

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION

Inside this week's paper

the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁵⁰

ELY AMBULANCE

Joint powers board resolves little in latest meeting

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The four person Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board (EAAJPB) met on June 12 without resolving any of a host of outstanding issues.

That includes a substantial budget shortfall for renovations and new construction at the planned ambulance quarters. Engineers TKDA submitted its report on the estimated costs for the work, which came in at \$793,540, well above the \$650,000 allocated for the project.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski commented that the EAAJPB and the ambulance service had to "either reduce the scope or put more money in," to fund the project.

In the subsequent discussion, ambulance service board chair Chuck Novak noted that the service's "revenues are up 120 percent but expenses are up 220 percent between 2010 and the present."

The EAAJPB discussed different ways to increase revenues and funding but took no action at the meeting. The board members voted to allocate \$300,000 for the renovation and \$350,000 for the new construction, acknowledging that those funds likely won't be enough.

Rift with hospital

The meeting started with one change which received no discussion or mention: Fall Lake Supervisor Rod Gruba, the EAAJPB representative for Fall Lake Township, was replaced by Fall Lake Supervisor Eric Hart. Though no mention was made at the EAAJPB meeting, Gruba had announced he would step down at the June 6 Fall Lake Township meeting, citing concerns that his membership on both the EAAJPB and the Ely Area Ambulance

See...AMBULANCE pg. 9



SUMMER FUN

TIMBER DAYS A HIT

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- The annual Cook's Timber Days festival last weekend was a winner all around, with favorable weather, attractions new and old, and good-sized crowds across all three days of the event.

The only significant glitch in the weather came Friday evening when a torrential thunderstorm blew through, causing attendees to scurry for cover and vendors to batten down the hatches. The storm delayed but did not deter the Vergie Hegg Hospice Partners

See...TIMBER pg. 10



Top: Kids dance gleefully in the overspray from Friday's firefighters challenge.

Above: The AAD Shrine Drum and Bugle Corp from Hermantown strikes up a tune.

Below: Kids scramble for goodies during the Timber Days parade. photos by D. Colburn



AT THE BORDER

Crane Lake OKs bid for new park visitors center

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

CRANE LAKE- With contractors in place, the long-held dream of a Voyageurs National Park visitor center and campground for Crane Lake is well down the path toward becoming reality.

The Crane Lake Township board reviewed construction bids at its May 9 meeting and selected Max Gray Construction, with a bid of \$2.978 million, as the primary contractor for the 7,000-square-foot visitor center. Casper Construction was awarded the base campground/RV park bid for \$2.102 million. Action on bids for additional alternate options totaling \$479,318 was held pending a determination of additional funding for the options.

When Voyageurs National Park was established in 1975, the park was sup-

See...VISITORS CENTER pg. 10

CITY OF TOWER

Council dubious of Greenwood request for RFP

Establishes committee to explore possible purchase of county garage

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— City officials here reacted mostly with a shrug to a letter from Greenwood Township rejecting participation in a joint powers board that would oversee the operations of the Tower Area Ambulance Service. The council showed little enthusiasm for a request by Greenwood officials that the city solicit a private ambulance provider.

The ambulance issues were among a long list of items on the agenda for the Tower City Council's regular monthly meeting, held Monday.

The city's ambulance service has been facing financial challenges ever since converting to a costly paid on-call service in 2018, and the city has been subsidizing the service in recent years to help it meet its high

See...COUNCIL pg. 9

SECRETARY OF STATE VISIT

Simon has full agenda on Iron Range visit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Secretary of State Steve Simon had a busy agenda during a trip to both ends of the Iron Range this week and he had a lot to talk about with local political and business leaders.

While other major issues dominated the news coverage during the recently com-

pleted legislative session, lawmakers also approved some of the most significant changes in decades to the state's election laws and Simon was excited to talk about them.

"It was a once-in-a-generation session for democracy reform," said Simon during a Tuesday phone interview with the *Timberjay*. Simon rarely misses an opportunity to tout Minnesota's status as

the state with the nation's highest voter turnout election after election and he said many of the changes enacted this session will help to continue that strong performance.

Some of the changes include an update to the state's so-called motor-voter law, which will now automatically register new drivers to

See..VISIT pg. 10

Right: Secretary of State Steve Simon (l) was on a tour of Hibbing Taconite on Tuesday. He met with tribal officials and union pipefitters at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Wednesday. submitted photo



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Community notices

Ely Ladies of Kaleva to meet Tuesday, June 20

ELY- Anyone interested in Finnish heritage is invited to join the Ely Ladies of Kaleva for their meeting on Tuesday, June 20 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge. Lunch is on your own.

Hanna Erpestad will present this month's program. Erpestad will speak on factors which she believes makes Finland the happiest country for the last six years. Hanna Erpestad is a native of Finland and a lifelong Finnish citizen. Recently, she also became a U.S. citizen. Hanna served Lake Superior College in Duluth for 24 years as an English faculty member and Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences. She has been active in the Finnish-American community as a Finnish language instructor and translator, as well as the founding president of the Finlandia Foundation Northland chapter. As a recent retiree, Hanna travels to Finland 2-3 times a year for extended periods of time.

EHST to host "Best of the Fest" June 18-21

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater will be hosting a series of screenings entitled "Best of the Fest" on June 18, 19, and 21. The reprise screening series follows the successful first-ever End of the Road Film Festival held last February. For those who may have missed out on attending the film festival, the "Best of the Fest" is a chance to catch some of the crowd-favorite films on the big screen.

Ely's Historic State Theater will show a total of seven screenings over the course of the three days. Tickets cost \$5 apiece or passes to all seven films are available for \$25. All screenings will take place in the smaller, 50-seat Greenstone Cinema, so those interested in attending should get tickets before they sell out.

The screenings will include six of the award-winning feature films shown at the End of the Road Film Festival plus a short film block called "Best of Shorts" which includes the six award-winning short films from the festival.

Several high school students receive scholarships from Lake Country Power

COHASSET – Lake Country Power is pleased to announce 36 local high school seniors from 29 different schools have been awarded the Lake Country Power 2023 Les Beach Memorial Scholarship. The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship honors a former co-op employee and recognizes student commitment and contribution to local communities.

The \$4,000 scholarships, issued at \$1,000 per year for four years, were awarded to the following students in the readership area: Rachel Coughlin: Ely Memorial High School ; Kohen Briggs and Hannah Kinsey: North Woods School; Jacob Mackai: North-east Range School

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is available to local students from more than 35 area high schools. Qualified students must be co-op members through their parents or legal guardians who receive electric services from Lake Country Power. The web-based application process for high school seniors will open this winter when qualifying high school seniors may apply for next year's scholarships. The online application will be available from the cooperative's website at www.lakecountrypower.coop.

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AT ISSUE

Minnesota Farmers Union seeks local input on addressing climate change

COOK - The Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) is seeking input from local communities about how to best address the effects of global warming on our lands and agriculture practices. To hear area residents' ideas and concerns, the Farmers Union is sponsoring a "Conversation about Climate and Agriculture" on Tuesday, June 20, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

The public is invited, including people engaged in agriculture, those interested in how land use affects our ability to adapt to climate change, and anyone who is concerned about how to move forward in a warming world. Light appetizers and refreshments will be offered at 6 p.m.

Melissa Bakker Roach of Bear River, President of the St. Louis County Farmers Union, which is co-sponsoring the session, said, "The Minnesota Farmers Union is the leading voice of agriculture in Minnesota, and we take climate change very seriously. That's why we are excited about this program to draw attention to northeastern Minnesota as well as the statewide impacts of climate change."

Panelist Ariel Kagan, Director of MFU's Climate and Working Lands Program, said Farmers Union members identified climate change at their last convention as a "special order of business."

"Policy makers, businesses, and the public are looking to agriculture for effective strategies to make our landscapes more resilient," Kagan said.

Kagan, who has a master's in agricultural economics from the University of British Columbia, will review some of the recent historic investments being made by state, federal, and private sectors toward climate-smart agriculture, soil health, renewable energy, and more.

"Agricultural practices can address issues such as uses of fertilizer, nutrient management, and reduction or sequestration of carbon dioxide," Kagan said. "We want to find out what works locally and what farmers think is the most important."

Kagan will also talk about pilot grants that are available to farmer cooperatives to engage in conservation agriculture practices to help make the transition to regenerative agriculture.

Also presenting at Tuesday's listening session in Cook will be Troy Salzer, a St. Louis County Local Extension Educator whose work focuses on agriculture and natural resources. Salzer grew up on a farm in Barnum and has a master's in animal science from the University of Minnesota.

According to Salzer, the Extension Service focuses on climate change not just as involving farm-



Above: St. Louis County Extension Educator, Troy Salzer, is one of the presenters at the June 20 "Conversation about Climate and Agriculture" event in Cook.



Right: Panelist Ariel Kagan, will talk about pilot grants available to farmer cooperatives.

ing and gardening but rather as the changing environment affects the people in northeastern Minnesota.

Since we're seeing increasing episodes of extreme heat and extreme rainfall, Salzer said, "We need to look at how do we brace ourselves, based on current and historical data, to set ourselves to dramatic storm events—how do we capture and retain moisture, what techniques are needed to prepare our system?"

Salzer said his agency is doing research on soil health, forage production, the use of cover crops, delayed planting, ways to add organic matter to soil and prevent excessive run-off, and more. They are also looking at pasture renovation and cropland management, exploring what species are best adapted to the new climate and northeastern Minnesota growing conditions, including inter-seeding, no-till drilling, and planting crops (such as radishes) that can improve water infiltration.

The Northern St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is another cooperator in the MFU project and a presenter at Tuesday's listening session.

Becca Reiss, SWCD Community Conservationist, said she will be most interested in hearing people's stories at the June 20 listening session. Reiss, whose background is in fisheries and wildlife conservation biology, does outreach and education about water and water planning in the area and will talk about

current water quantity and quality issues affecting northern St. Louis County.

According to Reiss, watershed planning for SWCD involves looking at soil conditions and practices to reduce erosion and run-off into river systems.

"We are not a regulatory agency," Reiss said, "But we engage landowners to do what's good for the land and what will help protect the soil."

The SWCD can help landowners to receive water quality certification that gives them access to funds for doing best management practices, said Reiss. SWCD does site visits and provides technical support for that program.

The MFU is holding similar listening sessions around the state, including in the Twin Cities, Thief River Falls, Saginaw in St. Louis County, and Fillmore County. The Cook session is also co-sponsored by the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability and Northern Progressives. For more information, contact Missy Bakker Roach at 218-969-6872 or bearriverroach@gmail.com.

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GREENWOOD

Greenwood road repairs on the agenda

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The poor condition of Birch Point Extension was the focus of discussion at Tuesday's town board meeting.

While Birch Point Road is a county road, the last 1.8 miles (Twp 4136) was originally a private road. Yet, after years of snowplowing paid by the township, it inadvertently became a township responsibility, an outcome that contradicted the original intentions of township residents to avoid responsibility for any roads.

At last month's meeting the board discussed a letter from St. Louis County, which stated they would no longer be able to plow the road for the township, due to the poor condition of the blacktop. The road is also narrow and rocky and has plentiful potholes which are large enough to be a traffic hazard.

Nancy and Charlie Eichholz, who live on the road, spoke on behalf of a group of neighbors.

"The immediate need is to have the potholes repaired," Nancy told the board. "This should be an ongoing annual repair."

Eichholz suggested the board set up a committee of township officials and road residents to develop a plan to repair

and/or resurface the road and identify funding sources.

"We recognize this could take several years," she said.

Under state law, townships are responsible for keeping township roads repaired and plowed, she reminded the board, reading from materials from the Minnesota Association of Townships handbook.

"Maintaining the road is a statutory duty," Nancy said.

When it was time for the board to discuss the issue, Chairman John Bassing stepped away from the discussion, citing his conflict of interest since he has property on the road in question. Supervisor Barb Lofquist, who also has an ownership interest in property on the road, also stepped away from the discussion, but first wanted to add a few comments about the history of how the township became responsible for that section of road.

"I will shush now," she said. Vice-Chair Sue Drobac gave an overview of the history of the road, how it was paved with private funds from residents. The first phase was done at a cost of \$300 per parcel, but the cost of blacktop had more than doubled by the time the end of the road was paved, and at that time the cost was \$700 per parcel, and the thickness of blacktop was reduced.

The town board has pre-

viously looked into the cost of replacing the blacktop and the costs were prohibitively high. A previous grant request from the township for funding to pave the road was unsuccessful.

Drobac said the township is not required keep the road's blacktop surface, and that is one option would be to remove the blacktop and revert to a gravel surface.

In previous years the township has paid St. Louis County to repair potholes, but the county no longer provides that service.

Supervisor Paul Skubic said he will get some quotes from contractors that provide cold-patch blacktop repair.

Spending township funds on the single township road has been controversial, especially for those living on other private township roads that have to self-fund for maintenance and plowing.

"I don't know how it became a township road and others didn't," said Skubic. "But like it or not, we have to maintain it safely. It's our road and we have to fix it."

Lee Peterson, who lives on Isles of Pines, which is privately maintained, said he believes the costs for maintaining Birch Point Extension needs to be assessed to those property owners.

"If you don't do that," he said, "all the other private roads

are going to be asking, too. It's an issue of fairness."

"I know people who don't live there don't want to pay for it," Skubic said. "But it is our responsibility."

Finding a private party to plow the road this winter may also be a problem, because it will require a larger plow. The township had provided St. Louis County with a hold-harmless agreement this past year, so that any damage to the road would not be considered the county's fault. The county has said they would want to see the road widened, as well as meet other county road specifications, before providing maintenance again.

Fire Chief Jeff Maus also noted that the road is hazardous for some of the emergency equipment since it is so narrow. The township has paid to remove brush from the roadside in previous years.

The board tabled any further action on the issue and will revisit it at the July meeting.

Fire department

Maus told the board that the township's First Responders had received training on administering medication such as aspirin, glucagon, epi-pens, and naloxone. Fire department members also attended a training in Tower on vehicle extrica-

tion and brought their trucks to a Big Truck Night event at Bois Forte.

He estimated the township had spent about \$18,000 on maintenance and repairs on department equipment last year. He said the department will need to replace the standpipes on fire boat number one next year, which may cost around \$5,000. He said they are looking at bringing in a repair person from the boat's manufacturer to do an in-person inspection of the now 15-year-old craft, and also to do additional training for department members on the boat's operation. They also will need to replace the cistern in the fire hall, which is used to fill the tanker. The current cistern has several leaks and is in poor condition. When they used it to fill the tanker last week, another piece of equipment bumped into the cistern and made a new hole, which has been patched, but other leaks are not repairable. "That tank has serious acne and needs to be changed," said Rick Stoehr. A new plastic 4,000-gallon tank will cost around \$5,000 plus shipping.

Maus asked for board approval to place additional fire number signage in areas where fire numbers are not numbered consecutively to help emergen-

See **ROADS...pg. 5**

PUBLIC HEALTH

Range Mental Health Center ups its game



Range Mental Health Center (RMHC) Outpatient Therapists Jared Sabin, right, and Duane Dale discuss new processes and procedures as a result of the recent change in status for RMHC to a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic at the Gov. Rudy Perpich Building in Hibbing. submitted photo

REGIONAL- Range Mental Health Center (RMHC), a nonprofit that has been serving the region for over sixty years, recently gained recognition as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) by the Minnesota Department of Humans Services.

Led by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), CCBHCs were created to transform mental health and substance use treatment across the country and provide sustainable funding for robust community outpatient mental health treatment.

"It's doing what we are already doing, but doing it better, while serving even more individuals," said RMHC CEO An-

marie Florest.

CCBHCs are required to meet rigorous federal standards for the range of services that they provide, and they are required to get people into care quickly. CCBHCs must see people in crisis immediately and provide routine outpatient care within 10 business days after an initial contact to prevent people from languishing on waiting lists.

"CCBHCs are transforming behavioral health systems in this country, and we know that the model of care works," Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., HHS Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the leader of SAMHSA, was quoted in a recent press release. "Data shows in the first

six months of receiving care, CCBHCs decrease homelessness, decrease the amount of time spent in correctional facilities, decrease the time spent in emergency rooms for behavioral health issues, decrease inpatient hospitalization for mental health treatment and decrease the use of illegal substances."

RMHC's shift to the new CCBHC model of care is "better" for the people we serve and the community in several ways. Most notable is timelier access to services.

"CCBHC standards have strict timeline requirements to ensure timely access. This means no more waiting lists,"

See **RMHC...pg. 5**

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OPINION

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Editorial

The cult of lying

The GOP defies the most dishonest man in America

What ever happened to the Republican Party? In the wake of the 37-count indictment of former President Donald Trump for violations of the Espionage Act, false statements to federal law enforcement officials, obstruction of justice, and more, one might reasonably expect that a party that used to tout its passion for law and order could, at least for a moment, refrain from deifying a former President who spent more than a year playing shell games with the National Archives and the FBI.

The behavior outlined by Special Prosecutor Jack Smith would be shocking if it was still possible to be shocked by anything Donald Trump does. As documented in the indictment, which is based in many cases on Trump’s own recorded words, text messages from aides, testimony from his own lawyers, security video, and photographs, Trump was fully aware that he took hundreds of classified documents when he left the White House. He stored them haphazardly in unlocked locations at Mar-a-Lago, a club that often hosts hundreds of people at a time. More than once, Trump, showed the documents to others, none of whom had the security clearances necessary. And when federal officials requested more than once that Trump return the documents, he repeatedly directed aides to move the documents to conceal them, even from his own attorneys. He subsequently directed his attorneys to sign a statement that all the documents had been returned when Trump plainly knew that statement was false.

Republicans responded in kind, with lies of their own, suggesting that Trump was being singled out for prosecution for political purposes. Every single Republican politician making that claim knows it is false.

Republicans have tried to equate Trump’s actions with those of Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and Mike Pence, who all experienced their own troubles surrounding classified documents. That’s nonsense. In none of these instances have investigators found evidence that any of those three individuals intentionally possessed classified records, nor that they tried to hide them from investigators, as Trump repeatedly did. Had Trump acted like these other individuals, and gave the classified records back when requested, he would almost certainly face no charges in the matter. And every single Republican currently complaining about a so-called double standard knows this for a fact.

It was Trump’s repeated refusal to hand over government documents in his possession that prompted the National Archives to subpoena the records. It was only when Trump misled everyone by claiming he had surrendered all the materials in response to that subpoena, that the FBI executed a search warrant to recover the rest. Trump is facing indictment because he repeatedly lied in an effort to retain government documents he had no right to possess. And many of these were incredibly sensitive documents, including war plans, U.S. nuclear secrets, and identified vulnerabilities of the U.S. military and that of our allies. And Trump gave Mar-a-Lago maintenance staff and, in many cases, guests access to all of it. It would be a miracle if the Russians and the Chinese didn’t end up with copies of most of it.

