed boat and set off down the creek, looking for branches in just the right spots

See **FISHING...pg. 5**

Ely City Council declares Conan Street home as blight

by CATIE CLARK

Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely City Council declared the residence at 109 W. Conan St. blighted at its May 16 meeting, allowing the city to undertake clean-up actions if the owners of the property do not alleviate the condition within 10 days.

The property has a history of blighted conditions. The city council held a public hearing on the blight resolution before its regular meeting. During the hearing, Ely's city building official Doug Whitney testified as to the nature of the blighted property and the complaints that neighbors have lodged with the city dating back to 2021.

Documents provided with the May 16 meeting agenda show that the city received complaints prior to the fall of 2021. The city inspected the property on Sept. 22, 2021, and cited the owners and the resident for blighted conditions.

The city reinspected on Oct. 26, 2021, and noted no improvement. After further complaints in 2022, the city reinspected on May 24, 2022, noting,

"The blight conditions have not improved and are now worse. The blighted property with junk and garbage in front and rear of (the) single-family dwelling continues to pose a risk to public health and safety."

Recent complaints

In his testimony before the council, Whitney summarized the current situation at the property. "We received numerous complaints, more recently with the snow leaving ... showing the trash in the yard. The front yard and rear yard are covered with trash."

The property was reinspected on May 1. The city then issued a "final notice of violation," giving the owners seven days to clean-up the blighted condition or 10 days to lodge an appeal. The owners took no action before the May 16 city council meeting and did not attend the public hearing.

The owners of record of 109 W. Conan St. are Donald and Jeannie Krings and the current occupant is Kristen Krings.

Ely's blight law

Ely's city ordinances allow the city a variety of actions regarding blighted properties, including inspections and the issuing of violations and warnings. An additional provision allows the city council to impose a fine of \$100 per day while a property is in violation of the blight ordinance. A fine was not imposed for the property of 109 W. Conan.

A final violation notice, like the one issued May 1, gives the owner seven days to relieve the blight or have the matter sent to the city council. After those seven days, the city council can issue a blight resolution, which can only happen after a public hearing.

Once a blight resolution has passed the council, the owner has one last chance to clean-up within 10 days. If the owner declines the last chance to mitigate the mess, the city can then legally enter the property and clean it up. All the costs of remediating the blight will be charged to the property owners.



Above: The front of 109 W. Conan St., which the Ely City Council declared as blight at its May 16 meeting. Below: The backyard of 109 W. Conan St. on May 16, with an unused vehicle, refuse and overgrown brush. The inoperative vehicle is also filled with refuse. photos by C. Clark



COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

mer's Pavilion to Heavy Metal Sports. Bisbee, who also serves as council representative on the Parks and Recreation Board, reminded the council that the fitness business "has leased this in the past" during the summer.

►Approved a recom-

mendation from Parks and Rec to allow Heavy Metal Sports to hold an "Adventure Race" at Semer's Park on Sept. 2.

►Approved a note and mortgage for \$17,000 to remodel the kitchen for the Jasper Company Bakeshop and Roasting

Room at 36 W Sheridan St.

►Approved mortgage satisfactions for E. Sheridan Properties LLC for the Ely Folk School at 209 E. Sheridan, and for Tina and Russell Brown for the property at 15 S. 1st Ave. E.

►Approved the first reading to amend a city ordinance (Chapter 2, section 2.57) to add the assistant chief of police to the Police Civil Service Commission.

►Approved City of Ely and Ely Utilities Commission claims for pay-

ment for \$490,738.

►Approved an invoice for \$27,941 to AE2S for the Waste Water Treatment Facility Project.

►Approved the applications for off-sale cannabinoid dealer licenses, contingent on submitting proper paperwork, pass-

ing background checks, providing proof of insurance, and paying fees for three businesses: Tamarrack Enterprises at 134 W. Sheridan, Chapman Street Books and Prairie Fire Tobacco at 139 E. Chapman, and Lucky Seven General Store at 620 E. Sheridan.

VETERANS...Continued from page 4

Veterans are also at a higher risk of experiencing mental and emotional health concerns. Untreated trauma has a significant impact on daily life. It can lead to alcohol and drug use as a method of coping.

Veterans also experience significant barriers such as cost, insurance gaps, inadequate funding, and limited treatment ac-

cess in rural locations. Stigma regarding mental health and substance use is still an issue.

Outside of the usual VA-Facility locator offered by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, there are other options to consider:

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides extensive resources and support to veterans and

their families;

SAMHSA provides a treatment facility locator where veterans can find specific options for substance use and mental health treatment;

Helpful hotlines include the Veterans Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255, and the Lifeline for Vets, 1-888-777-4443;

Drug and alcohol

treatment facilities are increasingly better equipped to treat veterans by offering specific rehabilitation options and treatment for co-occurring disorders.

Families play a significant role in supporting veterans through difficult times. Speak to them openly and honestly about their substance use, and express concern without casting

judgment. Help them find treatment. Be patient and show compassion for what they are going through.

Substance use and mental health disorders are treatable. It takes communities and families coming together to help veterans who are struggling. Too many battle these issues in silence and never get their needed help.

Early intervention and prevention save lives, and providing quick and easy access to treatment and support is critical for veterans struggling with addiction.

Veronica Raussin is a Community Outreach Coordinator for Addicted.org.

FISHING...Continued from page 4

to tie the lines to. Mission accomplished, we headed back to camp and dinner, and settled in for the first long wait. I think we went out every couple of hours to check the lines, and by midnight I was struggling to stay awake between trips, but I was determined to stay up all night with the big guys. We had good success that night, which helped to keep me going. And everything we caught, we kept and cleaned. Now that was fishing done right, as far as I was concerned. We even cooked some up over the campfire for breakfast.

In subsequent years, growing into adulthood, catfishing was my preferred form of fishing, first using chicken livers for bait. But at some point I ventured into the world of stinkbaits, and boy did the good ones stink to high heaven. It was impossible to wash the scent off my hands – I could detect the scent days after a fishing excursion. I finally decided to try concocting my own, looking for recipes on the internet and adding my own twists. Grinding Meow Mix into powder and adding some canned cat food and chicken livers seemed to work pretty well, particularly when I left it out in the sun to "ripen." But the most novel and least pungent of my concoctions was a mix of corn meal and straw-

berry jello. The catfish in the Missouri ponds I was fishing at the time couldn't get enough of that stuff. I never came home empty handed using that mix. An added bonus was that my wife didn't make me keep my distance when I came home the way she did with the stink baits.

Marriage brought with it my introduction to bass fishing, courtesy of my father-in-law, Dan. He was the sort of guy that made it OK if you didn't catch a thing – it was just so enjoyable spending time with him on the water. Naturally he had a good bass boat, a Ranger, and living along the Kansas/Oklahoma border we frequented several Oklahoma lakes looking for smallmouth and white bass.

One year for Christmas, Dan gave me a top notch baitcasting rod and reel, and I couldn't wait for spring to try it out. My first opportunity came on a fishing trip to Kaw Lake, and we got into a nice mess of white bass that gave me plenty of practice with it. We pulled in our limit pretty fast and headed back to the boat ramp. Dan got out to back the trailer down the ramp, and I circled the boat back out into the cove to wait for him. With several folks in line, I had a little time on my hands, so I decided to chuck a lure out to see if I

could get anything to bite. I gave the rod a big swing with a hard flick of the wrist – and my brand new top-of-the-line baitcasting rod and reel went flying out of my hand, coming to rest in about 25 feet of water, according to the depth finder. I was horrified to lose such a nice and expensive rig like that, and wanted to disappear down the lake rather than face Dan. He had the most incredulous look on his face when I told him what had happened, and he ribbed me mercilessly the whole ride home. And of course he had to tell all of his buddies about it, bringing me more grief still.

When Christmas rolled around again, it appeared as if all had been forgotten. I could see under the tree a fishing pole shaped package with my name on it. Sure enough, it was another top-of-the-line rig, but Dan had certainly not forgotten my faux pas the last spring, and he wasn't about to let me forget, either. This particular rod had been

customized by him. The handle was covered with the hook side of strips of Velcro, and packaged with it was a glove with the palm and fingers covered with the other half of the Velcro. This one, he said gleefully, I should be able to hold onto.

I've not totally given up on fishing since moving here. I've been out a few times to Bear Head Lake State Park trying my hand at a little trout fishing, but so far have nothing to show for it. I know one of these days I'll need to try my hand at the kind of fishing that draws all these hordes of anglers to these parts for opening day, but I'm in no rush. And that, my friends, is the catfisherman in me. No rush. Everything happens in good time. Just relax and let it come to you. And try not to create a big stink in the process.



Minnesota GreenCorps

Serve your community and learn new skills while improving Minnesota's environment

48 positions starting this fall, apply May-June 15
pca.state.mn.us/mngreencorps



the TIMBERJAY

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

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

Week of May 22

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is June 20.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

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

Memorial Day service in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- Embarrass Township will be honoring and remembering those that gave their lives for us with a Memorial Day Ceremony Service on Monday, May 29, at 9 a.m., at the Embarrass Cemetery (7506 Highway 135 North). Coffee 'an fellowship to follow at the Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Le-vander Road.

Correction: Greenwood Town Clerk office hours

A typographical error was in last week's Timberjay article about Greenwood Township. Clerk JoAnn Bassing said township office hours are NOW being updated weekly on the website. Go to greenwoodtownshipmn.com and click on administration, then town hall information.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Stellar spellers...

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Elementary School Spelling Bee was held on May 9 for fifth- and sixth-grade students. Fifth-grader Nolan Lenci won after out-spelling his classmates in the fifth round by spelling whirling and butterflies correctly.

Pictured (from left) front: Aydrien Dunn, Zaxton Wellander, Nolan Lenci, Luca Sundahl, Kija Chosa, and Norman King. Back: Sterling Carter, Calvin Childs, Nai'lee Moyer, and Jade Drift. submitted photo

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Tickets now available for "A Southern Slavic Midsummer"

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center (LVCC) is pleased to announce that this year's Midsummer benefit will highlight the Southern Slavic countries featuring the traditions, music and cuisine of Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia. The people of the Ukraine will be honored as well. The gala event will be held at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower and in St. Mary's Hall across the street.

The evening begins at 4:30 p.m. with a silent auction under the tent on the civic center grounds, followed by a Southern Slavic themed dinner. Brothers Mike and Dan Skorich, Dan's son Pete, and friend Joe Miskovich, will be the chefs preparing the food which will include recipes brought to this country by their parents and grandparents. Among the featured foods are BBQ lamb and beef along with the traditional sarma. Of course, dessert will be potica and strudel.

The keynote speaker is St. Louis County Commissioner, Michael Jugovich of Chisholm. Steve Solkela will again be the auctioneer for the live auction. Among items being offered are the ever-popular tickets to the Minnesota Wild. New this year is a week's stay in a 4-bedroom



Barb Baldrica, Mary Batinich, and Patty Phillips are helping plan the evening's entertainment. submitted

chateau in a French alpine village.