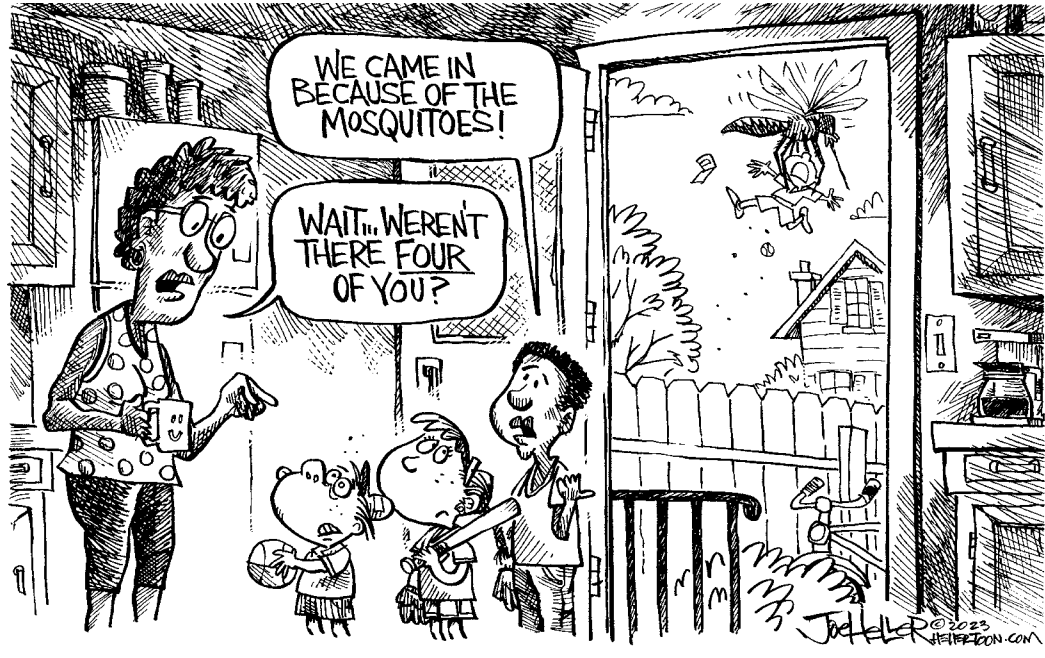
For Trump and his GOP minions to play the victim card, or suggest some kind of double standard is astonishing in its hypocrisy and dishonesty.

Other Americans are rotting in prison for violations regarding classified documents that pale in comparison to the actions undertaken by Donald Trump, yet Trump is being picked on? Please.

Trump has violated his oath of office and he has done so repeatedly. Those who defend him, and still support him, have no business claiming any fealty to the law nor the U.S. Constitution.

A party that backs Trump is no longer a party of law and order. It’s a party of privilege for the wealthy and famous, where there are no consequences for any action, no matter how egregious.

What’s more, Trump will have the opportunity to defend himself in a Florida courtroom overseen by one of his own handpicked judges who has already shown herself willing to exceed her authority to benefit Trump. And Trump’s legal team will no doubt attempt to undermine the legal system yet again by attempting to solicit jury nullification since it’s virtually hopeless in the face of the evidence to argue Trump’s actual innocence. In every way, Trump and his GOP allies are willing to trash every American institution in their defense of a man who believes the law simply doesn’t apply to him. No wonder so many people of integrity have left the Republican Party. It’s become a cult to a debased human being who has no business running for any office, least of all President of the United States.



Letters from Readers

Men are struggling in America

Among men with only a high-school education, one in three is out of the labor force.

For those who have a job, typical earnings are \$881 a week, down from \$1,017 in 1979, adjusting for inflation.

The marriage rate of men ages 40 to 44 with a high-school education or less has dropped by 20 percentage points over the past 40 years (versus 6 percentage points for those with a four-year college degree). One in five fathers lives apart from his children, and these fathers are disproportionately less educated. Rates of “death of despair” from suicide, alcohol, or an overdose are almost three times higher among men than women.

I would recommend reading “Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male Is Struggling,” published in the Atlantic Magazine, October 2022, and written by Richard V. Reeves, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

This article advocates starting boys in school a year later than girls in order to give them an equal chance at succeeding.

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

More smoke in the air, and not all from Canada

For all the profound concern voiced by Congressman

Pete Stauber about our nation’s debt it was telling that our congressman voted to actually increase the debt by voting to cut funding for the Internal Revenue Service. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimated the IRS cuts will increase the deficit by \$19 billion over the next decade because it will depress revenue collections by \$40.4 billion. These funds were targeted to hire more I.R.S. agents to go after wealthy tax cheats as well as hiring service personnel to answer taxpayer questions and process returns quicker. So, it is quite clear the smoke in our area isn’t all from the fires in Canada.

George Pliml
Cook

Cancel culture has its place

I have a hard time keeping up with social media and the news outlets, etc. in determining what the latest terms like “woke” mean. However, I think I have mastered what “cancel culture” means in my personal experience:

- 1) Our country canceled the British monarchy in the 1700s and declared ourselves a free and independent nation.
- 2) We canceled slavery during a vicious civil war. Unfortunately, however, there are lingering legacies thereof that cling to our modern way of life.
- 3) We canceled male-only voting.
- 4) Under Teddy Roosevelt, we canceled trusts and

collusion in business. Mostly.

5) We tried to cancel booze, but not too successfully. While some lament the legalization of cannabis, alcohol has been and remains the most abused and crime-causing drug in our country. Not to mention cirrhosis of the liver.

6) We made a valiant attempt to cancel pollution of air, water, and soil. However, whether it be PFCs or mercury, some laws are just not enforced. Mercury is emitted from the furnaces of one of the major employers of our region, and the same industry leaks sulfates into waters where that same mercury is transformed into methylmercury, a dangerous and very absorbable form of heavy metal. In the meantime, we the people have to fund the mandate of mercury mitigation by paying higher water and sewer rates.

I would like to see the increased charges for my utility bill get canceled and instead see the authorities hold the corporations responsible for their large pollution emissions.

Mark Roalson
Hoyt Lakes



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.



COLUMNIST

Who’s bugging you recently?

Is this what we were fantasizing about on a brutal 30 below night? As we damned the ice dams causing a rain forest in the kitchen, were we dreaming of participating in an involuntary blood drive, nourishing the ticks, mosquitoes, and blackflies? How is it that our selective memories muffle the pain of 40 blackfly bites and the inexpressible aggravation of that ONE mosqui-



BETTY FIRTH

to flying around our head just as we’re falling off to sleep. Prisoners have been tortured with less effective means.

Big things have been happening in the world what with Trump being indicted, the Polymet mine (now New Range Copper) wetlands permit canceled by the Army Corps of Engineers, another

motley crew of Republicans jostling for places in the race for president, lead is found in the drinking water in some Ely homes, and many local citizens responded to the cattle call for extras in a film being shot in town. But I was aware of these events only as quiet whispers of distant rumors, drowned out by the buzzing, chomping, and sucking of my blood. How could I delude myself with the thought, “I won’t be outside very long,” leaving the Deet-free bug stuff tucked in my closet? Blackflies have a finely tuned

radar that detects my presence within moments of my stepping out the door and with the accuracy of heat-seeking missiles are quickly dining on my head and neck while their brethren mosquitoes chew up the rest of my body.

I realized I knew very little about these pests that are so prevalent in our lives, so I was determined to learn more and pass it along. I found out we do not really have bragging rights about our mosquito population. We’re not even in the top ten, which includes Florida, Tex-

as, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Montana, and Virginia. On top of that, Maine has forty species of blackflies, and Minnesota only has thirty. We don’t even have moaning rights for the most ticks, which goes to the Northeastern states, or blackflies, which goes to Maine. New Hampshire wins the honors for the most bug-free state. However, there are six Minnesota state parks with few mosquitos; heading up the list

See BUGS..pg. 5

Commentary

NorthMet mine threatens our way of life

On Tuesday, June 6, after careful review and analysis, the Army Corps of Engineers revoked the Section 404 wetlands permit for PolyMet Mining, Inc.'s proposed NorthMet mining project. This was a great victory for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, clean water, and Minnesota. Yet, in a press release issued shortly after the decision was made public, Congressman Pete Stauber decried the Corps' decision as an assault on northern Minnesota and our way of life. We are writing to set the record straight.

The Fond du Lac Band is a sovereign tribal government. In the 1854 Treaty of LaPointe, the United States promised us our reservation as a permanent homeland, as

well as the right to continue to hunt, fish, and gather throughout most of northeastern Minnesota. Our reservation is located downstream of where PolyMet proposes to build its mine and discharge millions of gallons per day of heavily polluted wastewater.

As proposed, the NorthMet mine presents an assault on our way of life. To protect future generations and our way of life, the Band has continued to challenge the NorthMet mine because it is not designed responsibly and will not follow the law. We have experienced firsthand the impacts of irresponsible mining upstream of our reservation, which has polluted our waters and resources for decades. We have seen our wild rice waters degraded and lake sturgeon wiped out by pollution from mines and industry. The remaining fish are so

high in mercury that our members cannot safely feed them to their children.

For years the Band raised concerns regarding the NorthMet mine, including PolyMet's ability to meet our downstream water quality standards that were enacted to protect our cultural and subsistence uses of water. PolyMet has consistently resisted not only meaningful changes to its mining plan, but also any enforceable permit conditions that would ensure compliance with water quality standards.

PolyMet is not from Minnesota and does not have the interests of Minnesotans (or Americans) in mind. PolyMet is controlled by Glencore, a mining conglomerate headquartered in Switzerland. Glencore has a long history of corruption, human rights violations, and criminal convictions. In

2015, United Steelworkers awarded Glencore second place among the most irresponsible companies on the planet. More recently, Glencore pled guilty to paying over \$100 million in bribes to win business or avoid audits. So, it is ironic that Congressman Stauber vigorously supports enriching a foreign-owned company while baselessly asserting that the Corps' decision is a "gift to the Chinese Communist Party."

PolyMet has never committed to marketing its products domestically in the United States, and instead says it plans to sell its minerals on the global market. Moreover, PolyMet mostly speculates that its ore body could produce critical minerals, such as cobalt and lithium.

The Band stood its ground and in late 2019 sued the EPA and Corps in federal court. The Band prevailed on a key legal is-

sue which resulted in further administrative review of the permit to examine the NorthMet mine's impact on the Band's downstream waters. During that review, the Band worked with a team of recognized experts and determined that the mine would violate our water quality standards. EPA's preeminent Office of Research and Development thoroughly vetted the Band's determination and agreed with the Band. Ultimately, the Corps was unable to find fault with either the Band's or EPA's analysis and revoked the wetlands permit. It also cannot be forgotten that there were significant irregularities throughout the permitting process that led to the Corps' issuance of the wetland permit in 2019. For example, a 2021 report from EPA's Office of Inspector General found that with regard to the wetlands permit, the EPA

denied the Band a legal remedy under the Clean Water Act by neglecting to assess downstream effects, despite repeated requests from the Band for EPA to do so.

Ultimately, the Corps' decision was the result of a full and fair administrative process required under the Clean Water Act and which only occurred because the Band sued in federal court. In the end, science prevailed, and despite PolyMet's attempts to paint its project as good for the environment, it did not and could not show that the NorthMet mine would comply with the Band's downstream water quality standards. The decision follows the law and protects our waters and Our Way of Life!

Miigwech (thank you),

The Fond du Lac Band Reservation Business Committee

ROADS...Continued from page 3

cy responders. He noted a recent ambulance call where the ambulance was not able to quickly locate a residence, even after being given GPS coordinates. Signs would be placed at certain intersections to show which fire numbers are located in each direction. The township already has some of the supplies needed. The board authorized spending up to \$1,000 for these new signs.

Maus also asked residents to help out by brushing alongside their property lines, and to make sure their fire numbers are visible and readable. New fire number signs are available at the town hall.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Heard from Lee Peterson who wanted the township to consider letting St. Louis County manage the Isle of Pines Bridge Fund. The bridge itself was paid for by a federal grant, but island residents paid about \$150,000 for the engineering, demolition of the old bridge, and the road work required, along with putting money aside for future repairs. "That money came from the island residents," he said. "I get tired of people thinking the township paid for it."

► Received one quote

for lawn mowing services from A-Z Lawn Service. The quote was for a one-time initial mow and trim for \$250, and then a firm quote would be given for future work. The board accepted the quote, pending proof of insurance.

► Heard the new GPS units were installed in both of the main fireboats and are ready for use.

► Approved a resolution to pay Supervisor Rick Stoehr for time spent mowing for the township while the township looked for a new lawn care provider, at \$25/hour, noting this was lower than other options.

► Heard an update on the broadband project.

The township is working with the contractor hired by Bois Forte to see if additional areas of the township can be added to the project, and what the costs for each of the five identified areas will be. Bassing noted that residents in these areas, such as Isle of Pines, the Dells, Hinsdale Island, and Stony Ridge should go to the CTC website and fill out a survey indicating their interest. Go to www.goctc.com/construction/ and scroll down to the bottom of the page to enter your information.

► Heard a request from Lee Peterson to withdraw from the Lake Vermilion Trail joint powers committee. The

township has been paying \$750 a year to be part of the group. Peterson said the likelihood of any new trail being built in Greenwood as part of this project is very low. He noted the cost per mile estimates for the project have skyrocketed since the initial estimates of \$225,000 per mile. Bassing, who was recently appointed to that board, said he wants to attend some meetings first to see where the project is headed before making any decision.

"I don't believe waiting will help," said Peterson.

► Voted against a motion by Barb Lofquist to install surveillance

cameras outside the town hall. Lofquist said that the boat-decontamination equipment used to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, which had been parked by the town hall had recently been vandalized overnight. The township already has two cameras that could be used and Maus said he could run the needed cables. Maus said the fire department would also appreciate having the cameras there.

► Will donate \$100 to the Tower-Soudan Fourth of July committee.

RMHC...Continued from page 3

said Florest.

"In summary, the people we serve benefit from a more community-minded, forward-thinking behavioral health organization helping people along the road to health and well-being," said Flo-

rest. "This reaffirms our mission to be person-centered, family-friendly, trauma-informed and recovery-oriented."

CCBH clinics also offer services such as arranging transportation, offering intervention ser-

vices, and making referrals to external organizations.

There is also a financial element to achieving certification. Through the use of a daily bundled rate, RMHC will receive reimbursement

through Medicaid and other insurances closer to the full cost of services that CCBHCs provide, at higher, more competitive rates than previously received. In 2017, the first CCBHCs were funded under Medicaid, with 67

operating in eight states. Today, there are more than 500 CCBHCs in 46 states.

"I see a bright future for RMHC," said Krause. "There's a lot of competi-

tion out there, and this will help us remain strong. It's all about clients and providing them with the best services."

BUGS...Continued from page 4

is Whitewater State Park, which features cold, running water, not hospitable for mosquitoes.

If you think the bugs are picking on you in particular, you may be right. Mosquitoes favor some people over others and can pick out their prey from up to 160 feet away. They can detect carbon dioxide, so people who breathe heavily get their attention as do folks with a lot of skin bacteria and high body heat. They also prefer type O blood, pregnant women, and beer drinkers. They are attracted to dark clothing and movement, so they love it when you're gardening or playing in your back yard. Mosquitoes don't like certain scents, so consider using candles, essential oils, lotions, or diffusers with cinnamon, pine oil, peppermint, cloves, eucalyptus, grapefruit, lavender, catnip, marigolds, or citronella (made from lemongrass.) Cedar oil, neem oil, and lavender are deadly to ticks while many others are deterrents, including peppermint, citronella, basil, thyme, and tea tree oil.

What good are these insects anyway? Mosquitoes are important pollinators because their primary food source is

nectar, not blood, but few plants depend exclusively on mosquitos for pollination. The males feed only on flower nectar and do not bite humans. The females only seek out blood when they are laying eggs and needs protein. They are not considered a keystone species in any habitat, meaning the ecosystem would not collapse if they were all exterminated, but there could be ripple effects throughout the food chain, affecting other species. They are also a vital source of sustenance for birds, especially purple martins, swallows, waterfowl (geese, terns, ducks) and migratory songbirds. Goldfish, guppies, bass, bluegill, catfish, mosquito to fish, and turtles prey on mosquito larvae. Insects that enjoy a tasty mosquito snack are dragonflies, damselflies, spiders, and predacious mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes do transmit serious diseases, including malaria, dengue fever, and the Zika virus. Malaria alone affects over 246 million people annually, with a death toll of one million. Their extinction would relieve the costs and stresses of prevention, illness, and treatment.

It's hard to find

anything to love about the blackflies. When I moved to Ely, my first encounter with "those annoying gnats" left me with blood running down my head and large, itchy welts. The description of their bites, using their mouthparts like scissors to cut into skin and lap up the blood was revolting, and I wondered if I'd make a mistake moving here. Beyond the bleeding, itching, and inflammation, the flies can get into noses, ears and mouths, causing more discomfort, and allergic reactions can be life-threatening. How was I to survive these mini-beasts? I was assured that the flies pollinated the blueberries and would be gone later in July, so for years I cut them a lot of slack based on that information. It turns that bees deserve that credit.

The female blackfly has to suck blood from an animal or human prey to complete the reproduction cycle, and they can fly ten miles to find their victims. Females prefer to lay their eggs in clean running water, and the larvae anchors themselves to underwater objects. The adult blackflies provide nutrition for bats, birds, and the larvae feeds many aquatic critters. Also, the

larvae uses two fan-like structures from its mouth that filter edibles from the current including very fine detritus, algae and bacteria, helping to keep our streams clean and healthy. We may bemoan a healthy blackfly population, but it means our streams are in good condition.

What about the ticks? Do they have redeeming qualities? They take nourishment from the blood of larger host animals on the food chain and transferring it down to lesser organisms with chickens, turkeys, grouse, frogs, lizards, and squirrels enjoying the feast. Who eats the most ticks? Further south in Minnesota, opossums do, but their tender ears, noses, and tails can't take our deep cold.

A last bit of good news: there are many types of flies we do not have here, at least that I'm aware. We are not blessed with yellow flies, biting midges, snipe flies, stable flies, and sand flies, although some people mistakenly refer to blackflies as sand flies. We also get to enjoy the exquisite pleasure of those bug-free days in early spring, fall, and the depth of winter.

the TIMBERJAY



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

Week of June 19

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.