After dinner a musical performance will take place across the street in St. Mary's Hall. The program features Deb Prutsman, who is a well-known musical theater artist in California with Minnesota roots. She will perform a spoof of Hello Ranger, written by local supporters Patty Phillips and Barb Baldrica. In addition,

there will be songs and history of the Southern Slavic people on the Iron Range.

The tickets for the benefit are \$75 per person and may be ordered online at the LVCC website at vermilionculturalcenter.org. If you are on the LVCC mailing list, you should have received an invitation. This is the LVCC's biggest fundraiser of the year and they are planning for a

crowd that will fill the civic center. Gather a group of friends together to attend this gala evening. As LVCC President, Mary Smilanich Batinich said, "our last names will all end with 'ar' or 'ich' that day". The RSVP date is June 2.

The LVCC is a 501(c)(3) whose mission statement is: "The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is dedicated to community enrichment through education and the arts by offering quality programming and providing opportunities to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the area". The LVCC has offered a continuing program of musical, artistic, and educational events.

A few major spaces of the compound are still available for naming rights as part of the ongoing fundraising efforts. In addition there are four- and five-foot benches which can be underwritten in honor or memory of a loved one and will be placed around the grounds of the LVCC.

If you cannot attend the Midsummer benefit, you may donate toward the renovation of the LVCC complex online at vermilionculturalcenter.org.

LOCAL HISTORY

Tower-Soudan Historical Society seeking summer volunteers

TOWER - The Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) is calling on full-time and seasonal community members to become volunteers and help preserve the history and culture of our community. By joining our team of dedicated volunteers, individuals can give back to the community, make new connections, and learn more about our local history.

The Tower-Soudan Historical Society welcomes individuals with diverse skills and interests to become volunteers. Whether it is fundraising, event planning,

technology, or storytelling, there is an opportunity for everyone to contribute. Volunteers are vital in helping the society maintain its mission to preserve the rich history and culture of the community.

One of the most popular volunteer opportunities is greeting visitors at the Train Depot Museum. This role involves sharing information about the history of our community and answering questions from visitors. With short three-hour shifts and training provided, it is a great way to

learn more about the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion community's history and engage with residents and visitors.

There are plenty of other opportunities available as well, from researching and writing history to setting up museum displays and improving train cars and the depot museum. If you have a passion for video, we would love to have you help us tape our History Talks on Main Street and our Life Stories interviews. And, if you have a life history story to share, please

contact us! To get started, interested individuals can contact one of our board members, including Cookie Bonicatto, Linda Haugen, Diana Sundahl, Louise Gately, Steve Majerle, Dick Peyla, Jayne Sundeen, Diane Meehan, Richard Hanson, Leon Anderson, Kathy Siskar, Doug Workman, or Nancy Larson. Or, just stop by the Train Depot Museum on the weekends to learn more or sign up.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Memorial Day service set for Monday, May 29

TOWER- Plans are being finalized for the Tower-Soudan area-wide annual Memorial Day

Tribute to be held on Monday, May 29, at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center from 10 a.m. to noon. This tribute will honor the military service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their

families at home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The names of local veterans killed in action and deceased veterans will be read. A medley of patriotic songs will be sung by the Tower-Soudan Area Singers under the direction of Rolf Anderson.

If you know the name of a recently deceased veteran whose name should be added to our roll call, contact Barb Peyla. Call or text 218-410-7883 or send an email to bngpeyla@gmail.com.

The program will conclude with a traditional Memorial Day wreath placed on a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a ceremony to be held outside the Civic

Center.

Refreshments provided by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club will be served before and following the tribute. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this heartwarming event.

Donations needed for this year's Fourth of July

TOWER-SOUDAN- Donations are needed for this year's Fourth of July. Funds are used for parade prizes and the costs of running the childrens' games. Checks can be made out to TSLVAEB or T-S Fourth of July and sent to TSLVAEB, PO Box 461, Tower, MN, 55790.

TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

To All,

Your support is needed. Give what you can. It will help pay for a new water line. Hopefully the Tower Cemetery will get monies from the IRRRB, but it won't be enough to cover the cost for this water project.

You know who you are that have given in the past. We ask for your continued support and we hope to get newcomers to help.

Thank You.

**Donations can be sent to:
Tower Cemetery Association
PO Box 874
Tower, MN 55790**

Published in the Timberjay, May 19, June 2, 16, 23, and July 7, 2023

**NOTICE
STUNTZ BAY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Friday, May 19
6 PM**

Breitung Community Center.
Any questions or to get the agenda contact:
Dan Wiirre 218-969-6374

LOCAL BUSINESS

In Brief

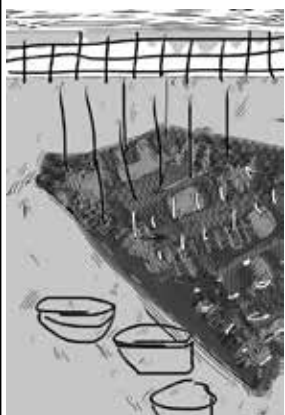
Tuesday Group schedule

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

- Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:
>May 23: Meet new Elyites
>May 30: Citizen's Climate Lobby on the Future of Iron Mining on the Range
>June 6: TBA
>June 13: The Common Loon with Dr. James Paruk
>June 20: The White Pine Tree with James Pastor

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



pale buds on branches daffodils rising from bulbs a garden to plant

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. 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.

Left: Veterans on the Lake Resort general manager Andy Berkenpas showing off the pine-paneled interior of one of the resort's two new fully ADA-compliant cabins. Below: Bert McDermid of Virginia, Minn. fishing off the dock at Veterans of the Lake Resort on the opening day of fishing season. photos by C. Clark



disabled, and the general public opportunities for inclusion in outdoor recreational activities and mental respite. To fulfill that mission, the resort dedicates itself to bringing outdoor experiences to those who might not otherwise have access to them, by increasing inclusive physical access. The facility also offers financial aid to Iron Range veterans who might not be able to afford time at a lakeside resort.

Located on 25 acres, the resort has 2,700 feet of shoreline on Fall Lake, immediately to the east of Winton.

The resort started accommodating large groups during its very first year in business by hosting a veterans' group from the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. Since then, the resort has had a steady stream of veterans and disabled groups including those from the Minnesota State Veterans Homes in Minneapolis, Hastings, and Fergus Falls; from the VA Medical centers from both St. Cloud and Iowa City, Iowa; and the VA's Duluth Veterans Center.

The facility also hosts groups of those with physical limitations. In early August, a group of adolescents with spinal injuries will be spending five days attending a sled hockey

educational." Derby activities include fishing, water ecology, skills training, and crafts. Registration is \$10 per child and a parent or a guardian must accompany each kid throughout the event. Registration is open through June 5, or until all sixty slots are filled, according to the chamber.

"On July 15, Pat and Donna Surface of (Ely's) Spiritwood Music will perform here," Berkenpas said. "All the proceeds will go to [the resort]. You can buy tickets to the event on the Spiritwood Music website."

The resort will also undertake three large improvement projects over the summer. The first is repaving the existing tennis court to make it a basketball and pickleball court.

Next is the addition of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant restrooms and showers in the resort's office and dining building for use of the resort's RV guests. Last is a new fishing pier that will be fully-ADA accessible. The pier will be 12 by 48 feet and fixed 16 feet off the bank. The already-completed ramp for the new pier is currently on the lawn between the boat-house and the resort offices, waiting to be installed.

A busy 40 years

The stated mission of Veterans on the Lake is to provide veterans, the

ELY- A quiet birthday slipped under everyone's nose on Saturday, lost in the noise at the start of fishing season on May 13. It was business as usual at one of Minnesota's most unusual resorts in the Boundary Waters region on its 40th anniversary. The all-you-can-eat "Walleye Opener" breakfast buffet opened at 5 a.m. on Saturday with 12 people already standing in line to chow down and then head out to fish. By 7 a.m., a few of the resort's boats had already come back in with fish to clean. One resort guest caught a 27-inch walleye off one of the docks.

Veterans on the Lake Resort opened its doors on the opening day of fishing season, May 13, 1983, as the Disabled Veterans Recreation. The nonprofit switched from seasonal to year-round operation and changed its name in 2005 to Veterans on the Lake. The organization has been a 501(c)(3) since its inception in the early 1980s.

The resort will hold its 40th-anniversary celebration on Sept. 8-10. The event will include the Minnesota National Guard rock and country bands as well as even more music by Ely area talent.

A busy year

As Veterans on the Lake enters its fifth decade, the nonprofit has upcoming events, fundraisers, and three large improvement projects lined up for the summer.

Right around the corner on the calendar is the resort's June 10 fishing derby for kids. The resort is the host for the event, which is run by the Ely Chamber of Commerce. "It's not just fishing," resort general manager Andy Berkenpas told the Timberjay. "It's

Ely Memorial graduating seniors with honors

Ely Memorial High School held its awards ceremony on May 10 where Timberwolf seniors received over \$137,750 in scholarship awards.

Seniors were presented with Honor Cords at the ceremony for having a 3.5 or higher grade point average. Honor cord recipients are:

Joseph Bianco, Katherine Coughlin, Rachel

Coughlin, Margaret Dammann, Zoe Devine, Sydney Durkin, Courtney Eilrich, Natasha Fulkrod, Gunnar Hart, Jakson Hegman, Phoebe Helms, Cedar Ohlhauser, Elizabeth Omerza, Madeline Perry, Madison Rohr, Juliet Stouffer, Grace Sundell, Lillian Tedrick, Audrey Thomas, and Kelly Thompson.



Dogs playing at the Ely Folk School Spring Bonfire on May 10 at Semers Beach. The event featured a live band and homemade wild rice pasties. Attendance was around 150, which is approximately five percent of Ely's population. photo by C. Clark

AROUND TOWN

Rummage Sale

City-Wide Rummage Sales, Business Crazy Day, Used Equipment and Gear Sales! May 20, 2023. City-Wide Sale hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business Crazy Day hours vary by business. Maps for the sale are available at the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Healthy Aging Expo

ELY- The Northwoods Partners will hold their Healthy Aging Expo on Monday, May 22, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge. Talks will cover all aspects of aging for older adults and their caregivers. This is a no-cost event open to the public which includes a light lunch. The first 125 attendees will receive a bag full of swag.

Anti-Racism Group

ELY- An open group practicing anti-racism will meet on Sunday, May 21 from noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church

of Ely, 226 E. Harvey St. All are welcome. The group will meet in the study, which is straight in from the front door. ADA access to the elevator is through the rear entrance on the alley.

Ely Public Schools

The Spring Washington Elementary School concert and art show will be Thursday, May 25 from 1:15-2:30 p.m. in the Washington Auditorium. The art show will be in the Media Center, through door 1 into the new addition and then immediately right at the first hallway. The media center is on the right under the vintage murals.

International Wolf Center

The celebration event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the International Wolf Center will be at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, at the State Theater in Ely. The event

is free, but pre-registration is required and seating is limited. To register, visit bit.ly/stateofwolves.

Babbitt Public Library

The Babbitt Friends of the Library will hold their annual "Up North Craft & Vendor Extravaganza" on Saturday, June 3 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Center, with crafts, baked goods, and raffles. This event is the same day as the Babbitt City Wide Garage Sales. If you are a crafter or vendor interested in having a table at this event, please send an email to babbittlibraryfriends@gmail.com or call 218-827-3345.

As of May 17, 190 vendors have signed up to sell at the Blueberry/Art Festival

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game on the first three books of the Inheritance Games series by Jennifer Lynn Barnes from Tuesday, May 23 at 3 p.m. to Friday, May 26 at 8 a.m. Register with your email address to receive the link to the game.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m.

All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St.

Northern Lakes Arts Association

ELY -The Northern Lakes Arts Association will host the art show "The Stories We Share" by Sylvia Houle. The show start-

ed on May 15 and runs through May 28 at Ely's Historic State Theater. Viewing hours are limited to the hours that the State Theater is open. The reception for the artist is TBA.

NLAA will host its first summer theater camp for kids, June 28-July 7, with performances by the campers on July 8. Cost is \$30 per child. Registration opened on May 1. Go to northernlakesarts.org for more information and to sign up.

Greenstone Art Camp

The 23rd Greenstone Art Camp had five slots left on May 15. The cost is \$50 per child, grades 1 through 6. The camp meets from 9 a.m. to noon on June 6-9 at the Ely Arts & Heritage Center at the Pioneer Mine. Sign-up at northernlakesarts.org/2023-greenstone-art-camp.

North Woods has been hotbed of fun activity



Top left: The commons area of the school was packed with parents the afternoon of Friday, May 12 to see these Kindergarteners perform and celebrate their accomplishments.

Middle left: Family Fun Night on Thursday, May 11 provided a wide variety of activities geared toward younger children and their families. Here, Stefanie Borowicz watches her children Roland, almost two, and Lorraine, almost three, play with play dough.

Lower left: Raiden Abramson, left, looks on as Kindergarten teacher Beth Wilenius holds a microphone for Sienna Sweet as members of the class spell out Kindergarten across the commons area stage.

Middle center: Haddie Anderson got a gleeful head start on last weekend's fishing opener at Family Fun Night with a catch better than some seasoned anglers.

Upper singers: Monday, May 15 it was North Woods vocalists who took center stage for a concert featuring the junior and senior high choirs. Here, from left, Anya Pearson, Ella Smith, and Mya Goggleye perform.

Lower singers: Vocal music instructor Natalie Danielson challenged her students with more demanding pieces in the second half of the school year, and Lila Pearson, Nevaeh Wipf, and Colt Chosa show how far they've come since their first concert.

Julie's Dance students were showing off their steps on the North Woods stage on Friday, May 12 with "Kids at Work," in which all of the dancers performed to work-related music. The studio had an encore performance scheduled in Chisholm on Friday, May 19.

Top right: A pirate's life was just the right swashbuckling occupation for Josie Gibson.

Middle right: The delivery of this postal-themed routine was right on time by Bristol Glass.

Lower right: Carys Knudson takes her turn executing a dance routine.

photos by D. Colburn

COMMUNITY NEWS

Cook Spring Clean Up this weekend

COOK- To kick off the City of Cook's new blight ordinance on a positive note, the city is sponsoring Spring Clean-Up Days this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 19-21.

A large dumpster will be available at 2 Vermilion Drive, across from the *Cook News-Herald*, beginning at 8 a.m. Friday and running through 5 p.m. Sunday to receive furniture, cardboard, tires, yard waste, mattresses, building materials, and scrap metal. Household trash and hazardous materials are not allowed.

Lots going on at NWFA Gallery

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook is the place for experienced and aspiring artists to go for ongoing exhibits and upcoming classes. The gallery is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Annual Spring Art Expo, June 7-23

Artists are invited to display their work at NWFA Gallery and take home the entire proceeds from the sales. The deadline to register is Saturday, May 20. Call Alberta at 218-666-2153 to register or stop by the gallery.

Upcoming Classes

Class schedules are available at the NWFA Gallery and the website. Here are the classes coming up soon:
 ▶Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Watercolor Pouring - Linda Smith.
 ▶Thursday, June 8, noon-2 p.m.: Tie Dye - Kris Musto.
 ▶Thursday, June 15-16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Watercolor: Messing With Masa - a two-day workshop with Mary Beth Downs.
 ▶Friday, June 23, 1-3 p.m.: Haiku -- Create a Journal and Write Haiku - Cecilia Rolando.
 ▶Saturday, June 24, 10

a.m.-2 p.m.: Beginning Acrylic (Aboriginal style animals) - Lyn Reed.

Register for classes by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153 or by mail at NWFA, P.O. Box 44, Cook MN 55723.

Open Art

Join other artists on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. in the Wolfe Den, bringing your projects and supplies to share ideas with other artists. Experiment with new ideas with Jody Feist and other artists. No registration is required.

Woodcarvers

On Thursdays from 6-8 p.m., the Cook Woodcarvers Group meets in the Wolfe Den. Beginners are welcome without registration. Some tools are available, but participants should bring their own. For information about the carvers contact Howard at 218-290-1391.

See the NWFA website at www.nwfamn.org for more information about all of NWFA's classes and activities.



On Monday, May 15, Tom Antikainen of Orr, left, was presented with the International Leadership Award from Lions Club International by Lions Zone Chairperson Steve Kajala in a ceremony at the Orr Center. This prestigious award recognizes individuals within the Lions Club organization who make significant contributions to leadership development, membership growth, and improvement of club quality and member experience. Antikainen has been a Lion for 46 years and is a charter member of the Orr Lions Club. submitted photo

Read us online at www.timberjay.com

HEARING...Continued from page 1

Education. Testifying against the bill was Becky Rom, the chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

The GOP majority on the House subcommittee repeated arguments familiar by now to those who have followed the debate over sulfide mining in the Rainy River watershed, upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Stauber, in his opening statement, said the United States is overly dependent on foreign sources for strategic minerals, including those that would be needed for a conversion to clean sources of energy, and he argued that the minerals found in the geological formation that includes the Twin Metals mine have the potential to address much of the country's needs.

"The Duluth Complex contains 95 percent of U.S. nickel, nearly 90 percent of cobalt, and a third of our copper," he said. That was a claim echoed by Bakk, who said the withdrawal removed the Duluth Complex and its mineral resources from consideration and argued that the Biden administration is being hypocritical in promoting an aggressive agenda to transition to green energy while locking up the country's largest unexploited mineral deposit that could provide

metals to fuel that transition.

The withdrawal, in fact, encompasses no more than 20 percent of the Duluth Complex and does not impact the proposed PolyMet mine or other potential copper-nickel deposits located outside of the Rainy River watershed. Economics remains the biggest factor limiting exploitation of the Duluth Complex. At about 1.2 million acres, the complex contains a vast amount of mineral resources but it is extremely low grade and not currently economical to recover, except in a few isolated pockets of slightly higher grade ore. Even in those pockets, the concentration of metals is less than one percent and the economics remain marginal.

While members of the committee each had time for questions, most used their time for speeches or rhetorical questioning of witnesses. Those on the Republican side frequently targeted Rom for sharp questions or political jabs, only occasionally allowing her time to respond. "If you believe, Ms. Rom, that mining in the United States is bad, then you have not been to China because the labor standards and environmental standards in use around the world are much, much worse," said Congressman Matt

Rosendale, of Montana.

Congressman John Duarte, of California, questioned how the Twin Metals mine could impact the Boundary Waters when it was so large and too far away to be visible by canoeists.

In response, Rom noted that the primary issue is water quality and that the wilderness is 24 percent water, all interconnected, both at the surface and below. "All that water is flowing north," said Rom. "Peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that the Twin Metals mine, in ordinary operation, would flow into the Boundary Waters. People may not see it, because it's pollution in the water."

Duarte had a followup. "So, just north of this, in Canada, there's open pit mines and other mining going on in Canada that's adjacent to these same waters," he noted.

"In areas that flow away from protected areas, that don't flow into protected areas and that's a key distinction," responded Rom.

Others supporting the bill argued that mining jobs pay very well and provide good employment for raising families. Chura argued that typical employment in the tourism industry pays less than a third of what mining jobs pay. Stauber said the withdrawal

effectively ends a project labor agreement that Twin Metals had signed with local labor unions for the construction of the mine.

Questions of conflict of interest

Democrats on the committee raised issues of their own. Ranking member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez questioned why Bakk was identified as a former state senator when he was, currently, a paid lobbyist for Twin Metals, a fact that she noted Bakk had not mentioned in his opening statement. Stauber, intervening, said that it had been disclosed in written testimony provided by Bakk, but Ocasio-Cortez said it should have been in his opening.

Ocasio-Cortez also noted that while Chura said he was representing Jobs for Minnesotans, he works for Minnesota Power, which is heavily dependent on the mining industry for its sale of electrical power. She questioned why two of the three witnesses for the bill had a financial stake in the legislation. Ocasio-Cortez also took issue with the congressional veto of the mineral withdrawal included in Stauber's bill. "This bill would use an authority widely viewed as unconstitutional," she said, an issue reported in detail in the May 5 issue of the *Timberjay*.

Rep. Jared Huffman, of California, was equally critical. "We appear to be paving new frontiers in gaslighting," he said, arguing that the GOP members were creating a false choice by suggesting that protecting any special place from mining would end all efforts to enhance the country's mineral security. "We don't talk about places where we can mine sustainably," he added. "We don't talk about the opportunities to recycle... What we do talk about are undeniably wild places that are beautiful and unique and threatened by an extractive industry that the Trump administration gave access to."

Huffman noted that he is supporting mineral extraction in his home state using brines from the Salton Sea, located east of Los Angeles, to extract lithium and manganese. He joined Ocasio-Cortez in criticizing Stauber's effort to make an unconstitutional end-around through his attempt to veto the mineral withdrawal.

Political theater?

While the measure has the potential to pass the U.S. House this session, given the narrow Republican majority there, the measure stands little chance of success in the U.S. Senate, at least for now.

Yet the Twin Metals proposal faces another sig-

nificant hurdle even should the politics in Washington turn more in favor of foreign mining companies, like Antofagasta, which controls the Twin Metals project. The state of Minnesota, where public opposition to the Twin Metals proposal is especially strong, according to polling, had already indicated its Department of Natural Resources would undertake its own environmental review of the project, separate from the federal review. That was before the project was suspended due to the cancellation of the project's two mineral leases.

Past Minnesota governors, including DFLer Mark Dayton and Republican Arne Carlson, the late Vice President Walter Mondale, and the state's largest newspaper, the *Star Tribune*, have been highly critical of the Twin Metals proposal and its potential to impact the Boundary Waters.

Polling has consistently shown that 60-70 percent of Minnesotans are opposed to copper-nickel mining within the watershed of the Boundary Waters.