Farmers market to open June 16

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market will open for the season on Friday, June 16 at The Depot. The hours designated for selling are 4-6 p.m., as agreed upon with the city of Tower. The market board is asking vendors and customers to respect those hours for doing business. No early birds, please.

The cost for a space is \$35 for the season or \$5 per day. Just show up with your table; no preregistration required. Returning and new vendors with any questions can contact Janna at 218-749-2186 or Mickey at 218-404-9486.

Eva Larson book-signing on June 17 in Tower

TOWER- Thirteen-year-old illustrator Eva Larson, of Tower, will be signing copies of her book, "Brave, Courageous and Bold," at Sulu's Espresso Café on Tower's Main Street on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The book tells the story of a young boy who was diagnosed with cancer when he was only 18 months old.

Books are \$33 for hardcover and \$20 for softcover. If someone has already purchased a book, they are welcome to stop by and have it signed also.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



All ready for first grade. Kindergarten students at TS Elementary were honored during a ceremony at school on May 31. Above: Students sang a song about graduation. Below (from left) Hazel Stong, Karmina Chosa, and Paxton Goodsky Jr. were all smiles as they showed off their graduation certificates. photos by J. Summit



SUMMERTIME SPECIAL EVENTS



"Train Tales" to begin on June 21

TOWER- Calling all kids! "Train Tales", a brand-new summer program offered by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) will "arrive" at 2 p.m. at the Tower Depot Museum on Wednesday, June 21.

All kids in the area are invited to come to Car 81 at the Tower City Park or story-time. The June 21st session will be very special—the kids will hear an original story "Mystery on Car 81" written and read by local resident and TSHS Board Member Kathy Siskar. A packaged snack for the kids will follow the story-telling.

"Train Tales" is scheduled in conjunction with the St. Louis County Bookmobile stop in the Tower Civic Center parking lot. After "Train Tales" the kids will have the opportunity to visit the bookmobile and pick out a book for summer reading", said Nancy Larson, TSHS President. "We are offering a fun and unique way for

the historical society to partner with families during the summer months.

"Train Tales" will be offered regularly during June, July and August at 2-3 p.m. on the following Wednesday afternoons: June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, and Aug. 30. There will be an additional session on Friday, Aug. 4 in conjunction with the Immanuel Lutheran Church Bible School program.

"Stories and books that can be enjoyed by children of varying ages will be presented", said Louise Gately, coordinator of the project. We are very excited about pairing storytelling and the historic setting of Car 81 with the kids in our community. If this is successful, in the future we will spread the age groups out and offer stories on all three train cars. We are especially excited about having the bookmobile on hand afterwards for kids to be able to take books home with them."

Kids under Kindergarten age will need to be accompanied by an adult and are very welcome to listen to the story, as well!



"History Happy Hour" to begin on fourth Fridays

TOWER- There will be a new table at the Friday Farmer's Market in Tower. The Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) will be offering free non-alcoholic beverages on the fourth Friday of the month from 4-5 p.m. from Car 81 by the Train Depot Museum. Folks will be invited to sip a drink and enjoy the ambience of the newly redecorated train car also dubbed the "Party Car".

"On June 23 we will be serving lemonade", announced Nancy Larson, TSHS board president. "This is a way that the TSHS can say "thank you" to the many members of the local Tower, Soudan and Lake Vermilion community who have supported us. We cannot do it without everyone helping out. The work we do is a team effort."

Other dates for History Happy Hour will be July 21 and Aug. 25. The TSHS looks forward to

offering refreshment and thanks to one and all.

Upcoming games at the Soudan ballfield

SOUDAN- Everyone is invited to stop by the Soudan Ballfield and watch baseball action, all the way from t-ball to high school. Concessions are available. Sit and visit, and support our youth athletes.

June 17 DQ Grill and Chill Ely Legion Classic:

Cherry vs. Thunder Bay at 12:30 p.m.

Aurora vs. Taconite at 3 p.m.

T-S Little League T-Ball: (All Games at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, June 21 vs Cherry Orange

Wednesday, June 28 vs. ME-Biwabik

Monday, July 17 vs. Cook Grey

T-S Little League Coach Pitch: (All Games at 6:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, June 28 vs. ME-Biwabik

Monday, July 17 vs. Cook Grey

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Lunch Bunch to meet June 22 at The Landing

COOK- The Lunch Bunch will meet at The Landing in Cook, on Thursday, June 22 at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP by June 19 to Kathy 218-753-2530. Anyone who

would like to join us are welcome to attend.

St. James to discuss closing the church

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, July 2, following the worship service. All members are urged to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to take a vote to close St. James.

Tower-Soudan Class of '73 to hold 50th reunion

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan High School Class of 1973 will hold their 50th reunion on Sunday, July 2 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Benchwarmer's in Tower. Attendees will purchase their own drinks and food.

Area students named to UMD Spring Semester Dean's List

DULUTH- The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Spring Semester 2023.

Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

Embarrass: Maude Lenz, Senior, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Civil Engineering B S C E; Sophie Lenz, Senior, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Civil Engineering B S C E.

Tower: Maxson McDonough, Sophomore, Labovitz School of Business and Economics (LSBE), Marketing B B A.

Tower-Soudan Fourth of July donations

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and families for their donations this year.

Donations are still needed and can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790. Emanuel & Judith Sundahl Vermilion Storage

Amy Banks
Eloranta & Associates
Robert & Wendy Anderson
Debra & Chuck Cathcart
Derek Lamppa
Barbara & Tim Ilse
Adeline & Harlan Broten
Bill & Karen Majerle
Bruce & Kathy Carlson/
Tower-Soudan LP Gas
Sara & Bernie Pelstring



MN Supreme Court Justice Margaret Chutich speaking in Tower on Saturday

TOWER- As part of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center's (LVCC) education series, Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Margaret Chutich will give a presentation on her memories of living in Croatia at 3 p.m.

on Saturday, June 17. She will be speaking in Car 81, the club/dining car behind the engine next to the train depot in Tower.

As a college student, Justice Chutich spent one year in Croatia studying the language and government during the communist era. Her Croatian family lives in a province called Lika, where most Minnesota Croatians and Serbians originated. She will share some of her memories of those years and the many times she has visited Croatia since. The discussion will be moderated by local resident Patty Phillips, who is of Croatian and Slovenian descent.

Justice Chutich has served as an associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court since 2016 when she was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton. She has a long resume in the law and education.

The presentation in Car 81 is free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary but keep in mind the car seats fifty. Coffee will be served.

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**

ELY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meet Ely Fire Department's new trucks

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Fire Department was busy in recent days completing the final touches to place the city's new fire trucks for service.

"Well, they're not really new, since we bought them used, but they are new to Ely," said Fire Chief David Marshall. The city council allocated \$600,000 in 2022 for the department to purchase a new ladder truck.

"We flew out to Bloomsburg, Pa., to look at a ladder truck for sale for \$400,000 and saw a pumper truck also for sale by Bloomsburg," Marshall told the *Timberjay*. The fire department negotiated the price for the pumper at \$67,485 and decided to buy both with the approval of the city council. "We used the money left over to make upgrades on both of the new vehicles," added Marshall.

The new ladder truck is a 2005 E-One mid-

mount aerial platform truck with a 95-foot reach. It will replace the department's current 1983 Seagrave ladder truck which a 75-foot reach, which the city bought in 2008. Besides the extra 20 feet of extension, the aerial platform is safer for the firefighters to use. "The mid-mount (configuration) of the ladder is more advantageous in a place like Ely where we have long streets with houses placed closely together."

The new pumper truck is a 2001 E-One pumper truck. It will replace the department's 1979 LaFrance pumper truck which the city bought new. The pumper failed its pump test in 2022. The manufacturer is no longer in business and parts have become increasingly difficult to obtain.

The Seagrave will be placed on the market to sell. The city council voted to donate the LaFrance pumper to Ely's Clown Band at its Dec. 6, 2022, meeting.



Above: Ely Fire Chief David Marshall at the controls of the fire department's new E-One ladder truck on June 9.

Right: The Ely fire department's new E-One pumper truck in front of the first department garage at City Hall. photos by C. Clark



In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

ELY – The Tuesday Group community education 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:

► June 20: The White Pine Tree with James Pastor

► June 27: I Can't Hear a Thing! with UCLA Professor Emeritus Robert Winter

► There will be no Tuesday Group meeting on July 4

► July 11: Trust for Public Land

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



colors of summer
the time for iris beauty
seasonal blossoms

AROUND TOWN



Above: Ely's Greenstone Art Camp concluded its week of activities with an art show of the campers' arts and crafts. Fifty kids produced decorative stepping stones, jewelry, paintings, tie-dye shirts, and kites and displayed them on the last day of camp on June 8. Below: Anika Boerst (right) shows off the kite she made at the Greenstone Art Camp while Cypher Bishop (left) looks on. photos by C. Clark



GO FISH

Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby

ELY- The Ely chamber of Commerce hosted its Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby at the Veterans on the Lake Resort on June 10. Despite the overcast sky and brisk breeze the event was packed to capacity with 40 kids, as many parents and around 20 volunteers.

The event broke the children into groups to circulate through learning and activities stations, which included hands-on opportunities in boat and water safety, ecology, invasive species, casting technique, and fishing off the resorts docks.



Kids with their parents fishing off the docks at the Veterans on the Lake Resort at the 2023 Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby. photo by C. Clark

Elyites on deans' lists

DULUTH- The University of Minnesota Duluth announced its dean's list for spring Semester 2023. Students on the dean's list have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 graded credits.

Students from Ely on the spring dean's list are junior Dylan Fenske majoring in pre-teaching mathematics, sophomore Zachary Spicher majoring in computer science, and junior Brynn Volland majoring in entrepreneurship.

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, June 19, for Juneteenth.

On Tuesday, June 20, from 11 a.m. until noon, the Get Crafty program will craft kindness rocks for the library's kindness garden. This activity is open to all ages. Register in advance so the library can order enough supplies.

The annual book sale and membership drive to benefit the Ely Friends of the Library (FOL) will be on Thursday, June 22, and Friday, June 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days, at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave. E. The FOL will not be taking donations of items to sell this year.

The library will host

"Climb Theater: The Ant and the Grasshopper" on June 28 from 1-2 p.m. This is an audience participation performance based on Aesop's Fables for all ages.

On June 29, from 11 a.m. to noon, the library will celebrate International Fisherman's Day with crafts and activities for all ages. Please preregister. Space is limited to 25 people.

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.

Farmers market and Arts in the Park

ELY- Ely's farmers market and the Northern Lakes Arts Association Arts in the Park program are every Tuesday evening, from 4-6 p.m. The evening music presenta-

tion starts at 5 p.m.

Ely Folk School

ELY- The folk school will host an opportunity to paddle a real birch bark canoe, on Saturday, June 17, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Semer's Beach. The event is free but donations are welcome. Pre-register at the folk school website using the classes tab.

Every Wednesday throughout the summer, staff of the Dorothy Molter Museum will teach a one-session class on root beer history, Dorothy Molter's root beer, and making your own root beer from scratch. The classes will start on June 21, from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$34.

Peter Mitchell Fun Days

BABBITT- Peter Mitchell Fun Days in Babbitt are this weekend,

including two concerts, fireworks, and activities. The McCullough Brothers will perform at the outdoor stage on Friday, June 16, 8-11 p.m. Also on the outdoor stage on Saturday, June 17, from 8 p.m. to midnight, the Northwood's Band will perform, featuring the McCullough Brothers, Ricky Sundstrom, and Dalton Hanson. Both concerts free with a Peter Mitchell Days button.

Fireworks will be on Saturday, June 17, starting at 10:30 p.m. The Peter Mitchell Days Parade will be on Sunday, June 18, starting at 2 p.m.

Northwoods Partners

ELY- The "Rock Around the Clock" fundraiser for Northwoods Partners will be on Thursday, June 22, from 5 to 9 p.m., at the Miners Dry

House. The event will include raffles, a silent auction, dinner, dancing and music. Tickets are \$45, available at the Northwoods Partners office, 218-365-8019.

Dorothy Molter Museum

ELY- Sunday, June 25, is Dorothy Day, the museum's first open house of the summer, featuring free admission, light refreshments, tours, and the new root beer exhibit. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m.

As of June 14, 203 vendors have signed up to sell at the Blueberry/Art Festival

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.

DRY CONDITIONS

Fire restrictions now in place

Remote campfires, fireworks prohibited until further notice

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Increasingly tinder dry conditions across the region have prompted the Department of Natural Resources to institute burning restrictions across the Arrowhead, including St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Carlton counties.

The restrictions mean that burning permits for brush or yard waste will no longer be issued, and no fireworks may be ignited on any public or private land outside city limits. In

addition, campfires will be allowed only in an established fire ring associated with a home, campground or resort. No campfires will be allowed in any backcountry campsites.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Forest Service has issued an emergency forest order prohibiting campfires, including charcoal grills as well as the use of woodburning stoves on the Superior National Forest, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The burning restrictions will remain in effect until

terminated by either state or federal officials when weather and environmental conditions indicate a reduction in fire danger.

Fire danger is currently rated as very high in northern St. Louis and all of Lake and Cook counties. The DNR notes that even though the woods currently look green, the fire danger remains dangerous in northeastern Minnesota and is likely to remain so through the end of June. Continued dry and unseasonably hot weather is forecast for at least the next two weeks.

County advances two road projects

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL— St. Louis County Commissioners set the wheels in motion Tuesday for two road improvement projects for North Country communities.

Vermilion Drive in Cook, also known as County State Aid Highway 25, will be getting a complete make-over from Hwy. 53 to 2nd Street SE. The project will consist of grading, laying an aggregate base and applying asphalt surfacing, curb and guttering, storm sewers, and sidewalks. Portions of the road may be totally reconstructed for safety concerns.

Commissioners on Tuesday authorized the Public Works depart-

ment to proceed with the acquisition of necessary land for the project. They also authorized the County Auditor to grant any easements necessary for tax-forfeited properties along the route.

Commissioners also agreed to have the county serve as the fiscal agent and contract administrator for improvements to Bayside Drive in Crane Lake. Crane Lake Township was awarded \$557,000 in state park road account funding for the project, which will go from Handberg Rd. to the Waters Edge public water access. An additional \$250,000 commitment has been received from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board. The county has not committed any funds to the project.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

monthly payroll, and the council approved another \$5,000 transfer already made from the Hoodoo Point Campground at Monday's meeting. So far this year, the city has transferred \$20,000 to support the ambulance service, according to clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz.

The Tower Ambulance Commission, made up of representatives of various townships within the ambulance service territory had established a committee last year to develop ideas for assisting the ambulance service. That "ad hoc" committee has proposed the creation of a joint powers board to oversee operations of the ambulance service as well as a possible taxing district that would provide a stable, long-term funding source in addition to the fees the ambulance charges for medical runs.

But Greenwood, which did not participate on the committee and discontinued payments to the ambulance service last year, rejected the joint powers proposal in an undated letter to the city, signed by board chair John Bassing.

The township complained that it could not understand the numbers included in the ad hoc committee's report. In addition, Bassing stated his conclusion that "Greenwood would be paying over 60 percent of the cost of the ambulance service while having only a 15 percent voting share." Rather than work to stabilize the city's ambulance service, the Greenwood board is asking the city to solicit proposals for a private provider that could offer full-time basic life support service and part-time advanced life support service to the area.

Tower Mayor Dave

Setterberg noted that the ambulance commission was working on solutions and said it wouldn't be fair for the city to take a unilateral approach while the ambulance commission was working on its own plan.

And Setterberg noted the history of dissatisfaction in Greenwood in recent years over ambulance issues. "When you look at the recent history over the last couple of years, some of the supervisors in Greenwood and community members have been very critical and rejected a lot of the findings of, first of all, the EMSRB, which is the state regulatory board. They didn't agree with that. The Tower business plan was the next thing that was basically rejected," he said. Setterberg noted that Greenwood opposed participation with the ad hoc committee, and essentially rejected the findings and conclusion of the McGrath study that Greenwood commissioned. "I could go on with even more than that but I'm not going to but with all aforementioned findings being rejected by Greenwood, I'm kind of wondering why they would believe us now if we went and did an RFP."

Council member Kevin Norby, who had attended a recent Greenwood meeting in hopes of fielding questions about the joint powers proposal, said he didn't feel the supervisors were interested in hearing from him. "That was the impression I got from being there. The other impression I got was I really felt like they are wanting to see the ambulance fail and hopefully something else takes its place," said Norby. "I appreciate Greenwood's feedback, but I would

appreciate it more if they're giving us feedback on what they will do versus just saying 'no.' It feels like the goalposts keep getting pushed back. I invite them to come and sit down and talk to us about some of this stuff."

Norby said he questioned Greenwood's apparent suggestion that the township should have more votes on a joint powers board than other townships. "I would like to hear that explained," he said.

After expressing their frustrations with the township, the council moved on without taking any action on Greenwood's request.

County garage on the table

In other business, the council had its first extended discussion about the possibility of acquiring the county public works garage, which is being vacated later this summer.

A letter from the county suggests a purchase price of \$260,000, but Setterberg noted that one of the appraisals came in significantly lower than that. "They had a low of about \$180,000," he said. Setterberg said the city found records of the original sale of the 30-acre site from the city to the county, back in 1988, for \$8,000. "I think there's some room for negotiation," he said.

The bulk of the property value today is in the buildings, which include a nearly 5,000 square foot heated garage with a small office space, along with two or three other unheated storage buildings and a large parking lot for outdoor storage of equipment.

City officials have been talking behind the scenes with the county about the site since 2020,

once the county board opted to relocate the facility to along Hwy. 135, south of Tower. But with the site now set to be vacated at the end of summer, the issue is finally coming to a decision point. It was clear that not everyone on the council was on board with a possible acquisition.

Setterberg noted a number of possible advantages of the site, which would allow public works staff to work on equipment, rather than job repairs out due to lack of shop space.

He said it would also free up city parcels on South Second and Lake Avenue, where the city maintains storage buildings, for possible sale or other uses.

"I'm hesitant," said council member Kevin Norby, when asked about a possible purchase. "It sounds like a 'nice to have,' but I have a hard time justifying it in my own mind," he said. "I'm not opposed to trying to learn more about it, but I think we have to put together a real good justification that it's in the benefit of everybody."

Council member Joe Morin agreed. "We definitely have to peel it back," he said. "Maybe we need an ad hoc committee on this?"

"That's what I'd like to see happen," said Schultz. "I would be happy to serve on that," said Morin. After a bit more discussion, the council approved an ad hoc committee comprised of Morin, council member Bob Anderson, Schultz, and TEDA director Marshall Helmlinger to serve on the committee and work quickly to come back with possible recommendations.