STORE...Continued from page 1

years to come."

Discussions moved along at a slow pace, with Eveleth city staff telling their council members in July 2022 that they still had "many questions" about the site design. Last September, the Eveleth council discussed modifying the proposed property sale to give the city a larger remaining parcel of land from the sale big enough to site another business there. The two sides apparently reached an agreement last October when the Eveleth council

unanimously approved a letter of intent to sell the property to Bois Forte, but they later amended that letter in February.

And apparently that wasn't the end of their discussions, as the Eveleth council held closed meetings to "develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property" at its March 7, April 4 and April 18 meetings. The minutes of the April 4 meeting specifically named the property for the Bois

Forte venture as the land under discussion, while no specific property was disclosed for the other two closed-door sessions.

Evidently, city leaders decided to back out of their agreement to sell the property to Bois Forte. In a letter to Band members on Monday, Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers said, "the RTC believes that the Band's and the City's vision for this project no longer align as the City has proposed several key changes to the structure of

the project. Those changes include leasing the land to the Band instead of selling it, imposing stringent restrictions on the Band's use of the land, and requiring the Band to hand over ownership of the C-Store [convenience store] to the City after the term of the lease with no compensation."

Chavers said the tribal council voted to exit the project after it became clear that the proposed constraints and increasing costs of the project due to

inflation, "would not give the Band the freedom to operate the business successfully."

It appears the Band notified the city of Eveleth of its decision early last week, as the Eveleth city council had scheduled a special council meeting for Thursday, May 18 to discuss a letter from Bois Forte dated May 9, along with another closed-door session to discuss property.

SIREN...Continued from page 1

for the evening.

At their special meeting on May 11, the board also approved some changes to the summer recreation project at McKinley Park. The township needed to make some changes, due to a funding shortfall. The project will now include only re-decking on two of the three McKinley docks, purchasing five or six new

picnic tables instead of eight, and waiting to get quotes on the new playground equipment until other parts of the project are completed to insure adequate funding is available. The board still hopes to get the playground replaced this year.

"We should be able to get this done," said Chairman Tim Tomsich,

who said they hope to get the picnic tables and new canopy ordered right away, so they are available in time for the Old Settlers Picnic in July. The project also includes the purchase of a new sound system for the park, for which the Old Settlers Committee will be providing matching funds.

The board is closer to making a final decision

on the rerouting of the Thompson Farm Rd., to allow for future expansion of the township's adjacent gravel pit. They also met with staff from DNR Trails to discuss the routing of the proposed ATV trail from the ATV campground to be constructed in 2024, and existing trails in Soudan. The new trails should be open to the public in 2025.

The board holds its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 25 at 12 noon.

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after

HEALTH CARE

Nurses, hospitals spar over staffing bill

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Measure would give nurses a say in staffing plans

REGIONAL- A nursing labor group says a bill in the Minnesota Legislature will improve hospital staffing levels and lead to better patient care, while the state's hospital administrators are sounding the alarm that the same bill could intensify budget shortfalls and lead a "grim future" of reduction of hospital capacity and tens of thousands of patients turned away.

The bill, called the "Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act," is so controversial that a Mayo Clinic executive has said they would move a planned \$1.1 billion project out of state if it isn't revised significantly from its current form.

The bill, authored by Rep. Sandra Feist, DFL-New Brighton, would take the scheduling of nursing care out of the hands of hospital executives and hand it over to committees comprised of 35 percent direct care registered nurses, 15 percent other direct care workers, and 50 percent appointed by the hospital. A hospital-wide staffing committee and unit-based workload committees would establish daily staffing plans and resolve staffing concerns, and the bill would require legal arbitration if a core staffing plan can't be agreed upon. Management is prohibited from reducing unit staffing before obtaining the agreement of 50 percent of nurses assigned to a unit.

The bill imposes numerous additional reporting and notification requirements and required the Minnesota Department of Health to develop a grading system based on compliance with core staffing plans. Hospitals are also prohibited from taking any action against a nurse who declines accepting an additional assignment when he/she believes the additional workload could endanger a patient's health.

The bill has passed both houses of the Legislature and is in conference committee to iron



Members of the Minnesota Nurses Association held an informational picket at the Capitol recently to push for a measure that would give them a greater voice in staffing.

photo courtesy of MNA

out differences, but both sides continue to make concerted efforts to influence the outcome.

Nurses position

The Minnesota Nurses Association is so committed to the bill that members are engaged in a sit-in at the Capitol that began May 9 and will continue, they say, until they have secured safe staffing for Minnesota patients and nurses. Association president Mary Turner has termed the Mayo Clinic and other hospital executives who oppose the legislation as "corporate bullies."

"People need to know there are enough skilled nurses at the bedside to provide the safe, high-quality care all patients deserve," Turner said. "Giving nurses a seat at the table and a voice in the process will help improve staffing levels, bring nurses back to the bedside, and protect patient care throughout the state."

MNA maintains that the current nursing shortage in hospitals isn't due to a lack of nurses, but a flight of nurses from the profession due to unsafe and unsustainable conditions. The association cites data showing there are more than 130,000 registered nurses in Minnesota, an increase of 8,000 since last year. But a survey of 2,400 nurses who left their positions last year

which received responses from 500 of them cited insufficient staffing as the top factor driving them from the bedside, followed by stress and burnout, management issues, and other working conditions. Half of all nurses are said to be considering leaving the profession because of short staffing.

Including nurses in development of staffing plans, which could include establishing maximum nurse-to-patient ratios, would lead to better patient outcomes, MNA says. Better working conditions would bring up to 80 percent of departed nurses back into direct care, easing existing shortages, they claim.

CEO concerns

The Minnesota Hospital Association has been waging its battle against the bill not only at the Capitol, but in the media, trying to drum up public support. Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital CEO Patti Banks and Cook Hospital CEO Teresa Debevec were among 68 hospital chief executives of nonprofit hospitals and health care systems who signed off on a letter published May 8 in the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune* voicing their concerns about the bill leading to increased costs and decreased availability of care. And Banks was among four CEOs included in a Tuesday

ZOOM conference call targeting media representatives.

Banks described conditions at Ely-Bloomenson this past weekend that she said the hospital wouldn't have been able to handle if they were forced to operate under the bill's provisions.

She told about an elderly woman who needed hospital care but refused it because she didn't have anyone who could care for her husband with dementia. Banks said they ended up admitting both of them to the hospital, although they won't be reimbursed for the husband's care.

"This was the right thing to do," Banks said. Over the weekend we cared for 35 patients in the emergency department within about 48 hours, ending with an inpatient census of eight, including the husband and wife. I can assure you that if we had to adhere to the mandates in this proposed legislation we would have had to turn patients away. This would have been detrimental to our community as well as the reputation of our organization." "Care delivery in greater Minnesota looks different, but our expectation to save lives is the same," Banks said.

The potential negative impacts on rural critical access hospitals was a recurring theme during the teleconference. Rachele Schultz, president and CEO of Winona Health, described some of the problems she anticipates. "That workforce shortage is really underlying many of the issues that we have," she said. "There isn't an organization or hospital in the state that isn't working very hard to recruit nurses to the bedside. In this proposed legislation, there are elements of it that fundamentally change the management of health-care in Minnesota and would remove critical decision-making from our care teams and our health care professionals and providers. They would hand it over to external parties, attorneys, potentially even judges in the court system through arbitration. This is a

high risk, no reward decision that impacts people's lives."

CEO Richard Ash of United Hospital District in Blue Earth took issue with the fact that legislators appear to have bowed to pressure from the Mayo Clinic and have exempted them from the bill. All hospitals should be given the same consideration for exemption, he said.

"We need room to leverage our ability to innovate, to find out how our team can work differently when the environment around us changes," he said. "We have to be ready for whoever comes through those doors. This bill is going to cause that to be much more difficult. I've been in health care for 30 years plus, and we've always had our challenges. But this is crazy. It's dangerous and reckless, in my opinion."

Early in the legislative debate, MHA issued a position statement on what they believe are the hazards associated with this particular bill.

"If a rigid registered nurse to patient ratio is implemented without flexibility to care for patients, MHA estimates it would reduce hospital care capacity by 15 percent and threaten care for 70,000 patients in Minnesota. The analysis also suggests that the proposed mandates would worsen the health care workforce crisis," the statement said. "If a hospital cannot meet the mandated RN to patient ratio, it will be forced to close units, hire costly traveling nurses, limit admissions, and be unable to fulfill its mission."

For all of the CEOs in the teleconference, the bill represents a needless restriction on the flexibility they need to adapt quickly and effectively to the staffing and patient needs of their hospitals, which differ markedly from large metro health systems. "It's been feeling like the real world realities of rural health care are just not being understood and heard in St. Paul, said Carrie Michalski, president and CEO of RiverView Health in Crookston. "The legislation is a setback, it's disruptive. It's going to have terrible consequences for all of the rural communities that we serve."

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the Timberjay!

HOT DOG...Continued from page 1

Danielson built the cart, with help from a friend who is a marine fabricator who designed the propane cooktop, making sure the cart would get certified and permitted by the health department as food safe.

"The guy who did the inspection said he had never passed anything homemade before," Danielson said. "He was very impressed."

Danielson also passed the food safety class that is required to serve food to the

public, and his business is now insured.

The hot dogs are being made to order by the meat department at the Babbitt Zup's Store. They are a little larger than Zup's regular homemade hot dogs, so they hang out, just a little, from each side of the bun. The buns and all the condiments also are coming fresh from Zup's each week.

The cart is floating on a 17-ft. long raft, which

is then tied onto the side of his 23 ft. pontoon boat, keeping it stable enough to cook up and service hot dogs, unless the winds get too strong. "We were able to go between two and six miles per hour," he said.

Opening weekend was the first time they had the raft out on the lake, and it proved a success. Fishing boats cruising by stopped to see what was going on, and apparently lots of them decided to buy a dog.

"We sold out on Saturday," he said. "Everyone was so excited to see it. Everybody loved it."

The hot dogs themselves got rave reviews from two customers contacted by the *Timberjay*.

Danielson said they can be out on the water for about four hours, before having to come back in to restock, if needed. On Saturday they tried offering chili dogs, but they found

that it was just a bit too messy to serve and eat out on a boat.

"We still have a lot to learn," he said.

Danielson said they expect to be out on the water every other weekend, weather-permitting, this summer, alternating weekends between the weiner cruiser and driving the mailboat for Aronson's.

"But we had so much fun this weekend," he said. "We might add in some

afternoons after the mailboat run."

And while based in Pike Bay, they hope to bring hot dog fun to many other parts of the lake. They will be posting their weekend schedules on their Facebook page, Lake Vermilion Weiner Cruiser. A Lake Vermilion shore lunch might never be the same!

HARBOR...Continued from page 1

that TEDA had received in response to a Request for Proposals the board had issued late last year. The other had proposed a twin home development on the site.