Support for chickens

In additional business, the council approved a resolution acknowledging

the validity of a petition from city residents seeking a change in the city's ordinance that would allow the keeping of chickens in town. Morin, who had taken up the issue as part of an ad hoc committee established last year, said that under the initiative portion of the city's charter, the petition means the city has 60 days to enact an ordinance allowing the keeping of chickens or send the question to voters in a special election.

The city's current ordinance prohibits the keeping of chickens, however, the rule hasn't been rigorously enforced in recent months and at least some chickens do currently reside in town.

Schultz said it isn't clear that the city is limited to 60 days to act given that the petitioners did not include sample ordinance language as the charter calls for. Schultz said it would be difficult for the city to draft and approve a new ordinance within a 60-day time frame, so a bit more time would be helpful.

In other action, the council:

► Voiced support for a temporary moratorium on new RV parks within the harbor zoning district. Setterberg noted that most cities try to limit the percentage of short-term rentals, and that Tower could consider a similar limitation. He said a moratorium would be a good idea until the city has a better plan in place on housing.

An item to declare a moratorium on RV parks in the harbor zone district will be on next month's agenda. Such a moratorium would not impact any existing or previously approved RV parks.

► Discussed but came to no resolution on a request by city hall personnel to

close city hall to the public during certain periods to allow city staff to get their work done. Schultz said the steady stream of phone calls and window traffic can provide so many interruptions as to make it nearly impossible to complete the normal workload without working more than eight hours per day. Morin said he supports the idea but suggested that city hall set up a voicemail system so the public can leave messages during periods when the office is closed.

► Held a brief discussion of the impact of the new law legalizing cannabis. Schultz said that he has received no inquiries to date about any permitting for a possible outlet shop, although he said it could well happen and that the city will likely need to draft an ordinance. He said the League of Minnesota Cities is currently reviewing the law and is expected to have guidance out soon.

► Gave its blessing to the renovation project being undertaken by TEDA at the Vermilion Country School. TEDA has approved the issuance of a bond to cover the estimated \$400,000 cost of the renovations, but the bond does not obligate the city in any way. The bond will be repaid by the ongoing lease payments from the charter school, which financed the previous renovations undertaken when the school opened in 2013. "It's going to be a great project, with a huge amount of beneficial elements," said Morin, who also serves as president of TEDA.

More items from this week's council meeting will appear in next week's edition of the *Timberjay*.

AMBULANCE...Continued from page 1

Service (EAAS) board could be a potential conflict of interest.

Conflicts of interest were one of the concerns cited by the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital in an April 13 letter, where the hospital withdrew its substantial voluntary support of the ambulance service.

The other EAAJPB member who is also on the EAAS board is Morse Township Supervisor Bob Berrini, who did not give up his position on either board as of Morse's monthly meeting on June 13.

The conflict-of-interest issues are on debatable ground. Minnesota's conflict-of-interest law is mainly concerned with individuals benefiting financially through association of personal and governmental interests.

Yet it was hardly the hospital's only concern. As previously reported in

the *Timberjay*, the hospital and its representatives cited multiple concerns in its letter, including over EAAS "governance and operation," the lack of monthly meetings with the hospital at an appropriate level to maintain the quality of patient care, and the lack of a timely budget for 2023.

The hospital letter was on the agenda at the EAAJPB meeting and garnered some distraught commentary. When EAAJPB chair Marlene Zorman announced the agenda item, complete silence reigned in the Winton Community Center, the site of the EAAJPB meeting, for several long seconds before the discussion started.

"People feel that the ambulance service is under attack from the hospital," Novak finally said.

Hospital board member John Saw replied, "All of our concerns (about the EAAS) are for patient

care."

There was some discussion about how to bring the hospital back to the table to talk about its concerns, with Zorman reflecting on the need to address the hospital's concerns over reestablishing monthly meetings with ambulance service.

Berrini had his own take. "The problem is that (the ambulance) board rejected Rochelle Sjoberg (as the hospital representative for meetings) ... the hospital threatening the withdrawal of funds is extortionist."

EAAAS executive director Dusty Moravitz said he had tried to reach out to hospital personnel to set up meetings, but had received no response from EBCH chief nursing officer Colin Yahnke and unnamed others.

The EAAJPB did not make any motions regarding the situation between

the hospital and EAAS, though Zorman and Saw both volunteered to start the process of talking out the problems the two entities.

After the EAAJPB meeting, the *Timberjay* noted that some ambulance staff present at the meeting commented that they would not work for the hospital if it were to resume management of the service, as was done in the past. Regardless of current sentiment, before 2008, the hospital ran the ambulance service and used hospital staff to respond to 911 calls, allowing EMTs to work in the hospital and then go out on calls as they were received.

In 2008, EAAS became a nonprofit but maintained an arrangement with the hospital that helped to operate the service without the current high staff costs due to Minnesota state law that requires ambulance services to have a written

on-call schedule, seven days a week, 24-hours a day.

The hospital severed its connection to the ambulance service when it became apparent that Medicare payments to the hospital were being reduced by the presence of the ambulance bay within the hospital, as covered by a *Timberjay* article in the October 21, 2022 edition.

In other business, Novak remarked that the current 2023 budget was "still a work in progress," stating that it would be ready for consideration by the EAAJPB at the next meeting in July. Langowski said the city of Ely "needs the budget request from EAAS by July so that city can set its levy in August."

In other action, the EAAJPB:

► Approved the disbursement of \$40,000 to the EAAS on the recommendation of Moravitz to

cover expenses.

► Reported on the progress of the audit, expected later this summer.

► Approved the payment of bills, leaving an EASJPB fund balance of \$73,833.

► Approved putting the large stove from the former Kondos building out for bid.

► Heard an update on the lease between EAAS and EAAJPB by Langowski, who was part of the four-person committee to craft the lease. "The lease is in the works," Langowski reported, "and it will be ready at the next (EAAJPB) meeting." Ely city attorney Kelly Klun is responsible for the actual drafting of the lease terms. After the lease is approved by EAAJPB, it will then need to be considered and approved by the EAAS board.

TIMBER...Continued from page 1



Left: The Cook High School Class of '73 celebrated its 50th reunion with a float in the Timber Days parade.

Right: Erin Danielson reacts to a plunge into the dunk tank and its 45 degree water.

photo by D. Colburn



5K run/walk, in which runners dodged clouds of mosquitoes instead of rain clouds.

The most courageous volunteers of the weekend may have been those who took their turns as targets at the dunk tank. Friday

and Saturday temperatures were cooler and breezier than expected, so the dunkees who fell into the 45-degree water got no respite from the chill when they climbed back up onto their wind-swept perch for another round.

The Cook Fire Department was visible all three days of the festival, staging the popular firefighter's challenge on Friday, serving up a big pancake breakfast on Saturday, and bringing out the full fleet for Sunday's

parade. Sunday's big 45-minute parade had not one, but two starts. That's because Grand Marshal Danny Brinker first took his usual place in the VFW honor guard, marching the whole length of the River

St. parade route before being driven back to the start to lead the festivities. There were over 40 entrants in the parade this year, including a 50-year class reunion float featuring the Cook High School Class of 1973. The parade was

capped in Timber Days style by featuring a big trailer of logs pulled by Ryan Sokoloski Trucking.

VISITORS CENTER...Continued from page 1

posed to have four gateway visitor centers at Ash River, Kabetogama, Rainy Lake, and Crane Lake. While the first three came to fruition, Crane Lake's never made it off the drawing board, until now. Local proponents have been persistent in pursuing a visitor center, but it has only been in recent years that park officials have given the project full support.

The visitor center will include a visitor entrance area, theater, meeting room, gift shop, restrooms with showers, and will include exhibit space for native wildlife and staff offices. The center will be constructed on a recently purchased 29-acre parcel of land that formerly housed Borderland Resort. Crane Lake Township received \$950,000 from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund to purchase the property. The site will also include a



full-service campground, a new Department of Natural Resources boat landing, upgraded access roads, a modern playground and necessary infrastructure including water, sewer and electrical service.

While the center is designed to serve the park, the center is being built with state and local resources. In the recently completed Minnesota legislative session, the environment,

natural resources, climate, and energy finance and policy bill signed by Gov. Tim Walz included allocations of \$1.9 million and \$3.1 million for the project. Additional funding commitments have been obtained from the Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board and other sources, bringing the total commitments to around \$6 million. The township has also secured

state park road account funding of \$557,000 and \$250,000 from IRRRB to improve Bayside Dr. from Handberg Rd. to the Waters Edge public water access point.

The facilities will be owned by Crane Lake and leased by Voyageurs National Park. VNP Superintendent Bob DeGross has confirmed regional and national level approval of the arrange-

Left: An artist's rendition of the planned new Voyageurs National Park Visitors Center at Crane Lake.

ment, which is similar in concept to one the NPS has at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Maryland.

Creating the exhibit space in the center is a partnership between VNP, the park's official philanthropic partner, the Voyageurs Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service and Native Skywatchers Design LLC. The Native Skywatchers initiative seeks to remember and revitalize Indigenous star and earth knowledge. The overarching goal of Native Skywatchers is to communicate the knowledge that Indigenous people traditionally practiced in a sustainable way of living

and sustainable engineering through a living and participatory relationship with the above and below sky and earth.

The exhibits will reinforce VNP's designation as an International Dark Sky Park by emphasizing dark sky education and interconnected waters. Additional exhibits will focus on regional Indigenous history, an overview of VNP, and information about other area recreational opportunities including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Quetico Provincial Park.

The Park Service has indicated it anticipates the facility will be ready to lease next summer. The *Timberjay* attempted to contact Crane Lake Town Board Chairman Jerry Pohlman for this article but was unsuccessful by press time on Wednesday.

VISIT...Continued from page 1

vote, assuming they meet all the other requirements.

Simon said the change will improve access for voters as well as increase security by providing additional opportunity for screening new registrants. "This will get people into the system many months earlier than otherwise, allowing more time to do the necessary screening," he said. "It will make our voter rolls more accurate."

Another change will allow 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister, even though they still won't be able to vote until they reach 18. Simon said that provision has been deployed in other states and has been shown to increase the participation

of young voters. He said a friend of his, a conservative secretary of state in Louisiana, had sent a letter to Minnesota lawmakers touting the change, which that southern state had implemented some years earlier.

"All of these reforms, they are non-partisan in origin and in effect," said Simon. They have been implemented in red states and blue states."

Other changes to the law include:

- Restoring voting rights to offenders once they have been released from a correctional facility, assuming they meet all the other qualifications for voting. He said studies

have shown that offenders are less likely to reoffend if they're given more of a political voice, such as through voting.

- Allowing voters to sign up for permanent absentee balloting. In the past, voters have had to apply for each election.

- Adding protections for election workers to provide greater protection against harassment.

Simon said he expects that the changes will continue to provide Minnesota an edge in voter turnout, compared to other states.

Simon said the new laws are an effort to balance the right of access for voters with the need for voting security and he thinks

Minnesota has gotten that balance right. "I think the high voter turnout in Minnesota is evidence of a high level of confidence," he said, even while acknowledging the impact of misinformation about election security voiced by some political actors.

Meetings on Vermilion Reservation

While Simon was on the Mesabi Range on Tuesday, he was in the Lake Vermilion area on Wednesday, where he met with union pipefitters at Fortune Bay as well as with the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

Simon was talking to tribal leaders about changes in absentee voting loca-

tions that should make it easier for band members to vote. They were also set to discuss the theme of next year's Minnesota Legislative Manual, which is produced every biennium by the Secretary of State's office. Simon said the theme of next year's book will be a recognition of the 100th anniversary of passage of the Indian Citizenship Act by Congress. That federal law recognized all Native Americans born in the U.S. as rightful citizens. The act, however, did not provide a right to vote, which was governed by state laws. Some states continued to prohibit Native Americans from voting as late as 1957.

Simon will also con-

sulting with tribal officials on planned changes to the state seal of Minnesota, which is under the jurisdiction of Simon's office. The state seal has been widely criticized for its depiction of Native Americans, however Simon said not all tribal officials feel the same way about the issue.

In the recent legislative session, lawmakers established a commission to look at a redesign of the state seal to bring it more in line with modern sensibilities. "The seal could stand some significant modernization," said Simon. "I've been consulting with all the tribal governments on that issue."

40th Vermilion Walk & Run

Tuesday, July 4 • Tower

Main Street/LV Cultural Center

- 10K Run - 8 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk - 8:05 a.m.
- 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

Preregister: Email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org for registration form or stop by the Timberjay office

Registrations accepted race day 6:30-7:45 a.m. sharp!
 10K or 5K- \$15 per person in advance- \$20 on race day
 Kids 12 & under free with paid adult. Kids fun run is free.

Shirts available for purchase on race day!
Race course is the same as 2022, start/end a block off Main St. by old football field.
For more information, contact Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 (leave message)

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DIY

Minnesota enacts landmark right-to-repair law

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Most everyone knows a tinkerer, someone who for the sheer challenge or pursuit of savings loves diving into broken things to try to repair them. And when it comes to a wide array of products that rely on digital electronics to function, the Minnesota Legislature has given both amateur hobbyists and professional independent repair shops a new tool for their toolboxes – the nation’s most comprehensive right-to-repair law, the Digital Fair Repair Act. Right-to-repair is a movement that has grown right along with technology as manufacturers of electronic equipment such as smartphones, tablets, televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, smart home devices, smart watches, electronic toys, small appliances and more have made it increasingly more difficult for consumers to get those products repaired outside of a manufacturer’s authorized shop.

Consumers and independent repair shops have been unable to get needed software and code, doc-

umentation, parts, and tools from manufacturers who have deemed them proprietary. The impact on consumers seeking needed repairs has been more burdensome in Greater Minnesota, where manufacturer-authorized repair shops are far scarcer than in the state’s metropolitan areas. And in some instances, manufacturers have refused to repair products at all, forcing consumers to throw them away and buy new ones.

But beginning July 1, manufacturers will be required to provide those things they have kept to themselves to third-party shops and equipment owners, which will likely lower the costs of equipment repairs. And the bill requires that manufacturers must make repair and service documentation freely available, most likely in the form of digital documents made available for download from the internet.

The measure, co-sponsored by Rep. Peter Fischer, DFL-Maplewood and Sen. Ann Johnson, DFL-Wayzata, was reportedly based on model legislation drafted by Consumer

Reports, a longtime advocate of right-to-repair. CR Policy Analyst Laurel Lehman praised the passage of the bill.

“The Digital Fair Repair Act will ensure that Minnesotans have the ability to exercise their full traditional rights of ownership over products they purchase, including the right to get those products repaired,” she said. “We are thrilled that Minnesota is taking such a strong stance for consumers, and this offers a powerful model for other states and Congress to follow.”

Unsurprisingly, consumer groups, manufacturers and related associations, and other states have had their eyes and lobbying efforts focused on the Minnesota legislation.

The Association of Recycling Managers, a nonprofit that brings together city, county, and state recycling staff, wrote a letter supporting the bill when it was being considered in committee.

“Reusing and repairing items rather than buying new is essential for the cities and counties that make up ARM to meet

our waste reduction and diversion goals,” wrote ARM chair Laura Horner. “While right to repair may be an issue primarily of smartphones and laptops now, it will quickly become a greater issue throughout our homes as more and more consumer goods incorporate electronics into their designs. We know that most modern repairs involve electronic components: any product that can have embedded electronics, will most likely have embedded electronics. Repairing those electronics requires information, parts, and other specifications related to the digital repair from the product designers.”

On the other side is a coalition of 18 organizations representing various manufacturing sectors, who have argued that surrendering their control over repairs would jeopardize consumer safety and security.

“One of our chief concerns with this legislation is its potential to weaken the privacy and security features of various electronic products,” they wrote. They warned that circumventing

authorized repair networks would take repairs out of the hands of people “properly trained in the necessary skills to safely and reliably repair electronic products,” noting that “some types of repairs can be extremely detailed, complicated, and dangerous to anyone without proper training.” They cited lithium-ion batteries as a potentially hazardous item that if mishandled “can overheat and experience thermal runaway, igniting the cell’s internal materials and forcibly expelling burning contents, resulting in fires, explosions, serious injuries and even death.”

While consumer advocates eventually won the battle for electronics items, some manufacturing sectors managed to carve out exceptions, including ones for motor vehicles, including ATVs, farm equipment, medical devices, cybersecurity tools, and video game consoles.

Farmers, with a culture of self-sufficiency, were among the first in the

country to jump on the right-to-repair bandwagon. Requiring farmers to take their expensive equipment off the field and transport them to a dealer or wait in line for a field service call could negatively impact production at critical planting and harvest times. Many simple parts, such as light bulbs, have been integrated into the software systems of farm equipment and can only be repaired by an authorized dealer.

However, “green” owners, those with John Deere equipment, got welcome news in January when the American Farm Bureau Federation announced a memorandum of understanding with the ag manufacturer to make materials such as manuals and on-board diagnostics available to farmers and independent repair shops in a reasonable and timely manner. New Holland and Case IH followed suit in March.

Critics note, however, that unlike the Minnesota law, the agreements aren’t enforceable.

FIGHTING HUNGER

Free summer meals for kids offered in Cook

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- A well-utilized free summer food program for children is back again at the Cook Public Library and in a dozen other Iron Range communities, but a change in how the meals are distributed has caused some frustrations among those who participated last year.

Meet Up and Chow Down, sponsored by the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN), is offering free lunches to children 0-18 through Aug. 31. Volunteers and UWNEMN staff hand out bag lunches to children from noon to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday each week, rain or shine. On Thursdays, they pass out Summer Buddy Backpacks filled with food for breakfast, lunch and dinner for the weekends.

“The Iron Range is passionate about keeping our local children fed,” said UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay. “We are so grateful for the community support that’s allowed us to not only expand Meet Up and Chow Down to offer more locations but also to create and grow Summer Buddy Backpacks. These two programs make a perfect partnership to keep local children from going hungry over the summer.”

The meals are made free to the public with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)’s Summer Food Service Program.

For the past two years, distancing guidelines associated with the COVID pandemic meant that regulations were modified to allow families to take the meals away from the site where they were being served. Now that the pandemic emergency has been lifted, USDA and MDE have reinstated the guidelines requiring that Meet Up and Chow Down lunches must be eaten on-site, and that’s a source of frustration for many.

“The on-site meal requirement has always

been a component of this program,” Shay said. “An exception was made in the last two years due to the social distancing guidelines of the pandemic. USDA and MDE this year re-instated the on-site requirement and are strictly enforcing it in the wake of a Twin Cities-based fraud case in which individuals allegedly misappropriated \$250 million in funds meant to feed children.”

“While we empathize with the frustration surrounding this re-instated requirement, we hope this provides some context and understanding,” Shay continued. “Furthermore, we ask families remember to be kind to the volunteers who are giving of their limited summer hours to hand out these meals out of the goodness of their hearts and care for our local children. They do not make the rules for the program; nor do we.”

Shay has also heard from some communities

where UWNEMN doesn’t have a Meet Up and Chow Down site.

“If you are wondering why your community is not listed as a site, it is either because we were unable to secure a site, kitchen, and/or enough volunteers for your community – or because we have not yet begun the outreach process

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Frank John Brula, age 86, of Babbitt, MN passed away on April 25, 2023. His funeral mass will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, July 1st at St. Martin’s Catholic Church, Tower, MN. Burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements are by Landmark Funeral Home, Virginia, MN.



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FALL PREVENTION

ISD 696

School schedule controversy exits quietly

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely School Board quietly approved the class schedules for the next school year, without the unhappy commentary they experienced last month.

Teachers and parents both had a handful of days to react to the proposed schedule presented at the May 22 meeting and it contained several surprises. The changes included a self-contained sixth grade, which appeared to be a change from the current departmental teaching model. Other surprises included trimming both the gifted program and the number of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classes.

At the June 12 meeting, the middle and high school principal, Jeff Carey, and the superintendent, Anne Oelke, explained to the board how they worked to resolve the issues brought up at the previous meeting, mostly through meetings and information sent home to parents to explain the district's goals and concerns for the sixth grade, STEM, and gifted classes.

"We sat down with those concerned with the sixth grade and worked out a good compromise," Carey said. "We met goals and people appear to be happy with what we worked out. Our core academics are all in the morning."

Oelke added, "We're moving in the right direction, and I believe we achieved a better

transition (from elementary to higher grades) for sixth grade ... We sent home a better explanation of what we were trying to accomplish and what is all means."

Oelke discussed how "not having (better information) left people upset" and that short lead times for communication left district stakeholders surprised by topics that appeared on the school board agenda. Oelke remarked that from an administrative and school board member perspective, "If it's on the agenda, it's already been talked about." While that may have sufficed for the board and administrators, it left others concerned with the upcoming school year.

The resolution of the scheduling and curriculum concerns led Oelke to segue to the district's efforts to prevent future misunderstandings and miscommunications. "We are working on the district's communication plan," Oelke explained, "and are gathering names for the committee (to create the plan), so that we hit the ground running in July," when it first meets.

2023-2024 budget

The school board approved the budget for the upcoming school year, with projected revenues across all funds of \$10,132,171, an increase of 6.3 percent, and projected expenditures across all funds of \$9,959,197, an increase of 4.7 percent. Approximately four-fifths of the budget is allocat-

ed to the general fund, out of which most operating expenses like teacher salaries, are paid. A tenth of the budget is taken up by the district's debt service fund, which is just over \$1 million per year. The rest of the budget is allocated to the capital assets/expenditure, food service, community education, building and construction, and scholarship funds.

The budget was assembled assuming 20 incoming kindergarten students and a total enrollment of 515 K-12 students, which is an increase of five students from the 2022-23 budgeted enrollment. The budget made reasonable expenditure estimates over increases in salaries, benefits, state-mandated unemployment expenditures, inflation in utilities and fuel costs, the purchase of a new van, and staffing reductions of two full-time teachers.

In a pre-recorded presentation, district business manager Spencer Aune noted that the food service budget is still unclear given the new state requirement for free school lunches for all students. "We still don't know how this will work," Aune remarked.

Revenue estimates were based on a four-percent increase in basic state aid, now at \$7,138 per pupil, plus \$205,000 in additional special education funds, an increase in basic skills revenue, and \$270,567 for the last year of federal ESSER III funds.

The projected fund balance at the end of the 2023-24 school

is estimated to be \$1,258,959, which is 15.2 percent of the district's general operating expenses.

"Frankly, with the changes made by the Legislature, I expected a lot of things to come up in the red," commented school board member Tony Colarich. "I think it says a lot about our (business) staff that it did not."

Other business

In other business, the school board:

➤ Will send a letter of congratulations to Kaylin Visser for her achievements with discus.

➤ Granted tenure upon the completion to Jeff Carey, 6-12 Principal; Elyssa Erickson, teacher; and Heidi Omerza, teacher.

➤ Approved the quote from Pan-O-Gold Baking Co. of St. Cloud for the district's bread products for the 2023-2024 school year and the quote from Prairie Farms of Woodbury, for the district's milk products for the 2023-2024 school year.

➤ Approved the quote submitted by Superior Fuel for tanker propane supply for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, of \$1.0225/gallon.

➤ Approved the quote submitted by Superior Fuel for bobtail propane supply for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, of \$1.599/gallon.

➤ Approved the quote from Phil Hefgors & Sons Construction for the district's snowplowing and snow removal needs for the 2023-2024 school year. This was the only quote received.

➤ Approved Minnesota School Boards Association fees for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, of \$6,294; Minnesota Rural Education Association dues for 2023-2024 in the amount of \$1,652; and 2023-2024 annual premiums submitted by Vaaler Insurance in the amount of \$158,439.

➤ Approved the revised Washington Elementary schedule for the 2023-2024 school year.

➤ Hired Warren Carlson for the full-time Special Maintenance position, effective May 8.

➤ Accepted the resignations of Kaycee Gantt and Cathy Braun from their paraprofessional positions and the resignation of Amy Kingsley as junior class advisor, which includes advising on the junior banquet, effective June 5.

➤ Cancelled the June 26 study session for the school board.

➤ Accepted a \$100 donation from the Kiwanis Club for the fourth and fifth grade play, a \$350 donation from the Kiwanis Club for the science club, a \$500 donation from the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for ECFE (sic), a \$3,600 donation from the PTO for elementary school field trips, and a \$200 donation from Jayne and Daniel Dusich for the weight room. In addition, the board accepted \$1,000 donations for the weight room from: the Touch Down Club, the Ely Hockey Boosters, the Ely Hoop Club, the Ely Basketball Association, the Ely Track Club, and the Ely Net Club.

3rd Annual Youth Mental Health Night on June 22 at MDC

CHISHOLM- The Minnesota Discovery Center in partnership with Fairview Range, will host the third annual Youth Mental Health Night on Thursday, June 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the center. Youth of all ages and families are invited to attend this free event.

"The Minnesota Discovery Center and Fairview Range are excited and ready to welcome back the public for another fun and informative event," said Donna Johnson, MDC Executive Director. "Now in its third year, the event seems to be resonating with local communities and every year we help more families and area youth connect

with the resources they need to lead healthy lifestyles. This year's event will feature lots of wonderful mental wellness vendors and resources for attendees to explore alongside games, prizes, live music, food, and of course the popular RideMN BMX stunt show and new to this year's event, Ride The AIR-BAG! jump experience. We really have a lot of fun at the event, and it helps breakdown the stigma surrounding the topic of mental health and we are proud of that."

The goal of the event is to connect northland families with local and regional mental health resources and education to help

promote healthy communities and living strategies while diminishing the stigma surrounding mental health. Attendees will be able to enjoy a vendor Q&A for a chance to win prizes, food, live music, and of course the BMX stunt shows as they discover local resources at the event.

Dr. Ursula Whiteside, a licensed clinical psychologist originally from Hibbing, will be kicking off the event at 5 p.m. with a live demonstration of a life-saving technique called the Ice-Drop. The Ice-Drop is a powerful tool for helping others manage overwhelming stress or an emotional crisis. Several

local leaders will be joining her for the demonstration.

More than 25 vendors from across the area will be present.

The event will feature a performance by Ride Minnesota (RideMN) – Mega Jump Motivational Experience - a BMX stunt show that incorporates narrative to help connect with the audience and support the goal of raising awareness about youth mental health. Additionally, RideMN will be adding a new experience for youth at the event, presenting Ride The AIR-BAG! Attendees are encouraged to bring their bikes and helmets to get a free tune up and ride with the pros. There will be

two main BMX shows – one at 6 p.m. and one at 7:15 p.m., with Ride The AIRBAG opportunities at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. We'll end the night with the bike giveaways and autographs from RideMN.

Youth Mental Health Night will be held in conjunction with Bands, Brews, and BBQ's offering a full food and beverage menu and live music by Iron Range native Mel Annala. Attendees will also have the chance to win prizes and enter a giveaway for four entry level youth bikes donated by Ride Minnesota and the Minnesota Discovery Center for the event.

Fall Classes start August 21

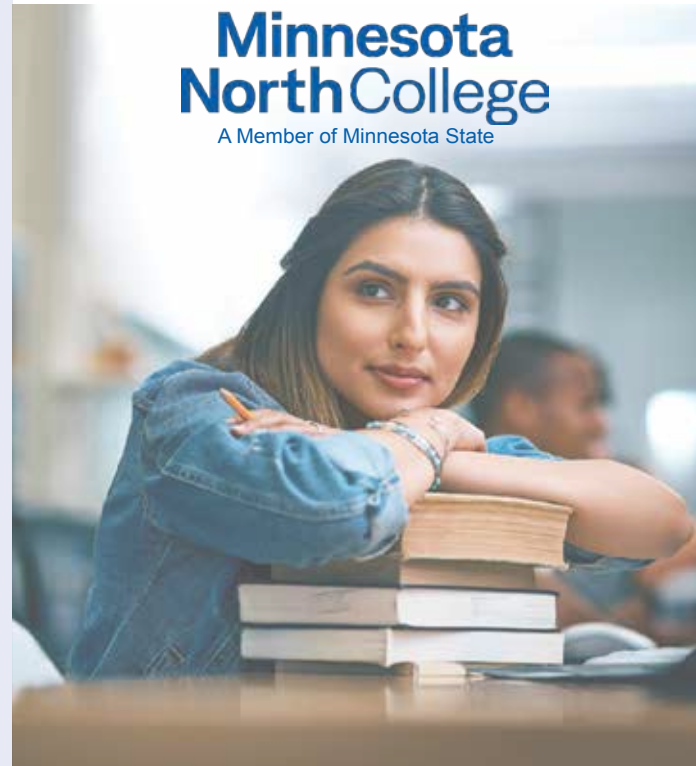
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ENTREPRENEURS

Fresh flowers to go

New One Pine Flower Farm looking for business to blossom

by JEN SHUSTER-DAHLIN
Contributing Writer

EMBARRASS—Amy Vesel brought bouquets of her homegrown flowers from her yard to give to coworkers to brighten their office. Now that she works remotely from home, she has decided to pursue her dream, earning a living doing what she loves: working in her garden and growing flowers for her new business, One Pine Flower Farm.

She began researching flower farms to learn what it would entail to run one full-time and make it financially viable. She also researched roadside flower

stands in rural areas, something she now has at the end of her rural driveway on Wahlsten Rd.

After her employer moved to remote work, Vesel found an opportunity to spend more time in her garden and work towards her goal of growing and selling flowers as a full-time job, and, hopefully, a retirement plan. Vesel and her husband, Willy Milton, have lived in their Embarrass home for over twenty years. Originally, Vesel had only a few small gardens with flowers and vegetables in her front yard. Last September, Vesel and Milton began the laborious process of mowing, grading, and filling

Right: Amy Vesel with a handful of flowers from her new flower farming operation in Embarrass. Follow her on Facebook to see when flowers are available.

photo by J. Shuster-Dahlin

their backyard with dirt to prepare for what Vesel has now: multiple plots in her backyard where she can grow a wide array of summer flowers, perennials, and seasonal vegetables.

She has also set up a self-service flower stand on her property, and when she has flowers ready to sell,

See **FLOWERS...**pg. 2B



RECOGNITION



Ely area DNR conservation officer Sean Williams was recently recognized for his efforts in the rescue of a snowshoer in the Boundary Waters last February.

Local CO recognized for BWCAW rescue

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— A local DNR conservation officer has been recognized for his efforts that led to the rescue of an individual trapped deep inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area last February. Sean Williams, a ten-year veteran, responded around 3 p.m. on Feb. 11, when a man used his cell phone to report he had become trapped in deep snow and windfall and was unable to free himself.

The man, a visitor to the area, had set out on snowshoes after a friend dropped him off by snowmobile at the Crab Portage. He had hoped to take advantage of a recent multi-day thaw, followed by a hard crust the morning of his trip, to complete a loop trip across Crab Lake, returning to Burnside Lake via Crab Creek.

For a time, said Williams, the individual made rapid progress using small snowshoes on the crusted snow. But as the day wore on, and temperatures rose, the conditions rapidly deteriorated as the man sunk deeper and deeper into the snow. In his first call to authorities, the man, who was not dressed or prepared for an overnight in the wilderness, reported he didn't think he could make it out before nightfall. But later, as he was trying to traverse a boggy stretch, he fell through an area of windfall and became trapped by the snow and branches. Unable to free his feet from his snowshoe bindings, the man found himself trapped, which made the efforts of rescuers that much more critical. "He did the right thing by calling once he knew he wasn't going to make it out," said Williams.

Williams, who works frequently with the rescue squad, deployed his backcountry snowmobile to trans-

See **RESCUE...**pg. 2B



Left: Attendees take an inside look at a barrel sauna on display and for sale.

Below: A simple Finnish shower for a sauna without running water. Pour water in the bucket and open the spigot for a quick rinse.

Bottom right: A sign recounts the history of the Nelimark sauna, still located on the historic Embarrass homestead.

photos by J. Summit

IT'S A FINNISH THING

IT'S ALL ABOUT SAUNA

Annual celebration of traditional steam bath a highlight of summer in Embarrass



Above: Local musicians Amanda Eggebraaten and Rachel Bergstedt performed during the day.

Right: Attendees check out the new Kuuma sauna stoves made just up the road in Tower by Lamppa Manufacturing.



Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing cooled off last weekend thanks to a solid cold front that dropped water temps 10 degrees. As a result, walleyes dropped to 15-25 feet of water, just off those shallow flats where anglers were catching them just days before. Minnows really came back into play for anglers. Simple jig and minnow, worked right on top of those inactive walleye was effective. Pink/white, blue/white and gold remain popular colors for walleyes. Anglers have now started reporting walleyes out on sunken islands.

Smallmouth bass continue to be very active and aggressive for anglers. Topwater continues to be very popular among bass anglers. Ned rigs and in-line spinners are also accounting for a large number of bass for anglers. Shallow boulder flats, points and around islands, continue to be areas to focus efforts for bass. Anglers have noticed that crawfish are shedding their shells in the shallows

right now and bass are focused on them.

Panfish: Weed beds have developed quickly on area lakes and panfish are being found in their midst or on the weed lines. Angeworms and waxies, fished under a bobber, in those weed beds has been the way to catch sunnies. Crappies are being found just off weed lines during the day, then in the weed beds during the evening hours. Jig/twister or crappie minnows fished under a bobber has been very effective on crappies.

Stream Trout: Thanks to the recent cool off, trout have come up in the water column and fishing has improved for anglers. Anglers fishing from shore have been catching trout with small spoons and spinners. Anglers fishing from a boat continue to catch good numbers of trout trolling small minnow baits behind cowbells, about 10-15 feet down.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors. See more at ArrowheadOutdoorsElyMN.com

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

					Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday															
					77 50	79 54	82 55	82 55	84 56															
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.
06/05	87	47	0.00		06/05	88	60	0.00		06/05	86	58	0.00		06/05	75	52	0.00		06/05	87	60	0.00	
06/06	76	43	0.00		06/06	78	53	0.00		06/06	78	60	0.00		06/06	72	57	0.00		06/06	79	56	0.00	
06/07	61	45	0.00		06/07	68	49	0.00		06/07	81	53	0.00		06/07	68	48	0.00		06/07	67	50	0.00	
06/08	72	35	0.06		06/08	72	36	0.00		06/08	74	45	0.00		06/08	72	39	0.00		06/08	73	37	0.00	
06/09	75	38	0.00		06/09	75	37	0.00		06/09	72	46	0.00		06/09	70	50	0.00		06/09	75	40	0.00	
06/10	80	52	0.02		06/10	79	48	0.09		06/10	80	48	0.01		06/10	77	46	0.00		06/10	80	50	0.12	
06/11	60	24	0.00		06/11	61	32	0.00		06/11	62	42	0.00		06/11	70	52	0.00		06/11	62	32	0.00	
YTD Total					YTD Total					YTD Total					YTD Total									
8.20					8.82					6.03					NA					7.49				

FLOWERS...Continued from page 1B



Left: Just some of the many large flower beds at One Pine Flower Farm in Embarrass. It's still early season and many of the flowers aren't yet in bloom.

photo by J. Shuster-Dahlin

was also contacted by the Virginia Farmers Market to see if I wanted to go there, and I would really like to, but because this is my first year, I really don't know how much I'm going to produce, so if I produce enough, I'll be selling there as well," she said.

She started the seeds in her house in January and began planting at the beginning of May. The tulips and lilies are bulbs; everything else has been started from seeds. Vesel has planted 3,000 varieties with around 300 more to go. Flowers in her garden include zinnias, Bells-of-Ireland, peonies, lilies, sunflowers, snapdragons, stock flowers, and more. She also currently grows various vegetables, including miniature pumpkins and gourds. In the fall, Vesel will have miniature kale and ornamental corn. She plans to add and remove varieties based on customer demand.

Vesel grew up in Soudan and attended college in St. Cloud, where she received an Associate of Arts degree with an emphasis on business. After working in Alaska for a while, she moved to Embarrass with

her husband. Gardening and working with flowers is a life-long interest for Vesel. She was taught how by her parents and grandparents, with whom she gardened throughout her childhood. And her favorite flower?

"Peonies... any color."

Vesel has several plots on her property and manages them primarily by herself, with assistance from her husband.

"(My husband) really helped me get everything set up. He got his friend here to help clear the land; if I tell him I need something, we go shopping together...he didn't care that our dining room was full of dirt all winter long. He helps me cover the plants when there is frost. My kids come out (to help) occasionally." She said she has spent 20-25 hours per week working on planting, weeding, watering, and transplanting in the past month. She expects a few weeks of downtime before most of her gardens bloom.

"Once everything starts blooming, there will be a lot of cutting and arranging, but that will be the really fun part. I like to play in the dirt...the cutting and arranging will be my favorite part."

Vesel posts updates on her Facebook page when she sells out, so customers don't have to make the drive to Embarrass if unnecessary. She plans to be at the Ely Farmers Market by the end of June. She can be reached at onepineflowerfarms@outlook.com or on Facebook @onepineflowerfarm.