The approval of the Tower Vision 2025 proposal is conditional. The development group will have a short window of opportunity, about 45 days, to show that they have the financial capacity to undertake the project. TEDA will detail the financial information it will be requesting in a resolution to be considered at their June 1 regular meeting.

While some on the board expressed considerable doubts about the ability of Tower Vision 2025 to fund its proposal, in the end all agreed to give them the opportunity to "show the money."

If the firm doesn't have funding in place in short order, TEDA will explore other options for developing the site.

The proposal outlined to the TEDA board last month calls for the construction of two buildings, each of which would contain 24 condominium apartments, ranging from two-bedrooms to efficiency studios. Final pricing is not in place, but initial estimates put the smaller units at well under \$200,000. The buildings would incorporate a look reminiscent of some Scandinavian waterfronts, with brighter colors and pitched roofs, although the plan also proposes a large rooftop patio that would allow for outdoor dining and other activities for residents and guests.

The buildings, as proposed, would provide garage space in back for some of the units and commercial space on the harbor-side ground floor. During a presentation to the board last month, project lead Orlyn Kringstad said the units will be modular, which will allow for flexibility in sizing commercial spaces. He said some of the ground floor spaces could be converted to residential units depending on demand for commercial space.

The Tower Vision 2025 proposal is being led by Orlyn Kringstad, a former Tower mayor who had initially led the effort by Tower Harbor Shores to develop town homes at the harbor. That project suffered a series of setbacks, including delays due to the city's lack of clear title to the site as well as pandemic-related inflation of construction costs. Other members of Kringstad's team include Meyer Group Architects, out of Duluth, and contractor Shawn Webster, of Webster's Northland Construction. Jeremy Schoenfelder, an experienced developer based in Arizona, will serve as consulting master developer on the project.

The city of Tower had endeavored for more than a decade to encourage private development at the harbor that would fit the vision outlined in its master plan, developed by a ten-member harbor committee estab-

lished in 2006. Approval of the master plan had come only after substantial community input through a series of open houses that highlighted the ideas the committee was generating. That input was overwhelmingly supportive of the plan.

The city, after resolving its title questions with the creation of a new plat for the site in 2021, handed responsibility for advancing a project at the site to TEDA.

TEDA executive director Marshall Helmsberger, who served on the original

harbor committee that developed the 2007 master plan, noted that TEDA now had an obligation to get "the most bang for the bucks the city invested in the harbor." He estimated the city had spent in excess of \$10 million since it started work to bring new devel-

opment to the harbor and said bringing that original vision to reality was one of his top goals when he took on the job of executive director of TEDA. "I hope that all that excitement and money spent that we don't have to simply throw up our hands and say it was a pipe

dream," he said. "We've waited 20 years to bring this kind of development to the harbor. I think we can wait 45 days to see if Tower Vision can actually pull this off."



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VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

After the crash: mock accident was just the first part of the lesson

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- While witnessing a mock crash scene and emergency response earlier this month was quite dramatic, the events that took place at Vermilion Country School the following day were even more impactful on the students at the grades 7-12 charter school.

The students who had roles in the mock crash, along with their parents, all spoke to the students and staff. Parents read from prepared eulogies, imagining what they would say if their child was really gone. They spoke about cherished memories of their child when they were young, about their joy watching their children grow into their teenage years, and their great sorrow at not being able to see their child grow into a valued adult.

"You had so much potential," one parent wrote. "You were destined for greatness." Another parent wrote that their child "had such a magnetic personality. Everyone that met you fell in love with you. You made friends everywhere we went."

The students then spoke to their parents, saying how sorry they were for the accident, and spoke to their classmates, making sure they understood the important lessons of the mock crash.

The student driver who "caused" the accident, and who survived the crash, spoke about the mistakes his character had made.

"Today I made a bad decision," he told the parent of one of students who "died" in the mock crash. "Because of that, you no longer have a daughter. It was my fault as I just didn't think through my decision [texting while driving]."

The students talked about their love for their parents, their families, and their classmates.

"It was very emotional," said Jaymes Scholz, who was one of the student actors in the mock crash.

During the scene re-enactment, Jaymes was extracted from the vehicle using the jaws of life, and then transported to the Ely Hospital, where he "died" in front of his parents.

"I had to go to the hospital and film my death scene," he said. "It was really difficult. My mom was very emotional. I had to stay in character the entire time. That was one of the hardest parts."

The other difficult part for Jaymes was being in the vehicle as the EMTs and fire department worked to safely extricate him, put



Above: Students who participated in the mock crash sat behind mock grave-stones, or mock police booking sheets during the program. Left: Jaymes Scholz listened as his parents gave his eulogy. photos by S. Ukkola

him in a neck collar and then onto a backboard before being carried to the ambulance. "I was kind of nervous," he said.

VCS student Nathan Brunner remembered the sense of shock he felt as the school bus carrying the rest of the high students pulled up to the scene.

"I didn't expect it," he said. "Oh, my goodness, it took a few minutes to realize it wasn't real. But then seeing the faces of my friends at the accident scene, was so hard."

"Nobody else knew this was going to happen," said Asher Folz. "I give a lot of credit to the kids. It definitely brought the message across."

"This was a really good learning experience," said Asher. "It definitely changed a lot of kids' minds. It was so much more effective than sitting us in a room and telling us how bad drunk driving was."

While emotions were mostly kept under wraps at the accident scene. The next day at school was when students started to really realize what it would feel like to have a friend lose their life in such an accident.

"Jaymes' mom spoke and had us all in tears," said Kyler Turra. "She mostly talked about the fact she was going to miss his 'I love you's' and all the stuff he did when he was a kid. She would never get to see him get his drivers' license."

The program also prompted many students to talk about the issues around distracted driving with their families when they got home."

"I showed my mom the pictures from the accident scene," said Kyler. "She gasped. My step-dad is a member of the Tower Ambulance Service. He said this was a serious thing to learn about, and he was glad I had seen the kind of work that EMS personnel do at an accident scene."

"It really opened my eyes up to how real it felt," said Abbi Zapata. "The speeches from the students and parents were the most impactful. I will remember this always."

VCS office manager Karla Lundstrom organized the event along with Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing. Lundstrom said she has had several students come into her office to talk to her, admitting that they had driven unsafely, and now admitting they are scared about hurting themselves or others. "They realize they are not untouchable," she said. The school also has resources in place to help with students on changing dangerous driving behaviors, she added.

Lundstrom said she was amazed at how the

event all came together.

"There were hundreds of hours of work put into the planning, and then meetings with parents and students," she said. Reing did all the outreach for the emergency responders, making sure the mock crash also worked as a valuable training exercise for all involved in the response.

"The kids more than surprised me. They were exceptional. They went above and beyond what they needed to do," Lundstrom said.

The student actors then spent the night with Lundstrom at the Vermilion Park Inn and were not allowed to contact other students at the school.

"They all needed to talk about the experience," she said. "They said it affected them more than they thought it would." The students all decided they also wanted to speak at the mock funeral. Initial plans only had the parents speaking. The students needed to make sure their classmates understood how dangerous distracted and impaired driving was, and how tragic such preventable accidents were.

The students who were

dead at the scene were actually zipped into body bags.

"That felt really real for them," Lundstrom said. "Jaymes said he never wants to hear his mom cry like she did at the hospital [while filming the death scene]. He said he would do whatever it takes to make sure that never happens."

The parents of these students were a key part of the event's success, Lundstrom added.

"They needed to keep it a secret," she said. The students met with Karla at least weekly for the month prior to the crash.

The mock crash also created some tighter relationships with the students and their parents.

"This brought families together," Lundstrom said. "The best moment was watching one father tell his son how proud he was of him."

The students were chosen for the mock crash for several reasons, and some were not friends before the event. The planning done for the event has also created new friendships between each other.

"These kids were from different social circles," Reing said. "It brought them all together."

Reing, who formerly worked as a special education teacher, spends time at the school. Next year he is planning on teaching a violence prevention curriculum at the school.

Lundstrom and Reing both said they couldn't have done all the planning without the support from their own families. Lundstrom's husband is a retired fire chief, who organized the first such "Arrive Alive" event in the Twin Cities. Reing's wife Ivette was a participant in the mock crash. Reing has recruited a student in the graphics art program at Minnesota North College- Mesabi, Jackson Johns, who volunteered to edit the videos and still photography taken to make a film that will be shown to students at VCS, as well as other schools. Reing said it will be ready to show right before prom, which is on May 19. Lund-

strom has preserved all their planning notes, so the event can be done again in the future, perhaps again in four years.

"I didn't have any doubt we could all work together to pull this off," said Reing. "Months of planning and preparation. And then in two hours it was over. Communication between all the agencies involved was very good. Everyone worked together. Everyone knew their job."

Reing said it was clear that, "The message hit home. This is real. This is something that can happen."

"They will carry this for a long time," he said. "And hopefully will think about it before they do something stupid while driving."

Only students in grades 9-12 were part of the events. The junior high students went on a separate field trip on the day of the mock crash, and then played organized games outdoors while the mock funerals were being held.

Thank You

Vermilion Country school is also offering its thanks to all the local businesses, organizations, participants and all the others who contributed to make today successful. That includes the following: Breitung Township, Breitung Fire Department, Breitung Police Department, Breitung Maintenance Dept., Mather Recycling, Vermilion Park Inn, Valerie Turnbull, Northern Lights Salon, Timberjay, Tower Fire Department, Tower Ambulance, Ely Hospital, RMS, Zup's of Ely and Tower, Midwest Medical Examiner, Ely Ambulance Life Link, St. Martin's Women's Group, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, St. Louis County Dispatch, Amber Salmela, Alyssa Costello, Haedyn Miller, Ashton Cook, Jaymes Scholz, Chloe Anderson, Tyler, Chief of Police Dan Reing, and VCS Office Manager Karla Lundstrom.

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BASEBALL

Busy schedule leaves Ely sluggish in weekend action

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Finish 2-2 on the week after stellar performances against Chisholm and Nevis

BLACKDUCK— Dog-tired Timberwolves pitching struggled for one of the first times this season here last Saturday as Ely dropped both games in a mixed doubleheader. It was a let-down for the Wolves after stellar performances last Thursday and Friday.

Against Red Lake County just after noon on Saturday, Ely

kept it tight through a scoreless three innings. But the Ogichidaag took advantage of an error and three hit batters in the bottom of the fourth to take a 4-0 lead. Ely plated a run in the fifth on a Caid Chittum single that scored freshman Hunter Halbakken. The Wolves had other chances in the inning, and left the bases loaded down 4-1, which proved to be the

final score.

Halbakken started and lasted three-and-a-third innings, giving up four runs on three hits, while striking out three. Freshman Drew Johnson worked the final two-and-two-thirds innings in relief striking out two.

It proved to be just the opening salvo on a difficult afternoon. In the second game, against

Blackduck, the Drakes pounded out 13 hits and scored runs in every inning but the second as they ten-ran the Wolves 13-3. Ely junior pitcher Drew Marolt gave up seven runs on as many hits, in three-and-a-third innings, while freshman Drew Johnson worked an inning and a third in relief, giving up four runs on five hits. Chittum finished up surren-

dering two runs to the Drakes. At the plate, senior Joey Bianco and junior Elliott Leven each had two hits and an RBI for Ely.

“Saturday’s two losses capped off a long week for the Wolves,” said Head Coach Frank Ivancich, noting that his team had played seven games

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B



SOFTBALL

RINSE AND REPEAT

For the second time this month, Grizzlies dominate Ely

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods softball team apparently has Ely’s number this season, as the Grizzlies racked up another lopsided win against the Timberwolves last Thursday, 12-2.

The Wolves drew first blood in this one, with pinch runner Julia Zgonc scoring on a line drive double by Rachel Coughlin in the first. That would be one of only two hits on the day given up by Grizzlies’ hurler Evelyn Brodeen.

North Woods wasted no time taking control of the game in the bottom half of the inning. Addie Burckhardt reached base on a fielding error, and after stealing second came around to score on another Wolves’ error. Skyler Yernatich was the next Grizzly to reach on an Ely miscue, and a double by River Cheney gave North Woods runners at second and third. Brodeen helped her own cause by lifting a double to left, scoring Yernatich and Cheney



to give North Woods a 3-1 lead.

North Woods struck again in the third, and again it was Brodeen who delivered, this time with an RBI single that brought Cheney across the plate.

Ely has been prone this season to giving up big innings, and that was again the case in a six-run fourth

for North Woods. Cheney smashed a highlight reel home run that cleared the center field fence with plenty of room to spare, sending Yernatich home ahead of her. Errors continued to plague Ely as the Grizzlies plated four more runs in the inning.

See **GIRLS...**pg. 2B

Top: Ely’s Rachel Coughlin slides in safe at second just ahead of the tag from the Grizzlies’ Karah Scofield.

Above: The Grizzlies’ Evelyn Brodeen winds for a pitch.

photos by D. Colburn

TRACK

Visser makes a mark with discus toss

Ely eighth-grader beats her previous best by nearly 50 feet



Eighth-grader Kaylin Visser is all smiles at the medals table after securing a first place finish in discus at the Iron Range Conference varsity championship on Tuesday.

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

AURORA—Ely eighth-grader Kaylin Visser stunned observers at the Iron Range Conference varsity championship meet here on Tuesday, as she captured first place in the discus with a throw that topped her previous record by nearly 50 feet.

Visser’s throw of 130’4” topped her previous best of approximately 83 feet and proved the top finish for the Ely varsity girls track team during the day’s competition against several larger schools.

Ely team members scored a number of other high finishes, including a second-place finish for eighth-grader Molly Brophy in both the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter races, setting a personal best of 12:30 in the 3,200. Rock Ridge’s Nora Stark took first in the 1,600, while Lola Champlin of Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin (GNK) took first in the 3,200.

Ely’s 4x400 relay team of seniors Lilly Tedrick, Madeline Perry and Audrey Thomas, and

See **TRACK...**pg. 2B

BASEBALL

North Woods thumped by Cherry

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Home field was no advantage last Thursday for the North Woods baseball team, which came out on the short end against the Cherry Tigers 7-0.

Cherry pitching was a puzzle North Woods couldn’t solve, as the Grizzlies got

Left: North Woods’ catcher Ben Kruse fields a bunt with pitcher Louie Panichi in the background.

photo by D. Colburn

only one hit from Cedar Holman in the second while piling up 13 strikeouts.

North Woods hurler Louie Panichi turned in a

strong performance through the middle innings, giving up just three runs in six innings worked. Talen Jarshaw came on in relief in the seventh and got into trouble early, putting three runners on with a pair of singles and an error to set the stage for a grand slam home run by Cherry’s Noah Asuma.

Panichi gave up seven

hits and rang up six strikeouts against only one walk in his stint on the mound. North Woods had runners on base in the first, second, fourth and fifth innings but couldn’t muster the firepower to bring any of them home.

North Woods was scheduled to host Mt. Iron-Buhl on Tuesday before traveling to Cook County on Thursday.



PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID activity getting harder to track

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- For those who still believe COVID is a threat to their health, information about the virus for the communities in which they live is increasingly harder to come by.

Recent developments in this arena come courtesy of the May 11 end of the federal coronavirus emergency and the funding and mandates that came with it.

One tool in the information toolbox that disappeared on May 11 is the COVIDaware MN phone app. People who came down with COVID and tested positive through a lab could enter a code into their phone, and phone tracking technology

enabled the app to send notifications to app users telling them if they had been exposed through close contact with someone who had reported their COVID case. At-home testing diminished the effectiveness of the app, although those testing positive at home could request a code to enter. The funding for that national notification system ended May 11, and app users will no longer receive exposure notifications.

The app never collected personally identifying information, and any information entered about exposures was deleted after 14 days or when the app was deleted from a user's phone.

Another casualty of the changing times is the CDC's Community Levels indicator,

which coded every county green, yellow, or red depending on the extent of COVID activity. But the levels indicator was fueled in part by case data, which has become increasingly unreliable as a predictor with the advent of home testing, and with the COVID emergency expiring the CDC lacks the authority to require states to submit some of the data that they had been previously.

Nonetheless, the CDC is confident it can keep a handle on monitoring COVID through other metrics, such as hospitalization rates, which have been shown to parallel case data in their ability to allow assessment of community COVID activity.

"There has been a 99 percent concordance between the com-

munity levels, which are being retired and the new hospital admission driven metrics," CDC Principal Deputy Director Nirav Shah said May 5. "In short, we will still be able to tell that it's snowing, even though we're no longer counting every snowflake."

For the moment, it appears the Minnesota Department of Health is standing pat with its weekly COVID Situation Update, which reports on case numbers, COVID variants, hospitalizations, mortality, vaccinations, vaccine breakthrough data, and specific settings data for child care, schools, higher education, and long-term and congregate care settings.

A reliable weekly source of

information for the public has been a COVID update from MPR News, which has provided easy-to-grasp summaries based on state and some local data, but that has now been trimmed back to every other week as the severity of the pandemic has lessened.

In its report last Friday, MPR News reported that cases, hospitalizations and deaths all continue to decline, and the COVID viral load in northeast Minnesota is down by 56 percent over the last four weeks, although that measure increased by nine percent last week. According to the report, hospitalizations in St. Louis County from COVID are down to a rate of eight per week.

SOFTBALL

Ely splits doubleheader with Mt. Iron-Buhl

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— The Wolves split a doubleheader with Mt. Iron-Buhl on Tuesday, thanks to a late-inning Ely rally that salvaged the nightcap.

The Rangers took an early lead in the evening contest, racking up nine runs in the first three innings, capped by a five-run second inning, but that was all the scoring they could muster. Meanwhile, Ely got on the

board with a run in the first and two in the second, followed by two scoreless innings to leave the Wolves down 9-3 after four and half innings of play.

Ely found its sea legs in the home half of the fifth as they plated four runs and added five more in the sixth to take a 12-9 lead, which proved to be the final.

"I am very proud of how the girls kept themselves in the game," said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. "We kept chipping away and put ourselves in a spot

to win. I felt like the girls stepped up when they needed to."

Freshman pitcher Zoe MacKenzie, who struggled in the early going, finished up strong for the Wolves, going the distance, allowing just six hits and four earned runs to get the win.

Junior Hannah Penke had a big game at the plate, pounding three hits, including a double, in five at-bats, including an RBI and two runs scored. Eighth-grader Amelia Penke notched a hit and a walk, driving in a run

and scoring twice, while senior Rachel Coughlin rapped a double.

In the opener, the Rangers, playing as the home team, put two on the board in the bottom of the first. Ely kept it close with a run in the top of the second, but a four-run MI-B spree in the bottom half of the frame put the Rangers up 6-1. The Wolves rallied with three runs in the fifth to cut the margin to 6-4, but when the Rangers put up three of their own in the bottom half of the inning, it was all but over. Ely went scoreless

in the final two frames, while the Rangers added two more in the sixth for an 11-4 final.

Hannah Penke and eighth-grader Peyton Huntington both had two hits for Ely and each scored a run. Senior Kate Coughlin notched an RBI and a run scored on a hit.

The game was plagued with errors on the Ely side, as the Rangers racked up 11 runs on just five hits.

WOLVES..Continued from page 1B

in six days. "Our pitchers Saturday we not very sharp," he added.

The Wolves previewed the weekend wipeout with two of their strongest performances of the season so far, crushing Chisholm 17-1 and Nevis 7-0.

"Logan Loe pitched a gem on Friday, scattering four hits while fanning 11 in a 7-0 victory," said Ivancich. Loe also paced

Ely at the plate with two hits and two RBI's, while Marolt added two hits and 3 RBI's, including a big two-run double in the 7th inning to give Ely a 7-0 cushion. Bianco led the Wolves with three hits and two stolen bases.

At Chisholm on Thursday, the Wolves blew the game wide open in the top of the first, sending 12 batters to the plate in a

seven-run scoring frenzy enroute to a 17-1 shellacking of the Bluestreaks.

The Wolves added nine more runs in the fifth inning on four hits to ten-run the 'Streaks in a commanding five-inning win. Loe had a huge day at the plate with three hits and five RBIs, while Chittum added three hits of his own on the afternoon.

Levens got the win on

the mound for Ely, going the distance while giving up just two hits, while striking out five and issuing five walks.

The Wolves had a much-deserved break in the early part of this week as they prepared for the annual Veteran's Memorial Showcase set for this Friday and Saturday, with games played in both Ely and Soudan. Ivancich was

hopeful that the team's pitching would be back strong after a few days rest.

The Wolves will kick off the two-day tournament with a noon start on Friday against Carlton. They'll finish the Friday competition with a 7:30 p.m. match-up with Cherry. The Wolves will be back in action at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday as they host St. Paul Harding. Lake of the

Woods will play at the Soudan field on Saturday as part of the tournament, taking on Cook County at 11 a.m. and Silver Bay at 1:30 p.m.

The Wolves will stay at home early next week, hosting International Falls on Tuesday.

TRACK..

Continued from page 1B

anchored by junior Grace LaTourell, ran to a third-place finish in their contest, behind first place Rock Ridge and second place Mesabi East.

In the 4x800 relay, Senior Phoebe Helms, junior Claire Blauch, sophomore Anna Dunn and senior Madeline Perry crossed the finish in third place just behind first place Rock Ridge and second place GNK.

In shot put, Ely senior Natasha Fulkrod's 27'2" throw brought home a fourth-place finish for the Wolves.

LaTourell posted other top-10 finishes for Ely, with a fourth-place finish in the 400m dash and a sixth place finish in the 200m dash.

The team is next headed to the Taconite Invite at Mesabi East on Friday, May 19. They'll compete in North Subsections at Mesabi East on May 25 at 10 a.m.