RESCUE...Continued from page 1B

port himself and a U.S. Forest Service employee and rescue squad member across the Crab Portage. From there, the pair continued on snowshoe, following the visitor's tracks for about three miles, until they found him still trapped. Using a shovel, Williams and his fellow rescuer were eventually able to extricate the man from his snowshoes and free him. They stayed with him as the three of them made the return trip back to Burntside, using the trail that was now better packed. Even so, said Williams, the individual's small snowshoes proved inadequate for the conditions. "He was still post-holing regularly," said Williams.

Williams said the man likely would have been able to complete his planned route if the conditions

had held, but he clearly was not prepared for the changing conditions he encountered on the trail nor was he equipped to spend the night.

Even with his rescue, it was about 6:40 p.m., after dark, by the time the three men reached Williams' snowmobile. It was clear that without rescue, the trapped individual could well have died of exposure overnight.

Williams recently received a plaque recognizing his lifesaving efforts. A ceremony honoring his efforts may be held later this year. Williams said he was just happy he was in a position to help with the incident and he lauded the all-volunteer rescue squad for their continuing efforts. "They're a great organization to work with," he said.

she sets out bouquets and makes an announcement on Facebook. Customers help themselves and pay for the flowers by leaving cash or check or paying Vesel on Venmo, an online payment service. She said she has tried this three times so far with bouquets of tulips and has been successful: "I have sold flowers in my stand three times so far, Mother's Day weekend and then the following Monday." Vesel has also brought her stand to Tower once, setting up shop on Main Street. "I have sold out every time," she said.

Vesel said that before opening, she considered whether there was enough traffic on her rural road to support sales. Theft and vandalism are not issues that concern her.

"Everything has been going really good with the stand," said Vesel, "With Mother's Day weekend, it was kind of crazy, I honestly didn't even keep track of what I put

out there and how much I took in to know if there was anything missing or not. We have really good neighbors here...we know all of them, and we have great supportive neighbors who help each other out, even though we're rural. If someone sees something, they'll call or give you a heads up."

While Vesel has provided flowers for a few private events, she isn't set up for wholesale yet. "I have left my business cards at several businesses in the area. People can also contact me via my Facebook page to ask about orders. I'm not quite set up yet, but it's something I hope to do in the future." She plans to put out her stand again on Father's Day with bouquets of peonies. Vesel also brings any extra bouquets she has to assisted living facilities in the area.

Vesel plans to be at the Ely and Tower Farmers Markets this summer, so prospective customers can look for her there. "I

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Obituaries and Death Notices

**James F. Charles**

James Frederick "Jim" Charles, 100, formerly of Tower, passed away on Monday, June 5, 2023, at Lake Minnetonka Shores Assisted Living in Spring Park. A funeral service will be held at 12 p.m. on Monday, June 19 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower with Pastor Liz Cheney officiating. Visitation will be for two hours prior to the service at the church. A lunch will follow the service. Burial will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis at 12:45 p.m. on Friday, August 11. Meet at Assembly Area 6. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Jim was born on May 5, 1923, in Minneapolis, and graduated from West High School in 1941. He was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Camp 702 at Bena, and was proud of the many Norway pines he planted in that area.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in November 1942, with duty in the Atlantic Theater of Operations. Jim was also a Plank Owner on the Carrier FDR, serving as an Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd class, and was discharged in May 1946. He immediately enlisted in the active Naval Reserve, where he served for an additional eight years.

Jim worked a short time for Minneapolis Honeywell and Northern States Power, and attended the University of Minnesota in Wildlife Management. He worked summer jobs in Itasca State Park as a lifeguard, and worked two summers for the Conservation Dept., sounding lakes and mapping depth maps. Many of the lakes he sounded and mapped

are still in effect today, with many in Northeastern Minnesota, including Snowbank Lake, Crane Lake and Bear Island Lake.

He married the former Margaret Elizabeth "Betty" Wels in 1948 at Brainerd. He started work in the Minnesota Fisheries Dept. in June 1952 in Grand Rapids, and then transferred to Winton as a Game Refuge Patrolman. He worked and patrolled the Superior Game Refuge (now the BWCAW) for four years by canoe and snowshoes. Winter work consisted of trapping predators, mainly timber wolves, and he became quite proficient at it. In 1956, Jim transferred to the Game Warden Service, was stationed at Littlefork, and was a member of the Volunteer Fire Dept. After four years, he transferred to Tower in August 1960.

He started the Firearm Safety program in Littlefork and continued the program in Tower. He spent the remainder of his career in Tower. He retired in 1982 with 31 years in the MN DNR.

He was active in the American Legion with over 60 years as a member, was Commander for two years in Tower from 1962-64, and had been a member of the Tower VFW and Babbitt VFW Post 1539. Jim was a member of the MN Conservation Officers Pistol Team, and won many trophies for shooting. He was also a member of the Tower Bank Trapshooting Team which won first place for several years at the Ely Trap Range.

For several years he guided canoe parties in Quetico Park and the BWCA. During his spare time, he loved canoeing and spending time in the wilderness area. He was a member of the Tower Masonic Lodge for many years, was a member of the NRA for several years, and was active in supporting the Second Amendment.

Jim married the former Shirley Anderson in Mt. Iron in 1982 shortly before retirement, and spent his remaining years on Lake Vermilion.

He was a director of the Lake Vermilion Sportsmen's Club for several years and was a Senior Warden for sev-

eral years at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Tower. Jim was an ardent hunter and fisherman, especially waterfowl and trout fishing, and was a longtime member of Ducks Unlimited. He also enjoyed downhill and cross-country skiing, and skied in several ski races between Ely, Tower and Bear Head Lake. He also competed in several ski jumping contests in the Twin Cities as a teenager.

Jim was a life member of the MN Police and Peace Officers Association, and also of the Arrowhead Police Officers Association. Along with DNR Fisheries personnel, he planted the first lake trout in Trout Lake in the early 1960s with the help of Bill Gruben.

Jim is survived by his son, James E. Charles of Alexandria; daughter, Wendy K. Charles of Minneapolis; grandchildren, Dallas (Holea) Charles, Samantha (Griffin) Runge and Levi Charles of Alexandria and Elizabeth and Karla Villanueva of the Twin Cities; great-grandchildren, Abel and Myla Charles; stepchildren, Bruce (Ann) Anderson, Jackie (Mike) Unrein and Gerry (Cheryl) Anderson; and many step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James K. and Genevieve B. Charles; first wife, Betty Wels Charles; second wife, Shirley Anderson Charles; grandson, Cody Charles; stepchildren, Rick Anderson and Carol Anderson; and dear cousins, John Scholl and Lucille Tellett.

Kathryn M. Brown

Kathryn Marie Eich Brown, 77, of Vermilion River in South Buyck, entered her heavenly home of eternal rest and peace on Friday, June 9, 2023. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, June 15 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr, with a lunch immediately after the service at the church and a reception at the Legion Hall in Orr from 5-7 p.m. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry; sons, Russ, Dan (Staci) and Jason (Heidi); five grandchildren;

sister, Sharon (Arnie) Kroeger; brother, Gene (Marlene) Eich; and many nephews, nieces and friends.

**Kenneth R. Bruce**

Kenneth Russell Bruce, 72, longtime resident of Tower, died peacefully at his home on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023. A memorial service is planned for 11 a.m. on Friday, June 23 at Bauman Vermilion Funeral Home Chapel in Tower, with visitation for one hour prior to the service. Pastor Liz Cheney will officiate. Burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower.

Ken was born on June 14, 1950, in Chicago, Ill., and his family moved to Tower in 1972 where they operated the Tower-Soudan IGA grocery store for many years. Ken met the love of his life, JeriLynn Horntvedt, when she came to teach at the Tower-Soudan School in 1971. They were married on June 22, 1974, at Wabanica Lutheran Church in Baudette. They lived in a cabin on Isle of Pines in the summers and served as caretakers for Westhaven Lodge in the winters, before building a permanent home on the island in 1999.

Ken is survived by an aunt, Delores Bruce Teplar of Henderson, Nev.; sister-in-law, Lois (George) Widman of Crookston; brother-in-law, Ken (Jody) Horntvedt of Baudette; four nieces and nephews; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his wife, JeriLynn (2019); parents, Russell (1985) and Marcella (1980) Bruce; sister, Karen Pecha (2015); and brother-in-law, Tony Pecha (2021).

Carol J. Pohto

Carol Jean Lehtinen Pohto, 79, of Cook, passed

away peacefully on Sunday, June 11, 2023, after a valiant fight with cancer. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 22 at the Cook Community Center. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Lunch and burial will follow. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her children, Shelly Gwash (Kevin), Guy Pohto, Cindy Aune (Donald), Brad Pohto (Peggy), Mark Pohto (Jean), Lisa Kirk, Grant Pohto (Sheila) and Mike Novak (Judy); sister, Mary Ann Backman; 20 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren with one on the way; one great-great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**James M. Belehar**

James Michael "Jim" Belehar, 72, passed away at his home on Everett Lake on Friday, June 9, 2023, after a brief illness, with his family by his side. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, June 16 at Semer's Park Pavilion in Ely from 2-7-ish p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. Please bring a story to tell, the more colorful the better.

Jim was born to Joseph and Rose Belehar on Dec. 24, 1950, in Ely. He attended Ely Memorial High School and graduated in 1969. After graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served two tours in Vietnam. Upon his return, he ended up enrolling in vocational school in Staples for mechanics. He also attended Vermilion Community College. Jim worked a variety of jobs throughout his entire life - mining, carpentry, bartending, some unknown and maybe not entirely legal enterprises - but his most recent endeavor was Jim's Hardwood Floors, leading him to sand and refinish many floors in the Ely area.

Jim was an active

member of the VFW Post 2717, serving as Commander at one point. He felt a special duty and privilege to be a member of the Honor Guard. Jim was known for his bawdy sense of humor, infectious laugh, generous nature, and extensive vocabulary, most of which is unfit to print.

Jim is survived by his wife and partner of 20 years, Mary Pat O'Halloran; sons, Jeramie (Sandy Thrasher) of Arizona and Shane (Bailey) of Ely; stepson, Tom; granddaughter, Chelsea; grandsons, Brennan and Everett; and brother, Joel (Kathy) of Hibbing.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and daughter, Amanda.

Todd J. Majeski

Todd Joseph Majeski, 61, of Angora, passed away on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. A private family burial will be held on Saturday, June 17 followed by a reception at 1 p.m. for family and friends at Kristin and Todd's home. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his wife of almost 40 years, Kristen Billington Majeski; first son, Joseph (Mattie) Majeski, granddaughter Rowen and grandson Finley, all of New Hampshire; second son, Jonathan Majeski of Tennessee; third son, Jacob (Taylor) Majeski of Tennessee; best buds, Bill (Jakie) Billington, Wendell (Jeanine) Rutchasky and Timothy/Dudley (Lois) Reing; very supportive in-laws, Dan (Laura) Zika along with parents-in-law, Roger (Donna) Billington; numerous cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

Charles M. Street Jr.

Charles Marvin Street Jr., 87, longtime resident of Beatty Township-Cook, entered his eternal home on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. A funeral service was held on Saturday, June 10 at Lakeland Baptist Church in Gilbert. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Obr Street; children, Shane and Clint (Becky); grandchildren, Tyler, Jared and Brady; great-grandchildren, Greyson, Paisley and Sophia; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

81st Annual Meeting of Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union

This is our 81st annual meeting at the Timber Hall in Embarrass

Tuesday June 20th starting at 6pm!!

Food at 6, business meeting 6:30, drawings after, and lots of fun!

EVERY YOUTH ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING GETS A DOOR PRIZE!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!!

- **Who:** Open to current members aged 13-17
- **What:** \$500 scholarship
- **Where:** Must attend the annual meeting and be present to win
- **How:** Put your name in a drawing for a certificate* to be redeemed at the credit union.
- *Certificate funds will be held in account until needed and a check will be written out to the school at the beginning of the first term or semester.

**EVFCU has the right not to award this scholarship to any and all applicants.

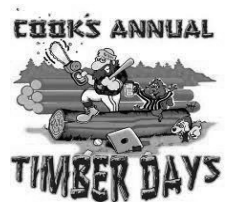
The team at EVFCU are looking forward to seeing you!

Branches in:

Tower, Embarrass, Aurora, Vermilion (Fortune Bay) & Nett Lake



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EMPLOYMENT

JOB OPENING - CITY OF ORR FT CLERK/TREASURER

The City of Orr is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of City Clerk/Treasurer. This is a full-time position with competitive benefits. Primary duties include utility billing, payroll, accounts payable/receivable, monthly financial statements, meeting minutes, preparation of annual budgets, assist with city audit, and maintenance of city ordinances and record keeping. Applicants must possess strong analytical, organization, math, and computer skills. Must be able to work with the public; have excellent oral and written communication skills; and the ability to work independently and efficiently. Experience with Fund Accounting is preferred. Must pass drug test, background, and credit checks. The City of Orr is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

To obtain an application, contact the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, PO Box 237, Orr, MN 55771 at 218-757-3288; or email: orrnmn@centurytel.net Position will remain open until filled. tfn



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Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an A/B technician. Prefer GM Certified but will train. Base pay plus incentives! Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to Dgrelinger@waschke.com. tfn

Program Accountant

Closes: 06/30/2023

Position Purpose: The Program Accountant is responsible for setting up, maintaining, and monitoring all general ledger accounts, funds, and budgets in the accounting system relative to State, Federal and Tribal contract/programs including preparing adjusting journal entries under the direction of the Program Accounting Supervisor. Also monitors contracts/programs by providing requests, reporting and documentation under the direction of the Program Accounting Supervisor (Supervisory Program Accountant).

Excellent Benefits:

- Medical & Dental- Free
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 - LTD
- Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions

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

Published in the Timberjay, June 9, 16 & 23, 2023

Marketing & Fundraising Manager

The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra is seeking an experienced and self-motivated Marketing & Fundraising Manager. Only candidates who live within an hour of Virginia, Minnesota will be considered. The successful candidate will serve as the primary MSO public liaison, fundraiser, event coordinator, and as the main administrative staff person for the MSO and MSO Board.

This is a flexible, work from home position of approximately 15 hours per week. It requires attendance at MSO concerts and events, networking events, and engaging with the business community. A home office, computer or laptop, and reliable internet service are required. Anticipated start date for this position is at the end of July, 2023.

Apply by sending an introduction and your resume to generalmanager@mesabisymphonyorchestra.org, or use the link to our Indeed job posting at <https://www.indeed.com/job/marketing-fundraising-manager-dc0e7e0ed425e3f6>



6/23

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

KUGLER TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Kugler Town Board will meet on Tuesday, June 20 at 5:30 p.m. The board will conduct the annual road inspection with the regular meeting to follow.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, June 16, 2023

2023-2024 Cook Hospital Bids For Propane

Sealed propane bids will be accepted until 3:00 pm, June 26th.

Propane Bid for Maintenance Building: 3,000 gallons for 2023-2024 with contract to begin September 2023.

The sealed bids must be marked "Propane Bid Maintenance Building" and be delivered or mailed to Cook Hospital, Teresa Debevec, CEO, 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723.

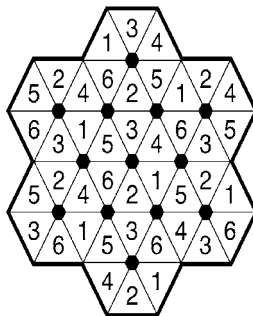
Bids will be opened at the Board Executive Committee Meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 27th at 4:30 PM.



Published in the Timberjay June 16 & June 23, 2023

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Read It
Here
753-2950

NBC JAW COOS STIPPLER
AOL UNICORNS AUTORACE
TWEENIEROAST CREMONAS
ALAMO AWL ARI BARE
SORT TWINBYALANDSLIDE
CVI LAOS URALRAE
HENRY T WINKLER PALMOIL
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EXPO TWEAKSTOMACHS
RIA EAVE CLEF WHAT
AMBASSADOR OFGODT W ILL
BLUR ITAL ROAR DEY
BATTLE OF TWITS ODON
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Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor, weekend only)

Hospital/ER
PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$36.22/hr., \$4,000 sign-on bonus)
Casual Unit Clerk/Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.79/NA certification or EMT required)

Dietary
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More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org



The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Potential syrup
- 4 Ship's front
- 8 Dutch cheese
- 12 Family card game
- 13 One with will power?
- 14 Cover with blacktop
- 15 Kind of stove
- 17 Mid-month date
- 18 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 19 Pie chart divisions
- 21 Exact
- 24 Fan's cry
- 25 "East of Eden" brother
- 26 Blend
- 28 Interior design
- 32 Curved molding
- 34 Signing need
- 36 Chicago paper, briefly
- 37 Irritable
- 39 "Mayday!"
- 41 Blackbird
- 42 Summer mo.
- 44 Orders of pancakes
- 46 Snarls
- 50 Annoy
- 51 Pulitzer winner James
- 52 Soup cooker

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13							14	
15				16							17	
			18			19		20				
21	22			23		24						
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
				42		43		44		45		
46	47	48				49		50				
51						52		53			54	55
56						57					58	
59						60					61	

- 56 Katy Pery hit song
- 57 Hunt for Wilder's "— Town"
- 59 Leer at Nashville venue
- 61 Dead heat
- DOWN**
- 1 Dine
- 2 Year in Cancun
- 3 Driving hazards
- 4 Wunderkind
- 5 Seminary
- 6 Monet's supply
- 7 More ironic
- 8 Disparaging term
- 9 Pedestal part
- 10 Declare
- 11 GI dining hall
- 16 Slugger's need
- 20 Scoundrel
- 21 Highlander
- 22 Senate staffer
- 23 Chill in the air
- 27 Ballot marks
- 29 Eccentric
- 30 Sty cry
- 31 Baseball stats
- 33 Curio cabinet
- 35 Refusals
- 38 Actor Brynner
- 40 Viscid
- 43 Bas-relief medium
- 45 Noah's boat
- 46 Poi base
- 47 Awestruck
- 48 Patricia of "Hud"
- 49 Dance move
- 53 "— the ram-parts ..."
- 54 Gigi's "yes"
- 55 Three, in Rome

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Storage • Complete Service • Sales

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WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

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- 4 Air-Chilled Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
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- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
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PET CREMATION

VISIT VermilionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

MEAT

EMBARRASS-RAISED BLACK ANGUS BEEF/HAMBURGER. \$5.50/lb. Call Carol at 218-290-0882. 6/16

GARAGE SALE

HUGE GARAGE SALE- Friday, June 16, 2-6pm, and Saturday, June 17, 8am-4pm. 5779 Lake Ave S., Tower. Something for everyone!

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

TOPS- Meetings every Monday at 4:45 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

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

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

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

AA MEETING IN COOK- Sunday Night Big Book Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. For information call 218-666-2820 or 218-780-7670.

AL-ANON MEETING IN COOK - Ashawa Al-Anon Family Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. This meeting is for families and friends of alcoholics.

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

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

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

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

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

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

SNOWFLAKES
by Japheth Light

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

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

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FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Bluff City Law" network
 - 4 Mandible site
 - 7 Talks lovingly
 - 11 One painting with dots
 - 19 Long-popular ISP
 - 20 Mythical horses
 - 22 Indy 500, e.g.
 - 23 Outdoor food party for 11- and 12-year-olds?
 - 25 Some very valuable violins
 - 26 Old Texas siege site
 - 27 Saddlery tool
 - 28 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
 - 29 Not adorned
 - 30 Type
 - 31 Identical sibling near some falling rocks?
 - 37 Caesar's 106
 - 38 Neighbor of Vietnam
 - 39 River through Orsk
 - 40 "Norma —"
 - 41 "Happy Days" star with gleaming eyes?
 - 45 Ingredient in Nutella
 - 49 A noble gas
 - 50 Wedding page word
 - 51 Top-notch
 - 52 Genetic stuff
 - 53 Major exhibition
 - 56 Perform gastric bypasses?
 - 61 Coastal inlet
 - 64 Roof overhang
 - 66 Musical sign
 - 67 "Say again?"
 - 68 One working to promote high-quality serge and denim?
 - 75 Fuzzy picture
 - 76 Tilted type: Abbr.
 - 77 Imitate a lion
 - 78 Susan of "L.A. Law"
 - 79 Contest to see who has the cleverest taunts?
 - 85 Have too much of, for short
 - 87 Lance of the O.J. trial
 - 88 Paris hub
 - 89 Negatives
 - 91 "Wonder Woman" star Gal
 - 95 CBer's lingo system
 - 97 Time of day for muscle spasms?
 - 102 That, in Lima
 - 103 Any day now
 - 104 "I goofed!"
 - 105 K-12 org.
 - 106 Expert at recognizing the finest strong string?
 - 112 Lacking spice
 - 113 "— it grand?"
 - 114 Tofu source
 - 115 Call to squad cars, for short
 - 116 Lamp dweller
 - 117 Arbitrator
 - 120 Super-itchy wool cloth?
 - 124 Coveted part for an actor
 - 125 Big Apple animal attraction
 - 126 — Lanka
 - 127 It provides product plugs to websites
 - 128 Skin malady
 - 129 Passports et al.
 - 130 IRS form fig.
 - 4 Mother of Mars, in myth
 - 5 Singer DiFranco
 - 6 Golfer Michelle
 - 7 Possess jointly with someone else
 - 8 Big name in toothbrushes
 - 9 Come- (temptations)
 - 10 Old JFK flier
 - 11 Of a pelvic bone
 - 12 City northwest of Genoa
 - 13 Ending for krypton
 - 14 Yappy lap dog, in brief
 - 15 Predicament
 - 16 Oahu porch
 - 17 Virtual b'day greeting, e.g.
 - 18 Look at again
 - 21 Certain dried berry
 - 24 911 VIP
 - 28 Banned apple spray
 - 31 Body pic
 - 32 "Amazing!"
 - 33 Brynner on Broadway
 - 34 Plural "is"
 - 35 Brand of clog remover
 - 36 Oregon's capital
 - 38 Wildcats with ear tufts
 - 42 Caviar eggs
 - 43 Seine, for one
 - 44 Royal Botanic Gardens site
 - 45 Pan's cousin
 - 46 Corsage flower
 - 47 Get a whiff of
 - 48 In conclusion
 - 51 In regard to
 - 54 Fathers
 - 55 Eggs
 - 57 Bacterium in the gut
 - 58 Furry TV ET
 - 59 Small cask
 - 60 "So cute!"
 - 61 Easter animal
 - 62 Hurrier's cry
 - 63 Share a border with
 - 65 Give moral guidance
 - 69 Part of MoMA
 - 70 Ballplayer Mel
 - 71 Not cooked
 - 72 Hugs, in a love letter
 - 73 Father
 - 74 "Wild Thing" singers, with "The"
 - 80 Not rigid
 - 81 Triage physician, for short
 - 82 Corrida cheer
 - 83 Blasting stuff
 - 84 Part of 130-Across: Abbr.
 - 86 Slangy denial
 - 90 Container for flats or heels
 - 92 Stupidity
 - 93 Things unlike all the others
 - 94 Exchanged, as an older model
 - 96 Franc division
 - 97 Stage award
 - 98 Go after romantically
 - 99 Ending of some pasta names
 - 100 Debtor's slip
 - 101 "Says You!" airer
 - 103 Noisy sleeper
 - 106 Florida city
 - 107 Use, as a tool
 - 108 Pakistan's longest river
 - 109 "— Mio"
 - 110 Anglo- —
 - 111 Back column
 - 112 Kitten's cry
 - 116 Old Pontiacs
 - 118 Opp. of departure
 - 119 "Mazel —!"
 - 120 Pacers' org.
 - 121 Foe of Frodo
 - 122 Rambo's gun
 - 123 Grassy turf
- DOWN**
- 1 "Solaris" actress McElhorne
 - 2 Amaze
 - 3 Glade

Answer

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

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117				118	119					120	121				122	123			
124										125									126
127										128						129			130

— **King Crossword** —
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	P	P	R	O	W	E	D	A	M	
U	N	O	H	E	I	R	P	A	V	E	
P	O	T	B	E	L	L	Y	I	D	E	S
S	H	A	N	S	E	C	T	O	R	S	
S	P	O	T	O	N	R	A	H			
C	A	L	M	I	X	D	E	C	O	R	
O	G	E	E	P	E	N	T	R	I	B	
T	E	S	T	Y	S	O	S	A	N	I	
A	U	G	S	T	A	C	K	S			
T	A	N	G	L	E	S	I	R	K		
A	G	E	E	S	T	O	C	K	P	O	
R	O	A	R	S	E	E	K	O	U	R	
O	G	L	E	O	P	R	Y	T	I	E	

BROADWAY IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS

NLAA's Godspell opens next week in Ely

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

The Northern Lakes Arts Association's (NLAA) production of "Godspell" opens on Thursday, June 22, at 7 p.m., with subsequent evening shows on June 23, 24, 29, 30 and July 1, also at 7 p.m. Matinee performances will be at 2 p.m. on June 25 and July 2. The June 29 performance is a "pay what you can" show, with a suggested donation of \$10 per seat.

The musical will be on stage at the Fine Arts Theater at the Vermilion Campus of Minnesota College North in Ely. The show is the first of NLAA's "Broadway in the Boundary Waters" summer season productions, performed by a summer theater company with a mix of professional and local actors.

The 1971 off-Broadway musical "Godspell" was written by the prolific Stephen Schwartz, who also wrote the hit Broadway musicals of "Pippin" and "Wicked." Composed in the pop-rock style of the early 70s, the musical put one of its numbers, "Day by Day," on the Billboard pop singles chart at slot #13 in the summer of 1972.

The 1973 film version of the musical garnered greater renown for other numbers, especially the sultry "Turn Back, oh Man," and the Jesus and Judas duet "It's All for the Best," with the famous scene that used the giant billboard on Times Square to form the shadows of the performers as they sang and danced on the building's marquee.

"Godspell" is one of the trifecta of "hippie musicals," along with "Jesus Christ, Superstar," and "Hair."

The production of "Godspell" presented by NLAA's Broadway in the Boundary Waters Compa-



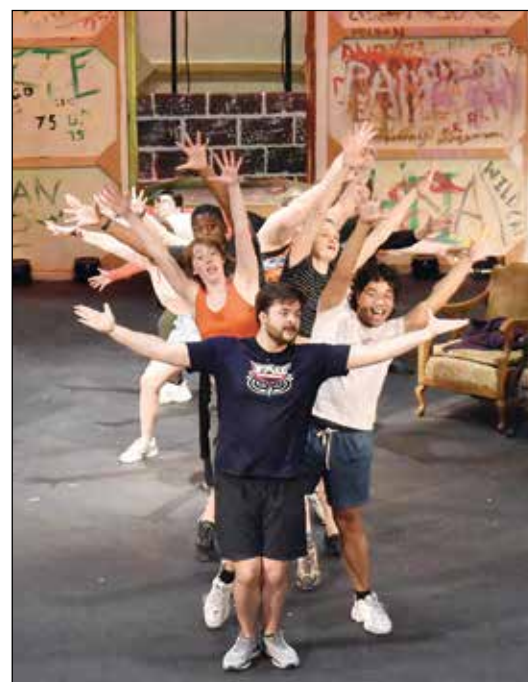
Above and right: The ensemble sings "Come, sing about love," in the Godspell musical number "We beseech thee." photos by C. Clark

ny is not the 1971 version, but the version from the second Broadway revival of 2011-12. The changes are minor revisions of staging, the addition of some music and lyrics, and some modernizing of humor.

The Timberjay snuck into "Godspell" rehearsals over the last week to snap some sneak previews of the production which opens next Thursday night.

Tickets are available by visiting northernlakesarts.org/tickets or calling 218-235-9937. Ticket prices are: general admission \$25, NLAA members \$20, and 16 and under \$15, excluding June 29, which is a pay what you can admission.

Ely local Karin Schmidt performing "Learn your lessons well," in the musical Godspell.



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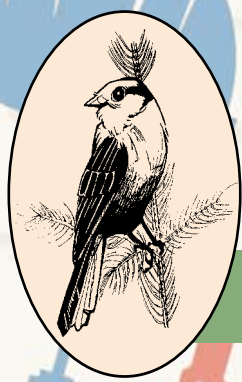
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JULY 16 • 3PM Chisholm
La boheme for Tweens and Teens
JULY 13 • 3:00PM Aurora
One hour abridged version with full sets, costumes & orchestra performed by the NLMF Opera Apprentices

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION

ENJOYING SUMMER

A bug-free HIDEAWAY



Here in the North Country, a screen porch can make all the difference on a summer evening

No matter where you are in the outdoors in the North Country this month, you've probably noticed that mosquitoes are, well... everywhere. While the weather has been pleasantly summer-like, it's hard to enjoy spending time on the patio or porch if the bugs are eating you alive.

Mosquitoes can quickly put an end to plans for an outdoor meal or drinks with friends on a nice summer evening. That's where a screen porch can make all the difference. A covered screen porch is the perfect blending of indoor and outdoor space and it's almost a necessity for North Country residents, especially for those who don't live in town where mosquitoes are more tolerable.

In thinking about a screen porch, there are really two general types, attached or unattached.

The gazebo is the classic unattached screen porch and they're pretty common in the area, often tucked down close to lakeshore.

You can buy screened gazebo kits from some of the big box home center retailers that can make the construction process much faster and easier. Finding a good level location, maybe with a pleasing view, and establishing a stable foundation are the keys to making such a project a success.

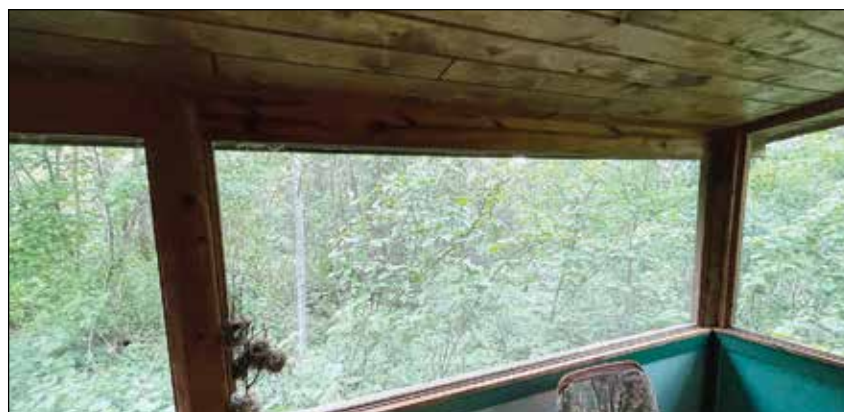
You can erect a gazebo on a wooden deck, pavers, a concrete slab, or treated posts, as long as you have the ability to screen off everything. Don't forget that mosquitoes and other insects will take advantage of even small openings to get inside. If you're planning to use a wooden deck as a foundation for your gazebo, be sure that the decking

See **PORCH...**pg. 2C



Above: A screen porch can be the perfect sanctuary in a very buggy summer.

Right: A view of the log support posts and the roof header.



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PORCH...Continued from page 1C

provides a continuous floor. While a typical deck includes spaces between boards to allow rainwater to drain, those spaces are plenty large enough to allow mosquitoes to enter from underneath. A good solution is to apply a layer of screen to the top side of your deck joists before attaching the deck boards, and that's sound advice for an attached screen porch as well.

If you're thinking you'd like to enjoy an occasional meal in your gazebo, you'll probably want to locate it close to your house. That way, you won't have far to go if you're having to schlep all your food, plates, glasses, and eating utensils, or if you need to run back to the house for the mustard you left on the kitchen counter.

Convenience is one of the advantages of an attached screen porch, especially one that can be accessed directly from the house. An attached screen porch is really an extension of your home's living space and it's one that can definitely increase your home's value. In the summertime, you're likely to find that you're spending a lot of your time out there.



On warm summer nights, it can be a great place to sleep, particularly if you don't have air conditioning.

Construction of an attached screen porch is a job that an accomplished DIY-er can certainly take on themselves. You'll need two connection points on

Left: The entry to our screen porch, which is connected directly to the sauna and by a short deck to the house.

Right: A small concrete pad set on a prepared bed of crushed rock is an easy and stable foundation.



how you plan to use it. If you want a quiet place to read a book and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea on a mild morning or afternoon, you can get by with a small space. But if you'd like to enjoy an occasional meal on the porch, perhaps with friends, you'll need more room. My screen porch is 20 feet long and ten feet deep, which is enough to have facing seating for 4-6 people, plus space for a serving table. We've shared many meals on the porch over the years, free from concern over the clouds of mosquitoes buzzing on the other side of the screen. In determining the size of your porch, think about

screen porch provides a real sanctuary.

My screen porch is actually connected to our sauna, which is located about ten feet from the house, connected via a wooden deck. It's not quite as convenient as a direct connection to the house, but it's so close as to not be an issue. And it makes a nice spot to cool down after a sauna without having to slap mosquitoes in the summer months.

I used log posts that I cut and peeled myself as my vertical supports. I poured 18-inch square concrete pads that float on a base of compacted crushed rock and they haven't moved an

inch in 20 years. I've found over the years that a floating concrete pad is one of the most stable foundations you can have around here.

I set the posts right on top and tied them all together first with a rim joist at floor level and then the roof header. I used 2x6's for both floor joists and roof joists and used some old scavenged 2x6 western red cedar boards for the floor.

I would recommend creating a stub wall rather than running screen all the way to the ground since you're less likely to rip a hole in your screen moving furniture or cleaning, or when the dog gets excited and scratches the screen because a bunny runs by.

For tips on installing the screen, I'd recommend turning to YouTube, where you'll find a variety of videos that show you reliable methods to properly stretch the screen to enhance its appearance and improve visibility.

Installing the screen is a big day, because it means your screen porch is ready to use. And that's the best part of having a screen porch. Build it and enjoy it!

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SUSTAINABILITY

Making sense of heat pumps

They're an energy efficient heating and cooling option. But is it a right fit for your home?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Today, there's more reason than ever to look to save energy at home— it's good for the wallet and it's good for the planet. Here in the North Country, the vast majority of our residential energy use goes for home heating, so that's where you can get the biggest return if you're looking to cut your energy bill.

With the high cost of fuel oil, in particular, many homeowners are looking to convert to alternatives, and air-source heat pumps are one option that's getting increasing attention, even in northern Minnesota. It helps that utilities and the government both offer rebates and tax credits that will help pay the cost of buying and installing a heat-pump-based system.

Heat pumps have been around for decades, but they were mostly used in warmer climates since, until recently, they stopped working in cold temperatures, like zero or below. The technology has improved in recent years and heat pumps on the market today can operate in temperatures as cold as minus 20.

It may seem odd, but even at minus 20, there is still recoverable heat in the air that an efficient heat pump can concentrate and pump

into your house. And modern heat pumps are remarkably efficient, delivering as much as 400 percent efficiency, compared to 95 percent tops for a high-efficiency propane furnace. Heat pumps can operate so efficiently because, unlike traditional forms of heating, they don't have to burn a fuel to generate heat. Through the use of refrigerants and some remarkable engineering, they simply move existing heat from one space to another space. A heat pump can significantly reduce your heating bill, even here in northern Minnesota.

Mini-splits the most popular

Heat pumps can come in two types, ducted or ductless. A ducted heat pump is a forced air system that typically takes advantage of existing ductwork to distribute heat throughout the house. But heat pumps don't operate like a traditional furnace. Rather than distributing hot air, in the range of 120 degrees, throughout the house, a heat pump pushes merely warm air, which means heat pumps need to push more air to provide the same amount of total heating. That means you'll need to confirm that your existing ductwork has the needed capacity. Many houses in our region don't have adequate ductwork, which can make

installing a ducted heat pump a challenge in an existing home.

That's why many people are turning to ductless heat pump systems known as "mini-splits," which connect an outside heat pump to what are essentially heating or cooling registers that mount on the wall inside the house. Yes, heat pumps not only heat... they provide cooling in the summer months with the mere flick of a switch, so you're getting both a highly efficient heating system and a highly efficient air conditioner.

"Mini-splits are definitely the most popular type of heat pump being installed in the area," said Scott Twining,

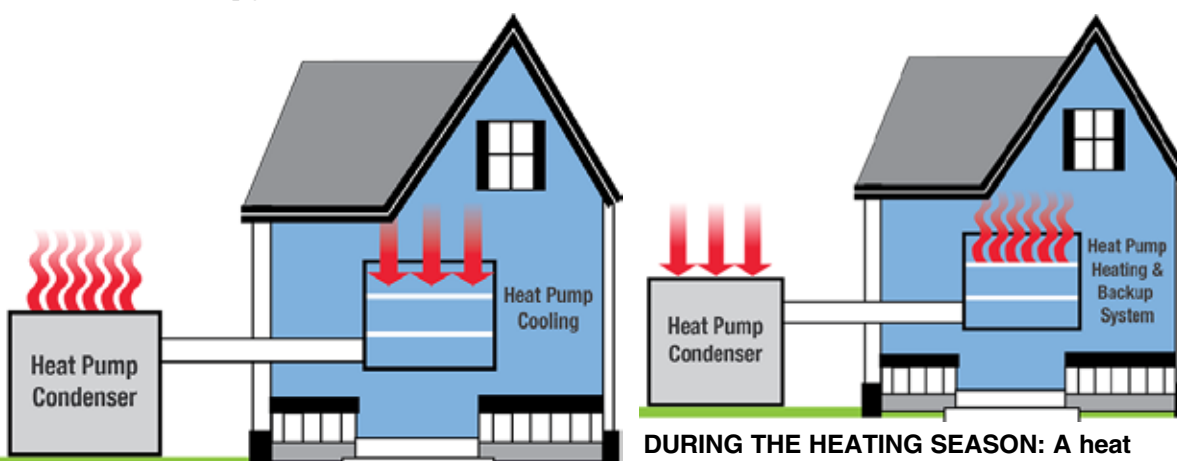
See HEAT PUMPS...pg. 4C



Above: Heat pump units located on an outside wall



Left: The mini-split unit is installed on an indoor wall.