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GIRLS..Continued from page 1B

The Wolves scratched across another run in the top of the fifth, with Ella Perish reaching on an error and coming around to score on a single by Makenzi Huntington. But no rally was in the offing, as Grizzlies second baseman Karah Scofield snuffed out the side with an easy play on a Clare Thomas grounder.

Helen Koch got North Woods going in the bottom of the fifth when she was hit by a pitch, advanced to third on two passed balls, and came home to score on yet another Ely error. Cheney stepped to the plate with Yernatich in scoring position at third and gave

North Woods the ten-run lead they needed to end the game with a scorching double to center field.

Brodeen went the distance for the win, allowing only two hits and two runs while striking out three. Zoe MacKenzie took the loss for Ely, giving up 10 runs, only two of them earned as the Wolves committed 10 errors on the day. North Woods tagged the Wolves' hurler for 10 hits.

Cheney, Burckhardt, Yernatich and Brodeen all managed multiple hits in the contest. Cheney was three for four at the plate with a pair of doubles and a homer.

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Geraldyn F. Erickson

Geraldyn Fay "Jerry" Erickson, 92, of Sartell, formerly of Sacred Heart, died on Monday, May 8, 2023, at the Country Manor Villa Apartments in Sartell. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, May 17 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sacred Heart. The Rev. Michelle Kleene officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery in Sacred Heart. Arrangements were with Dirks-Blem Funeral Service in Renville.

Geraldyn Fay "Jerry" was born on Feb. 26, 1931, in St. Paul, to Sherman Cody and Nellie (Littlefield) Morgan. She grew up in St. Paul and graduated from Humboldt High School. After high school, Jerry continued her education at Macalester College and then later at Southwest State College where she received her BS degree. She later earned her Master's Degree at St. Thomas College. She taught school in Gilbert, Duluth, Sacred Heart, BDRSH and RCW.

Jerry loved spending summers at the family cabin on Eagles Nest Lake near Ely, and winters in

Arizona. She was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sacred Heart, and was active with several organizations both in the Sacred Heart and Ely areas. Coffee, cookies and conversation were always available when visiting Jerry. Many will remember her annual St. Patrick's Day shenanigans. Jerry was united in marriage to Donald Andrew Erickson on July 10, 1954, in St. Paul.

Jerry is survived by her children, Mark (LaVonne), Bonnie (John) Pottratz, Nancy (Tom) Froehling, Gail and David; grandchildren, Kevin, Peter, Hannah, Adam, Elizabeth, Diane, Kristen, Andrew, Philip, Megan, Aaron, Jaime and Samuel; nine great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Jeanne Haskell; and husband, Donald.

Norman K. Corey

Norman Keith Corey, 93, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, died on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, in Essentia Health-Virginia. A gathering of family and friends will be held from 10:30 until the 11 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the Tower Civic Center. Linda Kronholm will officiate. Private inurnment will follow at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. The memorial gathering will continue from 12 noon until 2 p.m. at the civic center. Family services are provided by Bauman-Ver-

milion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Beatrice H. Lamppa

Beatrice Helen Ranta Lamppa, 95, of Virginia and formerly of Babbitt, died on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at Edgewood Vista in Virginia. A visitation and celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 19 at Pike Apostolic Lutheran Church in Embarrass. Inurnment will be in the Embarrass Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to Pike Apostolic Lutheran Church. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Carlen (Caroline) Lamppa of Aurora, Dr. Michael (Charlene) Lamppa of Savage, Bernadette Bradshaw of Wichita, Kan., and Russell (Melanie) Lamppa of New Hope; grandchildren, Brent (Melissa) Lamppa, Reece (Shannon) Lamppa and Cassandra Lamppa; and great-grandchildren, Maggie, Allie, Vivian and Eleanor Lamppa.

Robert N. Niemiste

Robert Newman "Bob" Niemiste, 88, died peacefully, with his wife near his side, in the early morning of Thursday, May 11, 2023, at The Orchards of Minnetonka Assisted Living in Minnetonka. A Christian burial and celebration of life will be held this summer at Peace Lutheran Church in New London at a date to be announced.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marilyn Sand Niemiste; daughter, Jennifer (Brian) Arne of Long Lake; son, John (Gretchen) Niemiste of Tower; son-in-law, Thomas (Robin) Sult of New London; grandchildren, Andrew Thompson, John Thompson, Adam Morrison, Laura Gerlach, Jack Morrison, Aaron Niemiste and Paige Niemiste; great-grandchildren, Haakon, Astrid, Jackson, Navy, Wright, Lennon, Stella and Enzo.

Daniel J. Zubich III

Daniel John "Dan" Zubich III, 80, of Onalaska, Wis., formerly of Bab-

bitt, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Saturday, April 8, 2023. Per Dan's wishes, his family is holding a celebration of life instead of a traditional funeral. All are invited to honor and remember Dan's amazing life on Saturday, June 3 from 1-5 p.m. at Mac's Bar and Grill in Mt. Iron, the same location where his surprise 80th birthday party was recently celebrated.

John G. Heikkila

John Gary Heikkila, 81, of Virginia, formerly of Tower, passed away on Sunday, May 7, 2023, surrounded by family, at

the Minnesota Veterans Home in Silver Bay. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, May 17 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Virginia. A committal service was held on Thursday, May 18 at the Veterans Cemetery in Duluth.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Margaret "Peggy"; son, Corey (Jenny) of Rogers; daughter, Julie of St. Paul; grandchildren, Emily and Reed; brother, Donnie (Lois) of Virginia; several nieces and nephews and extended family members.

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EMPLOYMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Homelessness Programs Supervisor
Closes: 05/29/2023

Position Purpose: The Homelessness Programs Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the homelessness programs, providing direct supervision of homelessness program staff to ensure Band Members are connected to appropriate services when they are experiencing housing instability and homelessness. They will ensure all accounting and billing procedures are followed; that other requirements are met to provide and bill for Targeted Case Management (TCM) and Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS). The Homelessness Programs Supervisor will work with the Housing Case Managers to identify and assist homeless Bois Forte Band Members. The Homelessness Programs Supervisor will provide crisis management support and monitor client progress. Additionally, they will provide TCM and/or ARMHS as needed. This individual will be responsible for managing all departmental-related grants and contracts to ensure completion and fidelity in accordance with tribal and state requirements.

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New Moon Programs Supervisor
Closes: 05/29/2023

Position Purpose: The New Moon Programs Supervisor is responsible for the overall coordination, administration, reporting and oversight, grant writing, budgeting, tenant counseling and community building activities. The New Moon Programs Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the New Moon Project, providing direct supervision of New Moon staff, and ensuring billing and other programmatic requirements are met for the Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services. The New Moon Services Supervisor will work with the Housing Case Managers to identify and assist homeless Bois Forte Band Members. The New Moon Programs Supervisor will provide crisis management support and monitor tenant progress. Additionally, will provide Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services as needed. This individual will be responsible for managing all departmental-related grants and contracts to ensure completion and fidelity in accordance with tribal and state requirements.

Excellent Benefits:
Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions

Website Address: <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

Chief Executive Officer
open until filled

Position Purpose: The Chief Executive Officer directs and supervises the Health and Human Services programs and management functions of all Health and Human Services supervisors and their programs. Health and Human Services is the sole community health provider at the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, including clinics in Nett Lake, MN, and Tower, MN. The CEO will provide leadership and assume responsibility and accountability for the overall strategic and operational planning of HHS in conjunction with and within the authority of the general strategic direction of the governing health board. The CEO will perform duties and responsibilities personally or through subordinate supervisors. The CEO will direct and coordinate all activities of the clinic to achieve the objective of providing quality health care to the citizens of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and surrounding areas. The CEO is responsible for the clinic's operation, the application and implementation of policies, and the liaison to the Board of Directors and Tribal Council, Medical Staff, and the community. Employs qualified personnel and ensures staff education and evaluation. Takes an active role in implementing an effective budgeting and accounting system. Participates and represents the clinic's interest in community and healthcare-related organizations within the reservation and surrounding area.

Excellent Benefits:
Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions

Substance Use Disorder Program Supervisor
Closes: 05/29/2023

Position Purpose: Incumbent will support and supervise staff of the Substance Use Disorder Programs. Will develop and implement programs based on client needs. Be familiar with a variety of the fields' concepts, practices, and procedures. Follow federal, state, and local regulations and various community programs to coordinate essential program functions.

Excellent Benefits:
Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions

Mental Health Outpatient Therapist
Closes: 05/29/2023

Position Purpose: Responsible for providing outpatient mental health therapy services within the Behavioral Health unit, to support status as a National Health Service Corp (NHSC) approved site. Perform diagnostic assessments, develop treatment plans and conduct psychotherapy for children, adolescents and adults in a manner that is both culturally sensitive and appropriate utilizing the proper psychotherapeutic techniques.

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Behavioral Health Program Manager
Closes: 05/29/2023

Position Purpose: Behavioral Health is comprised of the disciplines of mental health and substance disorders. The Manager of the Behavioral Health program collaborates with the respective supervisors to plan, implement, assess, manage, and re-align strategic direction if needed. Key focus areas are clinical staff development, program planning, growth, development, and sustainment, and providing recommendations for program changes to meet client/community needs. The Administrator holds the responsibility of ensuring program planning is integrated and seamless. Serves as a role model to staff and is seeking to continuously provide high quality care. The Behavioral Health Clinical Managers plan, develop, manage, and oversee the administration of behavioral health care clinic/program operations and services through subordinate professional-level and/or supervisory staff.

Excellent Benefits:
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COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court file
No. 69VI-PR-23-71

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Estate of
Saundra Ellen Boyd, aka
Saundra Boyd, Decedent

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will, and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted. IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on June 12, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., by this Court at Virginia, Minnesota. 1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204. 2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date..

BY THE COURT
Michelle Anderson
Judge of District Court
Amy Turnquist, Court Administrator
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner
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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

WEATHER RECORDS

Plenty of snow, but no long-term records locally

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- With the 2022-23 snow season hopefully now behind us, it was certainly above average for snowfall here in the North Country, but not the record-setting winter seen just to our south.

At the head of the big lake, Duluth set a new all-time snowfall record, with 140.1 inches as of April 30.

Parts of the North Shore received even more snow than that, but snow totals quickly diminished away from Lake Superior.

Ely recorded the most snow in the border country, racking up 103.2 inches, the second highest total since the station began collecting data in 2011. With barely over a decade of weather data, comparisons with past Ely winters is all but impos-

sible. This is a problem for several weather stations in the region, including Babbitt, Orr, Embarrass, Tower, and Cook, where most stations have been in the same location for less than 25 years. That often misses some of the more notorious winters, like 1978-79, 1995-96, and 1996-97.

A further impediment

See SNOW...pg. 5B

Right: It was a snowy winter, but no long term records were set locally. Duluth, by contrast, set a new all-time record of 140.1 inches of snow this winter. Pictured here is a measuring stick reflecting snow on the ground as of March 23 in Vermillion Lake Township.

photo by M. Helmberger



2023 FISHING OPENER

PICTURE PERFECT

Pleasant weather, plentiful walleyes, and a few surprises for anglers

LAKE VERMILION— A lot of conventional wisdom took a beating here during Saturday's fishing opener, including the usual assumption that opener is invariably timed with lousy weather.

Instead, it was a picture-perfect day, with plenty of sunshine breaking through scattered clouds and rapidly warming temperatures, despite the chilly water.

With the ice out just three days ahead of this year's fishing opener, most anglers on Lake Vermilion worked the shallow, dark waters of Pike Bay expecting to find an abundance of larger, post-spawn walleye in the warming waters. Conventional wisdom dashed again.

Anglers caught plenty of walleye, but the nice ones proved to be in deeper water for the most part.

"I started in Pike Bay, but didn't catch anything but those little dinks," said Cliff Wagenbach, a longtime Lake Vermilion fishing guide. "That's what I heard from other folks, too," he said.

My Saturday morning started the way it has for the past several openers now, with a 7 a.m. appointment at my friend Rob Bryers' dock next to the Birch Point public landing. With his dock still underwater, he had pulled his boat up on shore for loading. Bryers is another long-

Above: An angler smiles as she holds up a nice eating-sized walleye caught near Glenwood Lodge on the far east end of Lake Vermilion.

Right and below right: Anglers net fish caught on Lake Vermilion during last Saturday's fishing opener.

photos by M. Helmberger

time fishing guide who typically doesn't take clients on opener. For him, it's a chance to test the waters before he has paying clients, so we hit several of his favorite spots to get a sense of where the fish are at, while I take the pulse of the opener from several vantage points on the lake.

As usual, we first stopped off at the tip of Birch Point, a favorite early season spot for many and found several boats bobbing in moderate east wind, which was generating a perfect walleye chop and

a bit of a chill off of Big Bay, where ice still ruled just a few days earlier. We dropped the jigs and minnows and a few minutes later I pulled in the first fish, a nice 15-inch walleye.

"That's going to fry up nice," I commented as Rob tossed it in the live well.

We came up empty on a few more bites. In the still-cold water, the bite was soft to say the least and at times you had to really pay attention to even

See OPENER...pg. 5B



Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
BLOODROOT



Relatively uncommon here in the North Country, the **Bloodroot**, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, is so named for the blood red sap that oozes from its broken stems or roots.

Its showing flower, often growing in large patches, is among the first to emerge in the spring, invariably underneath a canopy of deciduous trees, typically aspen or maple here in the North Country.

It can be told by the relatively large white blossom, typically with eight-to-ten petals surrounding a small, yellow center. The roundish, lobed leaves appear to surround the flower's stem while the flower is in bloom, but they'll flatten out as the canopy's leaves emerge, better to catch the disappearing sunlight on the forest floor.

It's a member of the Poppy family.

SO LONG WINTER

Ice-out just in time for the opener

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKEVERMILION— Warm weather that arrived earlier this week has melted the final vestiges of ice here, with an official ice-out date of May 10, just in time for Saturday's fishing opener.

Other area ice-outs, according to the Department of Natural Resources include:

- Lake Kabetogama: May 11
 - Rainy Lake: May 11
 - Elephant Lake: May 9
 - Little Long Lake: May 9
 - Farm Lake: May 9
 - Fall Lake: May 8
 - Shagawa Lake: May 8
 - Bear Head: May 6
 - Side Lake: May 6
 - Clear Lake (near Myrtle): May 4
 - West Robinson Lake: May 4
- Most other area lakes, except for large border lakes, were likely ice-free as of this past weekend's opener, but have not been officially reported at this time.

READ
the Timberjay!

BIG ONES



Jay Greeney, of Ely, caught and released this gorgeous 29-inch walleye during an opening weekend trip to Basswood.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
61 39					72 44					64 37					71 48					73 46				
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.
05/08	48	41	0.03		05/08	50	48	0.02		05/08	47	37	0.28		05/08	57	46	0.00		05/08	50	43	0.22	
05/09	61	39	0.05		05/09	58	44	0.00		05/09	59	41	0.32		05/09	70	43	0.00		05/09	61	39	0.04	
05/10	69	47	0.00		05/10	71	44	0.00		05/10	68	43	0.00		05/10	73	45	0.00		05/10	70	41	0.00	
05/11	70	52	0.00		05/11	73	50	0.08		05/11	74	44	0.00		05/11	82	54	0.00		05/11	74	39	0.00	
05/12	81	51	0.00		05/12	83	47	0.00		05/12	82	51	0.00		05/12	81	55	0.00		05/12	81	47	0.00	
05/13	78	45	0.00		05/13	80	60	0.00		05/13	80	47	0.00		05/13	73	45	0.00		05/13	80	42	0.00	
05/14	71	43	0.00		05/14	72	51	0.00		05/14	71	45	0.00		05/14	73	43	0.00		05/14	72	40	0.00	
YTD Total 7.75 99.8"					YTD Total 7.01 85.3"					YTD Total 5.23 87.2"					YTD Total NA NA					YTD Total 6.66 81.9"				

Fishing reports

Ely area

Anglers found walleye in a classic post spawn pattern, meaning mostly males and largely scattered but hungry fish. As usual, a jig and rainbow reigned supreme over opening weekend for anglers, with gold, gold/red, pink, blue as the top colors over the weekend for anglers. Anglers focused their efforts in areas with current and large gravel flats in depths ranging from 2-16 feet. A few anglers focused on these same areas with large floating rapalas during the evening hours and were rewarded with some very large wall-eyes. Peak water temps reported were 53 degrees. Pike anglers have not been disappointed so far this year. Anglers have been catching some very large

pike with a heavy sucker floated under a large bobber. Shallow water, 10 feet or less, with mud bottoms or near river mouths has been best.

While there were not a lot of stream trout anglers over opening weekend, there were still some who targeted streamers. With the late ice out, trout were located very close to shore and very high in the water column. Small spoons, small crank baits and spinners, casted along shorelines was very effective on hungry trout. Other anglers fishing from shore floated a night crawler about five feet under a bobber and reported having good success.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors. See more at ArrowheadOutdoors ElyMN.com.

OPENER...Continued from page 4B

notice that ever-so-slight tension that indicated you had one on the line.

With his graph, Rob could see there were plenty of walleye down there, in about 25 feet of water, but they generally showed only marginal interest in the rainbows we were trying to drop on their heads. "They're just not hungry yet," said Rob. "Another week and it should be phenomenal."

We next headed to the north side of Pine Island, a several mile jaunt that left us sitting alone on one of Rob's honey holes in Sunset Bay. I caught a second nice one there and tossed a 12-incher back, while Rob got on the board with another 15-incher for the well. We had a few more misses, as we tried to figure out the pattern of the cold-water bite, eventually concluding that a little line and some patience was the key to a set hook.

When they seemed to shut off for a bit, we headed to another well-known hot spot on the north side of Pine and found several other boats but no action. After 15 minutes without so much as a nibble, we decided to check out the scene in Pike Bay. We went around the east side of Pine and headed southwest across the full fetch of Big Bay, where we had to zip our jackets again from the chill of miles of frigid water.

Pike Bay was packed with boats and we managed to negotiate our way near a spot near Puncher Point that had produced big time for Rob last year about this time. Other boats moved in and out from the spot Rob wanted to try but we cast into it from a ways out but never connected with anything other than a six-inch walleye that I quickly tossed back.

I had hoped our foray to Pike Bay would at least give me the chance for a few photos of folks hauling in fish, but the few walleye we saw being caught were those "little dinks" as Cliff had described



Few anglers are as focused on their work as a lab, setter, or retriever out on opening morning. photo by M. Helmberger

them. By the time we gave it up, it was about a quarter to eleven and we had just four fish in the live well. We opted to head back, with a last stop back at our original destination off Birch Point. It didn't take long for the real action to start. I pulled in another 15-incher, and shortly after that, both Rob and I each had one on the line, and we added two more nice ones to the well.

I tossed back another little one just before Rob connected on another keeper, which put us at our limit. It all happened in about 15 minutes, which left us wondering if we would have been better off sleeping in.

Rob said that wasn't that unusual for early season and in the fall, when the walleye seem to get more active in the midday, responding perhaps to the better light in the deeper water.

Wagenbach agreed. "For us, the best bite was from ten o'clock

to noon," he said.

So much for the early bird getting the worm. It was strike three for conventional wisdom.

With mild temperatures and plenty of sunshine in the forecast after a brief stint of showers midweek, the conditions for walleye fishing should improve markedly as we head toward Memorial Day weekend. The walleye were out there in big numbers. Wagenbach who fished with three or four guys both days over the weekend, boated more than 100 walleye from anywhere from 24-36 feet of water, tossing the vast majority of them back. Rob's graph, which lit up with fish at most of our stops, attested to the abundance as well.

As we headed back in before noon with a full limit of perfect eating-sized walleye, I couldn't help but think it's going to be a good summer on Vermilion. Let the fun begin...

SNOW...Continued from page 4B

to snowfall comparisons is that many stations, such as Hibbing's, do not record cumulative snowfall data. Hibbing stations have data going back to 1962, but none of them currently record snowfall.

"Unfortunately we do not have an observer at Hibbing that reports snow anymore," said Ketzler Levens, a National Weather Service meteorologist based in Duluth.

More regional data

Twenty miles east of Ely, the weather station on Snowbank Lake ("Ely 25 E") recorded 104.0 inches of snowfall, which Levens said was the "record high for this station," which had data going back to 1987.

The station in Embarrass, with data back to 1995, recorded a snowfall of 85.8 inches, the third highest for this station, behind the winters of 2012-13 and 2013-14. That station has seen at least one change in location since 1995.

The station "Cook 8NE" on the south shore of Lake Vermilion recorded its fifth-highest snow total, with 89.1 inches. Its data goes back to 1998.

Station "Tower 2S," which is located just south of Tower along Hwy. 135,

reported "91.0 inches season snowfall, which ranks as the 11th highest," according to Levens. While the Tower station has existed for nearly a century, it has changed locations a number of times, most recently in the early 2000s. Levens said a complete range of data goes back to 1926 for the Tower area, but some of the data between 1926-1931 is suspicious, she said. "If we start the data at 1932, this year would rank as 10th highest [snow total]," Levens added.

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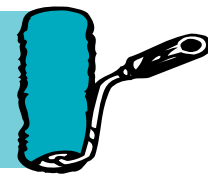
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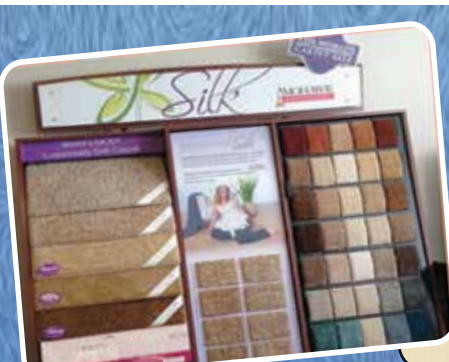
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