DURING THE SUMMER: A heat pump pulls heat from inside your house and moves it outside to provide air conditioning.

DURING THE HEATING SEASON: A heat pump pulls heat from outside, concentrates it and moves it into your home. New models can now provide heat down to at least the teens below zero, but you will need a backup heat source here in the North Country.

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HEAT PUMPS...Continued from page 3C

a technician with Lake Country Power.

While most people will turn to a professional installer, the installation of a mini-split is straightforward enough that it can be a DIY project for a capable homeowner. They generally require a 240-volt electrical connection (120-volt models are available but they aren't as efficient) to the main unit that sits just outside the house. From there, you'll be running refrigerant and electrical lines to the individual registers (or "heads") located in strategic locations within the house.

A system that includes two or three heads is likely to run somewhere in the vicinity of \$6,000-\$8,000, according to Josh Ojala, with OJ's HVAC and Refrigeration in Ely. While most of his customers are still replacing traditional furnaces with newer versions of the same thing, he said mini-splits have become increasingly popular, particularly as they've become more efficient at cold temperatures.

"We installed a ton of them during COVID," said Ojala, as people were spending more time at home and wanted greater efficiency and the air conditioning in many cases. While most of us have gotten by without air conditioning in northern Minnesota, summers like this one are a good reminder that while home cooling may not be as critical as heating here, it can certainly make life more pleasant when the temperature soars.

Other considerations

Heat pumps, like a mini-split, offer summer cooling and home heating for most of the year, but they can't be your only heating option here in northern

Minnesota. "They work really well in the shoulder months," said LCP's Twining. "But they don't work as well in the depths of winter."

That's why heat pumps are generally used in combination with another form of heating, such as a propane furnace or electric baseboard. The heat pump will help reduce your heating bill for the vast majority of the year, but when the temperature drops well below zero you'll need an alternative source of heat.

You might also want to keep some other type of heating nearby if you tend to run cold, especially in winter. Traditional forced air or boiler systems feel warm near the registers and that can make a nice place to warm your feet when you feel a chill. But heat pumps, whether ducted or ductless, produce air that feels much closer to room temperature. Ojala said that's a comment he sometimes hears from customers who've made the switch.

If you think you'll miss that cozy feeling of a warm corner in the living room, you might consider another heating option for that location to give you a place to warm up on a chilly winter day.

Ground source heat pumps

There is another type of heat pump that can provide a reliable source of heating year-round, even in northern Minnesota. Ground-source heat pumps rely on the warmth underground to help heat your home and they can provide a reliable source of heating and cooling year-round.

As you might guess, ground-source heat pumps can be expensive, but they're a sound long-term investment that will save

you plenty of money. If you're financing the construction of a new house, it would be worth looking at this heating option. If the cost is incorporated into your monthly mortgage payment, you'll almost certainly be money ahead most months in the savings for heating and cooling you'll achieve.

While most ground-sourced heat pumps utilize a series of tubes buried several feet in the ground that isn't always possible here in the North Country where shallow soils atop bedrock are commonplace. In most cases, said Ojala, homeowners will have a second well installed and use the water as their source of heat. This sharply increases the cost of installing this type of system.

A ground-source heat pump is generally going to be used as part of a forced air system, rather than a ductless system, although it is possible to utilize a mini-split with this kind of system as well.

Rebates and tax credits

In part because heat pumps are so efficient, electric utilities are offering their customers rebates for converting to these heating systems. The total rebate varies but can lower the installation cost by about 10-15 percent.

There are also new federal tax credits that were approved as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, but the specifics on how to obtain the credits, and how much they might amount to, hasn't been finalized. Ojala said he expects to see the final guidelines out before the end of the summer.



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SMART INVESTMENTS

Small renovations that can make a big impact

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra “go big or go home” when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that’s not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners’ bucks as well.

► **Countertops (and hardware):** A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners’ budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And

while changing the cabinets may be a homeowners’ ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

► **Paint:** Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

► **Lighting:** Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It’s worth it to invest in new lighting, whether it’s a dramatic hanging light over the

dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

► **Weatherproofing:** Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.

► **Mudroom:** Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats,

bags, and much more.

► **Accent updates:** Any space, whether it’s inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes.



Budget-friendly ways to freshen your home’s exterior

Small changes can give your home a new look

As any homeowner knows, renovation projects tend to cost a lot of money. The average cost of a home renovation is difficult to gauge, as such endeavors run the gamut from complex projects like a kitchen overhaul to simpler ones like painting a room inside a home. Indeed, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry notes that scope is what drives the cost of a renovation project.

Though there might not be an “average cost” of a renovation project, homeowners can expect to spend thousands of dollars on projects that are not very small in scale. Navigating

such an expense at a time when inflation remains high might be difficult for some homeowners looking to maintain the appearance of their home exteriors. However, there are many budget-friendly ways homeowners can tend to the exterior of their properties.

► **Power washing:** Power washing won’t break the bank but it can revive the look of a home. Power washing removes dirt and grime from the siding of a home and a power washing can be used to clean porches, walkways and patios as well. Hardware chains like Home Depot and Lowes typically rent power washers, but homeowners who don’t want to do it themselves can hire a professional for a few hundred dollars, if not less. Power washing after

winter can be a good idea, as the elements can take a toll on a home’s exterior. A good power washing before spring and summer entertaining season can thus give a home a fresh, clean look without breaking the bank.

► **Furnished front porch:** A furnished front porch can serve as a welcome sign to neighbors and provide a great place to relax with a morning cup of coffee and a good book. Homeowners with a small porch won’t need to bust their budgets to upgrade their front porch furnishings. Some small chairs with bright cushions, a small table and a rug underfoot can revamp an entryway at low cost.

► **Window box installation:** Installing window box planters is another cost-effective way to

brighten up a home’s exterior. Homeowners can hang window boxes outside windows on the front of their homes and then fill them with brightly colored flowers to add an inviting pop of color to their home exteriors. The experts at *Better Homes & Gardens* urge homeowners to take weight into consideration before buying window planters. Keep in mind that soil and developed plants can be heavy, so look for a sturdy box as well as one that has drainage holes.

► **Replace hardware:** Another simple way to freshen up a stale exterior is to replace hardware. Door knobs, knockers, house numbers, and even the mailbox can appear dated after a while. Replacing these items is inexpensive and quick but can have a profound impact on how the



exterior of a home appears to residents and visitors.

Exterior renovations need not break the bank. Various simple and inex-

pensive tweaks can quickly revitalize the exterior of a home.

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A SPLASH OF COLOR

Container gardening a good option with limited space

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that has been linked to health benefits like reduced stress and improved mental well-being. Gardening also can lead to an inviting home landscape full of attractive blooms and/or delicious foods.

Backyard gardens have long been planted after clearing a plot of land, tilling and amending the soil, and planting rows of favorite crops. However, gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

What is container gardening? As its name implies, container gardening is growing plants inside of containers. These containers can be flower pots, rectangular deck boxes or even large raised garden beds.



Pros to container gardening

One of the advantages of container gardening is that plants can be moved in and out of sunlight to ensure the right growing conditions. This isn't as easily achieved when gardens are stationary. Also, beginner gardeners may be more able to control soil conditions inside of a

small container rather than a vast ground-based garden, which will require a good deal of manual labor. Pots and boxes also can be grouped together to create eye-popping displays, usually at lower costs than the sheer volume of plants that would be needed to fill out an expansive landscape.

Cons to container gardening

Container garden plants will not have direct access to the ground, so they need gardeners to create the ideal growing conditions. Developing the right care formula can be challenging. Drainage is an important factor in container gardening, and most containers do not offer enough drainage holes. If water cannot escape the soil, the roots of the plants can rot and die. It's not

enough to add stones or gravel to the bottom of containers. Drill additional holes in the bottom (1/2-inch in diameter for small or medium-sized pots; one inch in diameter for larger pots). Also, be sure to check on soil moisture so that watering can be adjusted.

Plan for plants that play well

Grouping plants together can create visually stunning combinations. However, it is important to choose plants that require the same amount of light and moisture. Look at plant tags when visiting the garden center and select complementary plants, or ask a store employee. Mixing different plant shapes, colors and leaf textures, as well as plants of various heights, can help containers look filled out.

Feed plants accordingly

Plants need nutrition to thrive in containers. Quality potting mixes will contain fertilizers, but nutrition will wane over time. Every couple of weeks, container plants will need either fresh potting mix or granular fertilizer added to feed them. A slow-release fertilizer or worm castings several times throughout the season can help keep plants healthy.

Container gardening is a great way to add plants to smaller patios, reduce the workload involved in maintaining expansive gardens, and customize conditions for optimal growth.

OUTDOOR LIVING

Five patio projects to enhance your summertime

Warm weather paves the way to more opportunities to enjoy fresh air. For homeowners who have the luxury of outdoor spaces, including private patios, now is the time to start thinking about projects to enhance these gathering spots.

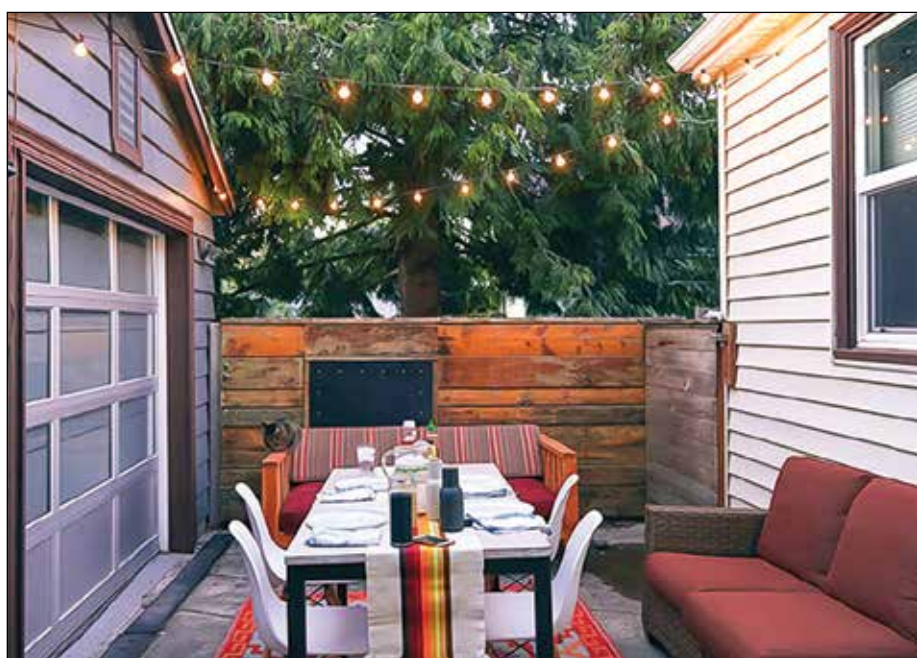
A patio can be considered a transitional area that links the outdoors to the inside of a home. According

to the home and lifestyle resource The Spruce, a patio is often an oasis for lounging and entertaining. And depending on homeowners' budgets and preferences, a patio can be just as comfortable and stylish as interior spaces. The following are five patio projects that can transform these valuable spaces.

► **Pretty pergola**
A pergola is an open-

air (traditionally wood) structure that adds a measure of shade and privacy without completely blocking views of Mother Nature. Installing a pergola over the patio helps define the seating area. Hanging plants can add to the ambience and string lights can make this a great spot to gather when the sun sets.

► **Patio fire pit**
Build a fire pit right into



the design with the same materials used to create the patio. For example, if

the patio is brick or flagstone, build up to create an eye-catching fire pit. Fire

pits not only look good, they also expand the time frame that the patio can be enjoyed, offering cozy spots to sit even when the weather chills.

► Frame it in

Make the patio a true extension of the inside by putting up walls around three sides of the patio if it connects to the home. Leave the last open to the yard, or consider installing screens to mimic the look of popular lanais. The walls will offer more weather protection, meaning you can invest in high-quality patio furniture to make this a fully functioning outdoor living room. Hang a television that is rated for outdoor use for movie-watching under the sun or stars.

► Ooh la la

Vintage bistro tables and chairs can turn a drab patio into one that calls to mind a Parisian courtyard. Whimsical lighting and accents that you would normally think to see indoors, like a gilded mirror, can add extra appeal. Soften wrought iron and other metals on the furniture by including plenty of flowers and greenery. Don't forget the candles and a place to stash a bottle of chilling wine.

► Farmhouse chic

Transform a patio into an entertaining space that caters to guests. A large farmhouse style table flanked by benches and some upholstered chairs sets the scene for a dinner amid the fresh air. Watering cans filled with wildflowers and mismatched flatware establish a casual feel for gatherings in the space. For those who plan to cook and serve outside with frequency, invest in outdoor appliances so you'll never have to miss a beat with guests.

The options for transforming patios into stylish gathering spots is only limited by the imagination.

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SUMMER ON THE LAKE

Island Life: Tales from the Number 9 Outhouse

I think a lot of you can relate to the evolution of our “cabins.” We started with just the land, building up as time and money could afford. And we upgraded as time went on. With the electricity came lights that magically came on with switches, a refrigerator and eventually indoor water pumped from the lake.

Say goodbye to late night lake baths (on good days we called these “refreshing”) and 5-gallon buckets hauled up for dishes and dog water. (Yup, the dogs played in the water all day and then ran all the way to the house for the “special water.”) Later, came electric heaters to make it usable for more of the year. The addition of the septic

system provided the luxury of an indoor bathroom. And with that came the “almost retirement” of the outhouse.

The outhouse has been employed as a cabin luxury for about 35 years. I realize as I scrape the walls to get ready for the next painting, it is the oldest building on the property.

I wonder how many more times it will be worth painting. And don't get me wrong, I like my indoor plumbing as much as the next guy, but I would rather miss it if it were gone.

The little 4X4 shed started its life as a building for the railroad. The story goes that it housed electrical components at the railroad switches, and it still bears the number 9 on

the walls, both inside and out. Do you suppose when you were inside it was hard to remember it was number 9 from the outside? Course, when you're talking about a train you don't want to be making any mistakes. Well, when it was no longer needed by the railroad, my island neighbor disassembled it and brought it to the island in 5 pieces. I am not sure what he used it for or how long he had it, but he eventually gave it to my parents.

There, it began its humble career as an outhouse, and it still stands at the edge of the yard today. It seems like a reminder of older times and simpler days, both for island living and for society in general. It too was upgraded along the way and now has lights and a heater we can turn on from inside the cabin, but its purpose remains the same. It is an outhouse.

On the way to indoor

plumbing and the outhouses' retirement, we dabbled with composting toilets, but we have always maintained the outhouse for a back-up. There still is a use for it during the winter when the water lines are in danger of freezing or for dirty folks during the summer on their way to a real clean-up. Or for just when the indoor one is in use. Sometimes I wander out there on nice days just for the sake of nostalgia. I keep paper out there, just in case.

I wonder how many other railroad switch houses are still in service today, in any capacity. I am glad to have this one. I will scrape, paint and replace boards where necessary to keep and save the Number 9 Outhouse for as long as I can. It is cute and useful out there on the edge of the yard. And I like it.



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UPDATES WITH A PAYOFF

Quick and easy ways to give your kitchen a new look

Kitchens are often described as the busiest rooms in a home. Kitchens are where meals are prepared and tend to be go-to gathering spots on holiday get-togethers and during other events when homeowners host family and friends.

With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's easy to see how homeowners might grow a little bored by these rooms. The cost of a kitchen remodel won't be cheap, as the home improvement resource Angi.com notes that the typical cost of such a project in this country is between \$13,000 and \$38,000.

Angi.com estimates even indicate that a high-end remodel could cost homeowners as much as \$61,000. That's beyond many homeowners' budgets. But the good news is that there are many quick and easy, not to mention less expensive, ways to give a kitchen a new look.

► Repaint and restyle the cabinets. Cabinet space is an undeniably precious commodity in a kitchen, especially as more and more homeowners embrace their inner chef and cook more complicated meals at home. After all, the more expansive a home chef's culinary repertoire,

the more space that person needs to store all the tools of the cooking trade. A full cabinet replacement is unnecessary if the cabinets are still functional and not overcrowded, so repainting them can be a great way to give the kitchen a new look while keeping costs reasonable. During the painting project, homeowners can install new cabinet knobs and/or drawer pulls to freshen up the style of the cabinets even further.

► Install under-cabinet lighting. Another inexpensive way to give a kitchen a new look is to install under-cabinet lighting. Under-cabinet lighting

serves both an aesthetic and practical purpose. From a purely aesthetic standpoint, under-cabinet lighting can make a kitchen feel more warm and keep the kitchen illuminated when meals aren't being prepared and homeowners don't want to have their overhead lights on but still want to be able to navigate the kitchen safely. During meal prep, under-cabinet lighting can illuminate counters so it's easier to chop, peel and perform other prep tasks.

► Replace existing seating. Whether you have an island countertop with bar stools or a breakfast nook with cushioned seats,

replacing the seating is a budget-friendly job that can create a new look when entering the room. Countertop bar stools come in many styles, so giving this area of the kitchen a new feel can be as simple as shifting from classic, high-back stools to more modern swivel stools with a chrome base. For the breakfast nook, replacing a light-colored bench cushion with a bolder alternative can instantly transform the look of the space.

Kitchen remodels can break the bank. But there's a host of budget-friendly ways for cost-conscious homeowners to revitalize

these popular spaces in their homes.

► Replace existing backsplash. Replacing backsplash is another simple, inexpensive and effective way to give a kitchen a new feel. Homeowners can opt for something neutral that won't upset their existing decor or go with a more bold backsplash that immediately draws the attention of anyone who enters the room. This simple job can be done by the average do-it-yourselfer and the cost of new backsplash won't break the bank.

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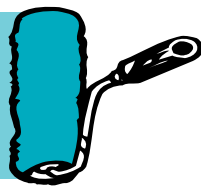
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